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# FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

[www.faithunitedcog.org](http://www.faithunitedcog.org)

Visit Faith United on Facebook.

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September 2011

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## Kids Hope USA



The Kids Hope ministry will be starting up in October and we're looking for new mentors! This is a very rewarding experience and it provides you an opportunity to change the life of a young child. Additional information and training will be presented in September. If this sounds like a ministry you want to be part of, please contact Karen Pokora for additional information.

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## Blood Drive, September 9

The Walker Community Donor Center sponsors blood drives on the second Friday of every month. We invite you to donate blood on Friday, September 9, 2011, from 12:00 to 6:00 PM at the City of Walker Fire Station #3 (Community Center), located at 1470 Three Mile Road. Walk-in when it is convenient for you.



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## Feeding America, September 13

Please put the following dates on your calendar for 2011: September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13. The Service Board has scheduled these dates for a food truck to be at Faith United. Volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 6:00 pm for the dates listed above. If you are not able to arrive at 4:00 pm, then come as soon as you can. The truck arrives at 4:30 pm and customers are here from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, or until the food is gone.

If you know of anyone that needs assistance with food, please share with them the dates and times above. A sign up sheet is available on the table in the narthex.

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## Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) Mission Trip

Several in the church are planning to travel to Bartlesville, Oklahoma to volunteer at VOM the week beginning September 19. To learn details about this opportunity, please contact either Connie Evans or Jean Lerch. If you'd like to learn more about VOM, take a look at their website: <http://www.persecution.com/>.

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## Save the Date! Fall Festival, September 18

As we head into fall, join us by "showing your colors" and wearing your favorite high school, college or pro ball team apparel to the Fall Festival! The Festival will be held at Faith United on Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 12:00 PM.

We will have a church potluck, so everyone is encouraged to bring along a main dish and a side dish or dessert to pass. In order to help with the planning of food; if you plan to attend - you are asked to sign up on the sheet that is available on the table in the narthex.

The Connections Board will provide drinks, table service, and is planning several sport related games for our afternoon activities. So come and enjoy this fun event with your friends and Faith United family!

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## Readers Anonymous, September 19

Faith United Ladies Readers Anonymous will be meeting at the home of Erika Irving on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Next month's meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the same location. You're welcome to join us!

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## FALL FEST - September 27

**Tuesday, September 27 - FALL FEST - 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Life State Event for Seniors...**

The senior Fall Fest will be at North Avenue Church of God in Battle Creek, Michigan. There will be a morning session and lunch at the church. Our speaker for the morning session is Dr. Robert Dulin. We will be led in worship by Tom and Jean Tufts. The cost for the morning session and lunch is \$12.00. Registration deadline is September 22.

Let Marilyn Pullen or Connie Evans know soon if you'd like to attend, and we'll register as a group with the State Office. After lunch we'll have an opportunity to visit one of several attractions in the area if we choose to do so. Possibilities include: Art Center of Battle Creek, ETC Arts Studio, Binder Park Zoo and Gilmore Car Museum.

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Our Mission Statement

*"Love God, grow together in Christ, serve others"*

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## **Baby Congratulations!**

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We would like to congratulate Andy & Brittany Lerch on the birth of their daughter, Penelope Laura Lerch. Penelope was born August 26, 2011 at 12:39 PM. She weighed 9 lbs. 10 oz. and was 23 inches long. Congratulations to Penelope's big sister, Jordan, and the entire Lerch family as well.



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## **Workers Screening Policy**

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Faith United Church of God strives to provide a safe environment for our people as they grow in faith through worship, education and activities of fellowship and service. Jesus expressed his love for children and the dire judgment upon anyone who would harm a child.

The disturbing and traumatic rise of sexual and physical abuse of our children, youth and vulnerable adults has claimed the attention of every aspect of our society. The church must also be prepared so that sexual and physical misconduct does not take place within its programs. If someone desires to prey on children, youth or vulnerable adults, he/she will look for an organization that does not screen or monitor its workers. Just one occurrence of sexual or physical misconduct can destroy the ministry of the church and reduce its effectiveness of reaching people with the message of Jesus Christ for years to come.

