

February 12, 2010

Dear Parents of Fifth-Eighth Graders,

You and your son or daughter are invited to participate in a special event called *Created by God*. As you know, young persons of this age are growing physically, mentally, emotionally and socially at a rapid pace, often in ways they don't understand. And, they are being perceived in new ways by the world around them. *Created by God* is a study of human sexuality with a Christian foundation. It will offer both you and your child opportunities to learn, grow, and celebrate the fact that we have each been wonderfully created by God and are called to responsible living as sexual beings. In addition, participation in *Created by God* will help you and your child to better communicate about sexuality and other life issues now and in the future.

Leading the study will be trained small group leaders supervised by the Health Cabinet, Education Ministry Team and pastoral staff. The study involves a major time commitment of the part of parents, young persons, and the leadership, but the benefits are well worth the investment. In addition to being provided in an arena where accurate information and proper terminology can be gained and practiced, the young persons will better understand how their sexuality fits into God's plan for human relationships. Using a highly interactive approach to learning, *Created by God* is also lots of fun.

However, don't expect your son or daughter to be thrilled when you talk with them about participating. Expect them to resist, but don't give in to it. Explain it as an experience needed by both them and you as parents to improve understanding and communication.

The fee for the event is \$20.00, covering the cost of materials, snacks and our meal together. This event will also be open to the community if there are registration spaces left.

This is a tentative outline of the weekend, April 9 & 10, 2010:

April 9-Friday

4:00-6:00 P.M. Youth session

Supper at home

7:00-9:00 P.M. Parent session

April 10-Saturday

9:00-10:30 A.M. Youth session

11:00-12:30 P.M. Parent session

Lunch at home

1:30-3:00 P.M. Youth session

3:30-5:00 P.M. Parent session

5:00-5:30 P.M. (Optional birth control
information session)

6:00 P.M. Meal Together

6:45-8:15 P.M. Youth/Parent session

8:15-8:30 P.M. Large Group closing

We hope to see your family represented as we experience anew what it means to be created by God.

In God's Grace,

Carolyn Fear, Health Cabinet

Cheri Kneifel & Jacque Amweg, Education Ministry Team

Rev. Bonnie McCord, Associate Pastor

**Created by God
Human Sexuality Education Weekend**

April 9 & 10, 2010

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 9th

4:00-6:00 P.M. Youth session

Supper at home

7:00-9:00 P.M. Parent session

Saturday, April 10th

9:00-10:30 A.M. Youth session

11:00-12:30 P.M. Parent session

Lunch at home

1:30-3:00 P.M. Youth session

3:30-5:00 P.M. Parent session

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6:00 P.M. Meal Together

6:45-8:15 P.M. Youth/Parent session

8:15-8:30 P.M. Large Group closing

PARTICIPATION IN ALL SESSIONS IS MANDATORY.

At least one youth and one adult from the family must enroll and attend their respective sessions in order for a youth or parent to participate.

To enroll your family in Created by God, please complete the following family contract and include the registration fee of \$20.00 for one child or \$25.00 for families with more than one child in the program. Turn in the completed family contract and fee to the church office by March 17th.

First United Methodist Church, 1600 West E, North Platte NE 69101

The following members of our family will participate fully in the Created by God weekend:

Youth

_____ Grade _____ Age _____ Gender _____
(signed)

_____ Grade _____ Age _____ Gender _____
(signed)

Parents / Guardians

_____ Please use first and last names.
(signed)

_____ Phone Number _____
(signed)