

## FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

# Summer 2010 at FCC- Faith Formation for ALL Ages

### **Purpose of FCC Summer Education Program:**

- Keep in touch with our children and youth when school and regular programming are not in session
- Provide out-of-classroom, experiential opportunities for faith development that are not available during the September-May program year
- Promote continuity and connectivity of youth, children and parents with FCC and God
- Working collaboratively with other boards and committees, and with parents, to promote opportunities for intergenerational interaction
- Give our committed volunteer staff a break
- Have fun and do a little risk-taking: Show our younger generations that learning and growing in one's faith and reaching out to others can happen in many ways and be an exciting life-long experience

### **Sundays**

Flossmoor Community Church has held a variety of programs and schedules for Sunday mornings during the summers, including several changes in worship schedules and different models for Sunday School and Youth programming. Traditionally, the "regular" Sunday School program does not carry over during the summer months, and when an alternative Sunday School program has been offered, attendance has been inconsistent and sparse. In turn, volunteers who take time and energy to prepare lessons for the week are often frustrated when as few as 4 or 5 children show up running the gamut of age groups.

As staff met to discuss summer programming, we tried to look outside the box for Summer Sunday programming. We realized that, particularly for parents of our youngest children, it is difficult for them to be in worship; therefore we want to offer nursery care to parents to provide that supportive option. However, with our older children (kindergarten and up), FCC has regularly emphasized that it is equally important for children to have the opportunity to attend worship services, a pattern that is learned and not just a natural phenomenon. This is part of the reason that FCC's regular program year has back-to-back services and encourages parents to take children to the 9 a.m. worship and bring them to Sunday School for 10:30 while the parents attend an adult education event. **"Worship + 2"** - attending worship **plus** participating in an educational/spiritual exploration event or program **plus** participating in an outreach opportunity - is a focus that we strive to constantly keep in front of us!

Weekly:

**One Church Family Worship**

Sundays, May 23 thru September 5

During the summer, there will be only one worship service on Sunday mornings, with a focus on creating a more family-friendly and family-involved environment and experiential learning activities that can engage all ages in living out Christ's ministry.

Nursery Care for birth up to (not including) kindergarten

Children kindergarten and up join family in sharing in worship

Monthly:

**"Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Going with Him"**

-Betsy Hanzelin and Kim Wood met with the Board of Outreach Ministries (BOM) on January 12 and shared some initial information about this program. Hope United Church of Christ of Naperville, IL is unique and shows its commitment to mission and outreach by offering "Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Going with Him," an opportunity that is taken whenever there is a fifth Sunday in a month to worship by doing outreach work. As a congregation, they go to a specified outreach site (or two) and work together in the Spirit of Christ.

There are several possibilities for how this program might be implemented. Hope United UCC carries out this ministry as an alternative to in-house worship. This is one option that could be explored, but we are also exploring the possibility of gathering for 15-20 minutes of worship on these Sundays and then dispersing to the planned mission opportunities, as well as perhaps utilizing a time right after worship, probably three or four times during the summer (e.g., the second Sunday of each month). This would be an "all-church" program that would be workable for the young children to our most senior members.

When we shared with BOM this idea and asked if they would be willing to help engage in this kind of ministry through the local agencies and organizations with whom we have built relationships, they thought it sounded like a great idea. They are very interested in partnering to make this happen. While it is as yet undecided which projects we might do and/or with which organizations we might work, BOM is intentionally engaging with our local (as well as global) mission grant recipients to challenge them to work with us on an experiential level, as well as on a funds-reception level, and there is potential for congregation-wide participation in some projects. Current FCC Mission Grant programs with which we might be able to work include:

- South Suburban Family Shelter
- Respond Now
- Jones Memorial Center
- Center for Multicultural Communities
- South Suburban PADS
- Aunt Martha's Youth Services

Additionally, there are several organizations and agencies that are not currently FCC Mission Grant recipients which might offer opportunities for a church-wide, experiential outreach activity. We could even work with local municipalities to find simple clean-up projects we could do in our and neighboring communities.