Since it is the determination of Faith United Church of God to provide a Christian environment that is safe, we must dedicate ourselves to take every reasonable precaution to protect those entrusted to us. Ultimately, we will protect our children, our youth, our workers, our volunteers and our church.

To that end, we are asking that all volunteers/workers interested in serving in the children's and youth ministries complete a simple and widely-used application process. Those already involved will be invited to participate in this application process soon.

This policy is supported and approved by the governing bodies of Faith United Church of God.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of the ministries and programming here at Faith as we strive to fulfill our mission.

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## **Health News**

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Because Faith United is a vital, active and growing congregation, the Health Corner articles for 2011 will focus on Faith and Fitness. Each month, you will see a different poster with ideas to make simple, positive choices that can improve your body and spirit. This month, please review "Motivation Boosters... Ten easy ways for healthy eating, healthy weight, healthy you!" A poster with this information is available on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway, next to elevator. Blessings to each of you.

Your Parish Nurses, Joan and Judy

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## **Thank You!**

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Dear Faith United Family,

We are so grateful for the outpouring of love, service and encouragement from each of you during this time of loss and adjustment. We have been lifted by the many visits, prayers, meals and plant arrangements. Peggy would have been truly humbled by all of this. May God continue to bless this congregation.

Love, The Perry and Stevens families

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## **Boy Scout News Troop #197**

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The troop has good news! Tyler Plants has had his Eagle Project accepted by the Eagle Project Board and is now in the process of completing his project at Faith United. Gabe DeGood has his project accepted by the church and also by the Eagle Project Board, and now we are trying to find a way to bring the cost of his project down. The lumber of two picnic tables is sky high and we can't find any kits as of yet. Robby Steven's project is completed and now we will finish his paper work and turn it into scout headquarters, and if all goes well, he will get his Eagle Award, so we can present it to him at an Eagle Court of Honor. Adam and Drew Hickerty are waiting to get there projects approved by the Eagle Board.

The Scouts went to Baldwin, August 4<sup>th</sup>, to help clean up the Pere Marquette River, but the river had risen 8 inches overnight, so when we got there the clean up was called off. Since we came up from Grand Rapids, they decided to let the scouts take a raft down the river. It should have taken 3 hours on a normal run, but due to the inexperience in river rafting, it took them 3 1/2 hours to complete, but they had a good time anyway.

Scoutmaster, Michele Hickerty

A.S.M. Herm Gast

A.S.M. Josh Plummer

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## SECRET SISTERS

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Fall is just around the corner!  
What have you been doing to quietly  
get to know your Sister?  
Have you paid closer attention to  
what's happening in her life?  
Sat next to her or volunteered to serve  
with her in a ministry?  
Spoken with her family and friends?  
It's easy to find ways to learn more about her.

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There are lots of little things to do to remind her you  
are thinking of and praying for her regularly.

Fall inspires thoughtful gifts of  
homemade jellies or breads,  
lightly scented fall candles,  
a soft scarf, gourmet soup mixes,  
devotional books or 2012 calendars.  
Only 3 more months until your  
Sisters are revealed at the  
Women's Christmas gathering on  
Monday, December 5th!

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## Northwest Food Pantry

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From The Northwest Food Pantry - August 2011

The number of families served in 2010 was 338 and in  
2011 it was 439. The number of people served in 2010  
was 1001 and in 2011 it was 1339.

It's time for the "Backpack Giveaway." We are  
asking especially for cash donations as we are able to  
purchase backpacks and items for the backpacks very  
inexpensively. Donations of school supplies or  
backpacks will be accepted, but cash donations would  
be especially appreciated.

In October and November we will be signing up  
families for a Holiday Basket and Toys for Tots. We are  
looking for a volunteer who would be willing to head  
this program and supervise the sign up's. This would be  
every Thursday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. If you are  
interested call Sarah at 451-4036.

