

“Giving Thanks”

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

October was a VERY busy month for our Youth! The Mid Highs continued to meet on Wednesday afternoons for Youth Group and Sunday mornings for Sunday School. On October 1st, the Mid Highs kayaked down Spruce Creek at Cracker Creek. The Mid Highs also traveled to Orlando for the Florida Annual Conference’s Leadership Summit on October 3rd-5th. This was an amazing experience! The Mid Highs bonded as a group by worshipping and praying together. We came back totally energized for Kingdom work. The Mid Highs also enjoyed making and painting pottery at Fire It Up!. Also, Joe and Anita Wimbish have graciously offered to use some Youth group time to help our Mid Highs form a praise band! Several Mid Highs play bass, drums, trumpet, guitar, piano, etc. Look for a performance sometime in the future! I’m very excited about this new ministry possibility.

October was “Pumpkin Month”. Pumpkins arrived on October 11th (in the rain). I was impressed by the HUGE turnout for pumpkin unloading. It was great to see all the generations working together. Both Mid and Senior Highs helped with the Cor Meth Day School’s annual Fall Festival and sponsored the Pumpkin Movie and Party and Pumpkin Painting for Kids. All monies raised from the Pumpkin Patch will benefit the Youth Mission Fund, helping our Youth participate in Mission trips.

The Senior Highs met every Monday for dinner, fellowship games, and a Bible study lesson. The Senior High group is growing! Students are inviting their friends and offering to pray together as a group. I believe this may be the start of something BIG. The Senior Highs have been a great help in pumpkin turning and throwing away the rotten pumpkins. Both the Senior Highs and the Mid Highs walked with the United Church of Christ in the Peace Walk. October 19th was Youth Sunday. Senior High and Mid High Youth read Scripture, performed a skit, and provided and served the Fellowship Hour. We had over 25 Youth in attendance!

November will be another active month. On November 3rd, the Senior Highs will eat dinner out and buy items for their November mission, Operation Christmas Child. Each Mid High and Senior High Youth will provide at least one shoebox for this important mission. Shoeboxes will be due the week of November 17th.

The 8th and 9th is Mid High Confirmation weekend. Mid Highs will experience an intensive weekend of study and service, culminating in joining CCUMC on the 9th. Youth (both Senior High and Mid High) and Youth family baptisms and reaffirmations of baptism will occur at the Flagler Avenue beach on November 8th. Please come out and support this important life decision! Both the Mid Highs and the Senior Highs will participate in the CROP Walk on November 9th at 2 PM. Please see a Youth to become a CROP walk sponsor! On November 11th, the Youth will have the opportunity to travel to Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando to celebrate the Florida campus’ tenth anniversary. We will meet the seminary’s president, tour the campus, eat lunch, and attend a worship service. This trip is also open to all church members and friends. It’s completely FREE and a great opportunity to see a fine place of Christian higher education. The 15th and 16th will see the Senior Highs experiencing their confirmation

weekend. On the 16th, Senior Highs will be joining CCUMC. Additional confirmation classes are planned in the Spring.

As part of our Thanksgiving service projects, both the Senior Highs and the Mid Highs will help fill Thanksgiving bags on the 16th and 17th. The 16th is also November's Youth Sunday. Look for Youth to serve the Fellowship Hour and take part in the Worship services. On the 22nd, both the Mid Highs and the Senior Highs will travel to Go Kart City for some pre-Thanksgiving fun! Mid High Youth Group will NOT meet on the 26th. Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday. Both the Senior Highs and the Mid Highs will participate in the annual Hanging of the Greens on November 29th.

Looking ahead into December, the Youth and Children will jointly participate in New Smyrna's Christmas Parade on December 6th. We will need some help building our float! Call me or Ms. Shannon Balmer if you have ideas. The Youth will assist in the annual Advent workshop on the 3rd. A Mid High and Senior High ice skating trip is planned for December 13th. I am also coordinating a Christmas Open House at my home for Youth and their parents/guardians on December 20th. The Senior Highs are planning a ski trip to Lake Junaluska, North Carolina December 29th-January 2nd. A \$50 deposit is due ASAP.

Thanks for the continued support of Youth ministries at CCUMC. I'm very excited about the spiritual and numerical growth of our Youth program. We are truly growing together for God!

Blessings!

Sarah