## Weekdays

**Wednesday Night Live (WNL)** – Entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade – through college youth  
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
June 16 – July 28

Youth drop-in program with a summer-fun twist!

**Wednesday Food, Fun & Fellowship (F,F&F)** – Entering Grades 2-6  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
July 7 – July 28,

Children's drop-in program with something new each week. Come whenever you can!  
(Includes thirty minutes of crossover time with Youth WNL for interactive time.)

### **Focus on Parenting**

Time TBA

Busy family schedules often make it hard to focus on parenting, and even harder to find time to connect with other parents going through the same challenges. Parent Educator Sandy Laabs invites parents from FCC and the wider community to come together for conversation and support, a few good chuckles and some solid thoughts on parenting children in today's world.

### **For the Young at Heart**

Time and Programming TBA

We have heard over and over, especially in our Cottage Meetings, that folks would like more offerings in Adult Ministry, and also alternative scheduling. We have also heard the request to reinforce what the children learn by teaching parents how to live out and teach the ministries of Christ in the home setting. Offering an adult program when the children and youth meet during these summer months could fulfill some of those requests. We would also examine the possibility of scheduling some intergenerational events that would be inclusive of adults in the church, as well as children and youth. Possibilities include meals together, group devotionals, child/youth/parent games (flag football, kickball, volleyball, etc.).

## Events

### **Youth/Adult Work/Mission Trip – New Orleans**

Sunday, June 6 – Sunday, June 13

Betsy Hanzelin, Rev. Kim Wood and Jackie Riffice, with the support of the BOM, are working on a multi-faceted work trip to New Orleans. The Youth will work primarily through the programming of Annunciation Mission. The adults will focus most specifically on the Ninth Ward, coordinating with Rev. Charles and Thirawer Duplessis and the Mt. Nebo Bible Baptist Church. Housing will be together at Annunciation, and group activities will also be set up with the Mt. Nebo congregation. A strong emphasis will be put on shared time for meals, debriefing, and devotion/worship. Additionally, there will be some time for fun experiences together during the trip.

### ***Vacation Bible School – EGYPT: JOSEPH'S JOURNEY FROM PRISON TO PALACE***

Three year olds through Entering Grade 5 (Those children entering Grade 6 may assist.)

Monday, June 14 – Friday, June 18

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**EGYPT** immerses learners in Bible-times culture, helping kids and adults step backwards in time to experience new traditions . . . taste new foods . . . play new games . . . try new crafts . . . and learn from Joseph that God never leaves us alone through life's trials and triumphs!

Youth and Adult Leadership needed  
Possible Family Education Component

### ***SportsLife Camp***

Entering Grades 1-5

Monday, June 28 – Thursday, July 1

5:30PM - 8:30 PM

\$60 per child

SportsLife Camp brings the camp experience to our site. They bring to us the equipment, the programming, the primary staff (youth and adult volunteers would be recruited from the congregation), and the history of making this a successful event. Their core purpose is to “help the church develop children’s faith in Jesus through innovative sports and arts programs.” Their values are:

Loving Jesus  
Loving Children  
Loving the Church  
Exemplary Leadership  
Innovative Programming  
Outrageous Fun

### ***All-Church White Sox Game***

All Ages! Cubs Fans Invited, too!

Monday, July 26

Last year, Betsy Hanzelin arranged a youth family trip to a White Sox Game that was a great success. This year, our hope is to broaden the activity to be an all-church event where families can go together, or even where youth can bring their younger siblings (requires appropriate adult-to-child ratio). The mode of transportation used last year was car-pooling. We will also examine if bus rental is a viable option.

### ***Youth Canoe Trip - U.S. Boundary Waters***

Youth with adult leadership

Saturday, July 31 – Saturday, August 7

This annual youth trip is a time-honored favorite that continues to draw youth and adult leadership. The rugged experience of the Boundary Waters strips the trip down to the basic realities of faith and relationship, along with good, hard work and a lot of fun!

