



United Methodist Church of the Dunes

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"Christ-Inspired Christmas" at United Methodist Church of the Dunes in Grand Haven To Feature Twenty Human Service Agencies and Third-World Country Items

GRAND HAVEN, Mich., Nov. 16, 2010 — The upcoming "Christ-Inspired Christmas" event at United Methodist Church of the Dunes (UMC-Dunes) in Grand Haven will present attendees with a different perspective about gift-giving for the holidays.

"Christ-Inspired Christmas" will be held at UMC-Dunes, located at 717 Sheldon Road in Grand Haven on Sunday, December 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Wiltse Center. The event is free and open to the general public. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

The "Christ-Inspired Christmas" will feature 20 human service agencies from around west Michigan, each displaying goods and services from the organizations they represent. These agencies will provide community visitors with an opportunity to take tags from their booths and supply items needed by these organizations. Attendees will also have an opportunity to purchase gift cards, which will be sent to persons in need in other countries where they can purchase basic living items.

"These gift cards will be used by people in third-world countries to purchase the things that will simply help them start up their own businesses, share basic necessities with others, or help send their children to school," said Sondra Metzler, member of United Methodist Church of the Dunes. She added, "In some cases, the gift cards will help purchase things that we in America would not even consider —such as live animals, trees, bees for establishing bee-keeping businesses and other sustainable food items."

Agencies represented at the event include the following:

- Faith In Action International
- Kenya Ministry
- UMCOR (United Methodist Church on Relief)
- Salvation Army
- Camp New Day
- HAPI (Haiti)
- Catholic Charities
- Church World Service
- Tri Cities Ministries
- First Priority
- Love In the Name of Christ
- Women in Transition
- People Center
- UMCD Youth (United Methodist Church of the Dunes Youth Group)
- VIM (Volunteers in Mission)
- Family Promise

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"Christ-Inspired Christmas" at UMC-Dunes

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- MAP (Mission to Area People)
- UMW (United Methodist Women)
- Community House-Grand Rapids
- SERVV

A highlight will be the display from SERVV, which will offer third-world country items for sale.

"We hope people will stop in, learn, share and listen to the sights and sounds of Christmas unfolding at this different kind of holiday gift-giving event," said Dan Duncan, senior pastor with UMC-Dunes. "We want people to be inspired, knowing they will be helping those who are eager to grow in Christ's love through their generous support."

Anyone interested in receiving information about the "Christ-Inspired Christmas" event at United Methodist Church of the Dunes, a schedule of the church's service times and programs, or membership within the church is encouraged to call the church's administrative office at: 616/842-7980 or visit the website at www.umcdunes.org.

The mission of United Methodist Church of the Dunes in Grand Haven is *"to be a church with outstretched arms demonstrating the caring of Christ to each other, the community, and the world by encouraging growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, challenging and equipping all to be faithful disciples for the transformation of the world."* Founded in 1873, UMC-Dunes moved to its present location at 717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven in February, 1962. The church provides a variety of community outreach ministries to women, children, men and families in the area, supports the annual CROP Walk, offers membership in its United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women groups, plus book and Bible studies, a weekly creative arts and crafts group, participation in Coast Guard Festival, plus Christian service projects to ministries in Haiti. Children's, youth and adult educational programming is provided throughout the year. For further information about UMC-Dunes, contact the church administrative office at 616/842-7980.

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