We are in need of some new faces as volunteers. If  
you would like to volunteer please call the pantry (451-  
4036) and ask for Waverly.

Food items needed: variety of canned meats.

Desperate need: cereal and juice

Reminder: for the month of September, Faith United  
is collecting: **dish soap and laundry soap. Many other  
food items and non food items are needed as well.**  
Thank you for your continued support of the NWFP!

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## Newly Adopted Bylaws / Revised Governing Structure

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On August 21, we voted to adopt the latest revision to  
our church Bylaws. This revision emphasizes ministry  
and attempts to align our activities more closely to our  
Mission/Vision statement. You can get better acquainted  
with the Bylaws and Governing Structure of the church  
by going to the following web page on our church  
website. See:

<http://www.faithunitedcog.org/governingstructure.html>.

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## September Children's Church

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Time: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Ages: 4 thru completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Time for Children will be offered the first Sunday of the  
month in our worship service, and then each consecutive  
Sunday Children's Church will take place at 10:30 AM  
on our Lower Level. Each week the children do a craft,  
play a game or sing fun songs, so encourage your  
children to attend!

### September 2011 Children's Church Volunteers:

September 4, 2011 = No Children's Church

September 11, 2011 = Velvet Lerch &  
Esther Hickerty

September 18, 2011 = Chad & Jenny Morris

September 25, 2011 = Lisa & Caleb McDaniel

Volunteers, if you are unable to be here on the date  
that you are scheduled, please contact Lisa McDaniel.

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## Youth News

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### Youth Group - (Beginning, September 8th)

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Attention all Youth! Come and join us every Thursday  
night from 7:00 to 8:00 PM for Youth Group.

Don and Tonya Mashue will be leading the group and  
the meetings will be held at the church.

Note: There will be no meeting on September 1st!

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## Parents: Adult Helpers and Drivers Needed!

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We will need drivers and helpers for upcoming youth  
events! If you are available to help with an event or  
transportation, please contact the church office. Thanks  
so much!

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## Sunday School, Youth and Adult Classes

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### CHILDREN

- **Infant** (Newborn up to 2 year olds)  
Teachers: Connie Evans, Ellie Evans,  
and Janice Ertle
- **Toddlers** (2 - 3 year olds)  
Teacher: Erika Irving
- **Pre-K & Kindergarten** (4 yrs - kindergarten)  
Teacher: Karen Stevens  
Class meets in room #1 on the lower level
- **Primary** (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)  
Teachers: Kim & Ted Evans  
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level
- **Middler/Junior** (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Teachers: Mary Irving and Esther Hickerty  
Class meets in room #3 on the lower level

### YOUTH

- **Jr. High** (6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Teacher: Cindy Irving  
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall
- **Sr. High** (8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Teacher: John Pokora  
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall

### ADULT

- **Bridges Class**  
Teachers: Lou Van Dyke, Barb Bleiler,  
and Millard Knapp  
Studying: Adult *Bridges* Curriculum  
Class meets in the Fellowship Hall
- **Elective Class I**  
Teachers: Steve McDaniel and Mark Peterson  
Studying: *The Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight  
Class meets in the Girl Scout Building
- **Elective Class II**  
Teachers: Josh Irving and Michele Hickerty  
Studying: *A Man of Passion & Destiny: David*  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
Class meets in room #4 on the lower level
- **Elective Class III**  
Teachers: Marcia and Garrett Holleman  
Studying: Book or topic (to be selected)  
when class begins on Sunday, September 18th  
Class meets in the sanctuary

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## September Nursery Workers

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### Infant

- 4 – Mary Irving & Dana Pechumer
- 11 – Karen, Kayla & Shelby Lovins
- 18 – Kathy & Katie Van Dyke
- 25 – Cindy & Abbey Irving

### Toddler

- 4 – Erika & Lydia Irving
- 11 – Tim & Jodi Stanton
- 18 – Heather Bessinger & Vicki Skutt
- 25 – Sue Athanon & Velvet Lerch

Please contact Brittany Lerch if you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday.