## **Off-Site Focus-Camp Recommendations**

Staff has looked at the available camps being offered this summer at Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, MI and Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, MI. Below are three recommendations for programming that we feel would be appropriate, beneficial, fun and safe for our children and youth. Godstock Camp (Grades 3-10) and Tenderfoot Camp (kindergarten – Grade 2) run the same week in the same setting, with the program for the older kids running for the week and the program for the younger children running the last couple of days of that same week. These camps provide the type of camp experiences similar to FCC's Camp Gray

Additionally, we have included the suggestion of recommending a Family Camp at Presbyterian Camps. This opportunity gives families from FCC a common camp experience, and also gives the opportunity to be in the Presbyterian Camps setting.

There are additional programs at both of these settings, as well as Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center in Princeton, IL, and we have the schedule and information available for whomever would like to look at a wider spectrum of camps or whose schedule needs do not fit with the focus camps we recommend. Our goal is to suggest an experience that will include as many of our children and youth as possible.

### ***Godstock Camp: Grades 3-10***

Monday, July 19 – Sunday, July 25

Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center - Sawyer, MI

Godstock is campfire on the beach, camp songs, tie dye, fabulous learning centers, games, the climbing wall, a great camp staff, a week of fun making friendships that will last a lifetime. But more importantly, along the way, campers will learn lessons in living as Christians in the world today.

### ***Tenderfoot Camp: Grades K-2***

Friday, July 23 – Sunday, July 25

Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center – Sawyer, MI

Tenderfoot Camp is a great way to begin the camping experience. Children stay at camp for about 48 hours, including two overnights, so they have a mini-camp experience. During the time at camp, the selected Bible lessons are brought to life with stories, drama, songs and crafts. Children learn about living together as people of God while having fun with all the usual camp experiences: swimming, hiking, archery, and so much more.

### ***Family Camp – Long Weekend***

Saturday, July 31 – Tuesday, August 3

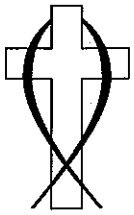
Presbyterian Camps – Westminster Woods in Saugatuck, MI

Family Camp is a wonderful time to enjoy camp as a family with a large variety of optional programs provided by the camp staff and volunteers. Come to swim, worship, sing at campfires, eat great meals, boat on the lake and river, work on crafts, and much more.

To learn more about other opportunities at Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, MI, go to [www.prescamps.org](http://www.prescamps.org).

To learn more about other camps held at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, MI, or its sister camp, Pilgrim Park, in Princeton, IL, go to [www.il-odm.org](http://www.il-odm.org).

February 4, 2010



# FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

## **Calendar of Events and Activities for Summer 2010<sup>1</sup>**

### **Intergenerational Opportunities to Learn and Have Fun Together**

1. Sunday, June 6 - Sunday, June 13 -- Youth/Adult Work/Mission Trip to New Orleans – Sponsored by Youth and Board of Outreach
2. Monday, June 14 – Friday, June 18, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Vacation Bible School for 3 year olds through Grade 5 (Those entering Grade 6 may assist.)
3. Wednesdays, June 16 – July 28 - 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. “Wednesday Night Live” (WNL) - All Youth
4. Monday, June 28 – Thursday, July 1 – 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - SportsLife Camp for Grades 1-5
5. Monday, July 26 – All-Church White Sox Game
6. Wednesdays, July 7, 14, 21, and 28 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. - Food, Fun & Fellowship (F,F&F) - Grades 2-6 with Adult/Parent Component (Includes 30 minutes of crossover time with Wednesday Night Live Youth.)
7. Saturday, July 31- Saturday, August 7 - Youth Canoe Trip

---

<sup>1</sup> **Note: Youth are those entering Grade 7 in the fall through high school. Grade level for children is the grade level the child will enter in the fall.**