

Endurance

Have you ever wondered why certain things happen to you? Difficulties seem to be in abundance these days, but then again they always have been. Just about the time we think that we have a handle on something, things change again. The older we get, the more our physical bodies give us a difficult time. On top of these health issues, don't forget family challenges, job situations, and a variety of financial stresses that can really put us on our knees. Wait a minute. Could that be the reason we are facing difficulties? Romans 5:3-4 tells us "*Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope.*" Suffering and difficulties do have a purpose. They help us to mature and are intended to strengthen our faith. So how do we survive these times? 1) Keep Connected to God - Pray. God wants us to strengthen our connection and relationship with Him. So talk to Him about your situation and be sure to listen to what the Holy Spirit wants to say to you. 2) Keep Connected with your fellow Christians – Fellowship. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us that our fellow Christians should be spurring us on to love and good works. When we detach ourselves from them, we lose an important source of strength. So don't forget to plug in to our Nexus Small Group ministry. We really do need each other. Contact me, Assistant Minister Pastor Steve at 734-5113, ext. 15 if we can help you start a small group or be a part of a group. 3) Remember that all of these difficulties do have a purpose. God isn't done with you. He has a glorious purpose for you. He is maturing us so that we are more like Jesus. So thank God for the difficulties, He wants to bring the best out in you and me.

Your Co-Laborer in Christ,
Assistant Minister, Pastor Steve



FIRST UNITED METHODIST STUDENT MINISTRY

School is back! We had a fun-filled, action-packed summer. We welcomed new up and coming 6th graders ☺ and we said goodbye to those going off to college ☹. Now it is time to get back to our school year schedule. We have a after school program for middle school students on Wednesdays. We also have Wednesday night worship and message time as well as Sunday night Nexus small groups for all students in grades 6th-12th. We will have special events, fundraisers and service opportunities throughout the year. I want to highlight a few that we have coming up.

Saturday September 12th will be our Night of Joy trip. Cost is \$45 to all students' grades 6th through 12th. We will be meeting at church at noon and returning around midnight. Some of the bands this year will be: Family Force 5, Flyleaf, Skillet, Jars of Clay, Mercy Me, Grits and a few others. The \$45 covers the ticket, so bring extra money for food, etc.

The very next night we will be kicking off our Nexus Small Groups. That day is Sunday September 13th at 4pm. I am excited about our planned curriculum for this upcoming year. Small groups are really a chance to go deeper into God's word, deeper into our relationship with Him and with others. So much about youth ministry is the relationships which makes small groups a vital cog to our ministry as a whole.

Our first high school 5th quarter of the 2009-2010 school year will be on Friday September 18th. The event will be held here at our church in the LEC. We will have blow up games, food, and we are working on a large scale Rock Band tournament. Just from being in planning meetings, I am excited about what all is going to take place on this night. The goal is to out-shine previous years, so if you are in high school, you won't want to miss this event!

Last, but surly not least! We have our stockholders appreciation dinner on Sunday September 27th. This is a time when the youth that went on the summer Missions trip, show their appreciation to those that bought stock to help us all go on the trip. We will be making the dinner, serving the dinner, and sharing with you all the amazing stories from our Missions trip and showing you your stock return ☺!

Upcoming Events

- September 12th Night of Joy
- September 13th Nexus Small Groups Kick-Off
- September 18th 5th Quarter
- September 27th Stockholders Luncheon