

1st Presbyterian Church
100 South Pierce Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
www.1stpresbymc.com

Parent Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October - 2009

Dates to Remember

Sunday 10/3

Big Screen - Ant Bully @ 7pm

Sunday 10/4

BLAST @ 9am

Movies & Theology @ 9am

CROP Walk @ 2pm

Saturday 10/10 -

Sunday 10/11

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday 10/11

BLAST @ 9am

Movies & Theology @ 9am

Friday 10/16 -

Saturday 10/17

High School Fall Retreat

Sunday 10/18

BLAST @ 9am

Movies & Theology @ 9am

Sunday 10/25

John Calvin Birthday Bash

Thursday 10/29

Triennium Info Meeting

CROP Walk

Sunday, October 4 @ 2 pm
Community Kitchen

We'll be meeting up at Community Kitchen @ 2pm on Sunday afternoon to stand up against world hunger. We'll be raising awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local



What is Going On?

October is already here, and the temperatures are dropping like a bowling ball of a 4 story building. Hopefully you've been able to take part in some of our many activities but if not here is what's going on.

The Big Screen (Fellowship Hall @ 7pm) "Ant Bully"

this year we're showing movies for everyone to come and enjoy! Young and old are invited to come enjoy a night out of the house to sit back, and relax. There will be popcorn but feel free to bring something to share. This month we're watching the movie "Ant Bully". Check out The Pulse for more information. Bring the family and friends!



Confirmation Retreat (October 10-11)

has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11. We're still looking for a female chaperone to come along. We'll be heading out on Saturday early morning and then coming back on Sunday morning. Cost is \$25 per student. Call Nate with any questions (641) 424-4273.

High School Fall Retreat (October 16-17)

is schedules for Friday and Saturday, October 16-17. We will play games, have small group discussions and do some challenge course activities. Look for registration forms coming in the upcoming week. Cost is \$25 and includes travel, meals and lodging.

Triennium Informational Meeting (October 29)

Does your student want to go to Triennium next summer? Then this is the meeting for you both! Come get the inside scoop on what is being planned for an amazing week! We will look at possible fundraising ideas and answer as many questions as we can. So please come and get yourself prepared for a great time. Parents are encouraged to attend with your student.

John Calvin Birthday Bash

Come join us on Sunday, October 25th (Reformation Sunday) as we celebrate John Calvin's 500th birthday with a birthday cake decorating contest. We hope you will join us by decorating a cake. Be creative as you wish! John Calvin himself is rumored to be coming in person, so don't miss wishing him a Happy Birthday!



When God Waits

One of the most difficult questions for Christian parents to answer is, "Why did God let this happen?" At issue may be the death of a loved one or a pet or any devastating loss deeply felt. If God is good and powerful and loving, why didn't He step in? Why didn't He stop it?

It can be a faith-challenging question for all of us. Even the good answers - the right answers - don't always provide all of the comfort we're looking for. Still, we know our God is trustworthy and that He truly loves us, and we'd like to communicate that assurance to our kids.

We're going to approach the question this week from the perspective of John 11 and Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. In that story, Jesus is aware that His good friend is dying and He purposefully takes no action until it is "too late." Jesus is saddened by the loss—and the pain felt by Mary and Martha—but He is also aware that He is serving a great purpose and the good of all involved by not stopping Lazarus from dying. The story of Jesus and His resurrection of Lazarus in John 11 can be a powerful launching point for talking with your child about the God powerful enough to raise the dead who proved His love and goodness to us by sending His own Son to suffer and die so we can live forever.

Is God good? Does He truly love us? Is He really powerful? Your kids will eventually face these questions in their own lives or in the lives of others, often when confronted with great pain. Here are some talking points to discuss with your family.

- Have you ever wondered why God seemed not to answer one of your prayers - or why He said no?
- Have you ever wondered why God didn't use His power to step in and stop a terrible thing from happening? Have you ever known someone who concluded that God was not good, loving, or powerful because He didn't do something like that? Is that a fair way to judge God? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus cried when He obviously knew He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead?

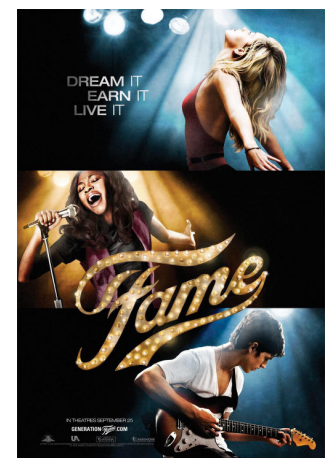
Film Watch - *Fame* (releases Sept. 25, 2009)

Genre: Drama, Musical

Rating: PG (for thematic material teen drinking, sexual situations & language)

Synopsis: This updating of the 1980 film and/or mid-80s TV series follows 10 high school students from their freshman through senior years at a rigorous, high-pressure New York City high school for the performing arts. Of the thousands who apply, only 200 are accepted every year based on their skill and potential as actors, dancers, singers, and musicians.

Discussion Questions: What would you specialize in if you could commit to one form of performing with everything you had? Are you attracted to the idea of being famous? Would you like to be recognized for being great at something? What's the difference between those two things?



Volunteers Needed!

We're always looking for volunteers to help with our programs, events, and trips. If you would like to come join us, provide snacks, or you just have a great idea or project, please contact Nate at (641) 512-8488