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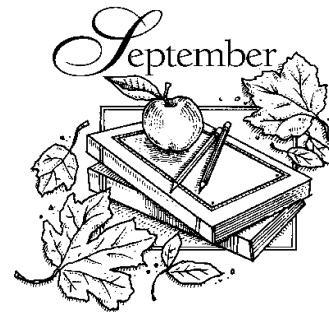
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### Newsletter Deadline

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Deadline for articles to be turned into the church office for the October 2011 edition of FAITHNews is Thursday, September 15, 2011. Thank you!



## **Faith United Church of God**

**3290 Walker Avenue NW**

**Grand Rapids, MI 49544-9431**

Phone (616) 784-5060 / Fax 784-9141

Church Website: <http://www.faithunitedcog.org>

### **Church Staff**

Pastor: Steven D. McDaniel ([sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org](mailto:sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org))

Office Secretary: Rhonda J. Plants ([secretary@faithunitedcog.org](mailto:secretary@faithunitedcog.org))

Kids Hope USA Director: Karen K. Pokora ([kpokora@tds.net](mailto:kpokora@tds.net))

Custodian: Karen Stevens

Small Group Coordinator: Erika Irving ([jeirv@comcast.net](mailto:jeirv@comcast.net))

### **Parish Nursing Program**

Judy Hewett Kerwin, R.N. ([judyhewett@comcast.net](mailto:judyhewett@comcast.net))

Joan Kowalczyk Lundberg, R.N. ([joanyko@juno.com](mailto:joanyko@juno.com))

### **Living Link Missionaries**

Ben & Kelli Shular (Tanzania)

Neville & Anne Tan (Singapore)

### **Sundays**

10:00 AM Celebration of Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School

I am writing this September newsletter article in a bit of a protest – I'm protesting the end of summer! It's hard to believe that our warm weather season is quickly passing and that cooler days and the colors of fall will soon be upon us.

As I think about the close of summer, I want to celebrate Cole McDaniel's ministry among us. On May 8, Cole officially began his service as our summer intern, and on August 23, that service came to a close. Certainly as a father but equally so as Pastor of Faith United, I have been pleased with and thankful for the assistance and leadership Cole has provided in the areas of worship and youth ministries. I'm especially thankful for his investment of time and energy in building relationships with our youth, and that he has worked to point them to a closer relationship with Christ. Job well done! Cole, we appreciate all you have done!

Cole's departure leads me to address where we are headed with our Youth Pastor position. Our Executive Council is in agreement that the focus of our search should be the area of youth ministry. We believe that this is our most significant need, and a group of persons will be working with me to find the right person for that position. Please keep us and this search in your prayers.

Keep in mind we're also advertizing on Facebook. So when you see the post on Faith United's page, remember to "Click," "Comment," "Share," and also comment in the "Share" box. This will help us get the word out! And don't forget: the Youth Pastor Job Description is on our website home page at [www.faithunitedcog.org](http://www.faithunitedcog.org).

In the meantime, our youth ministry continues. I will be working with our youth, youth leaders, parents, and Discipleship Board to move forward with junior and senior high Sunday school, mid-week group gathering, and monthly activities. We are fortunate to have such a strong leadership commitment to this area of ministry both from our youth and adults. Thank you each one for what you are and will be doing!

As we look for God to provide us with a Youth Pastor, during our September worship we will be celebrating how God provides in so many ways. We will continue our series in the book of Exodus, looking at some of the great stories of Israel to be reminded of how our God meets needs in us and through us.

We will also provide four adult Sunday classes to assist us in learning and growth. A list of those classes is found in this newsletter and online at [www.faithunitedcog.org](http://www.faithunitedcog.org). Take a look and take advantage of the opportunity.

Pastor Steve