



ITEMS OF INTEREST:

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Directions for the Trail

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Where has this year gone and how is it possible that I am writing for the December newsletter? Of course it is one of those interesting and somewhat humorous facts that Christmas, which is always on the same day, somehow comes earlier and earlier each year.

Teresa and I were recently talking about how when we were children there was no Christmas out in the stores before Thanksgiving and really not till December. I pondered this and just thought it would be interesting to calculate with the yearly expansion of the Christmas season just how long it might be before Christmas was a year round phenomena.

Which is silly of course because Christmas could never be expanded to cover the whole year and if somehow it could, who would want it. Not only could we not afford it but who wants to do all that Christmas season stuff for twelve months without end. It really is just ridiculous to even ponder the notion.

And yet when you pause just a moment to consider the implications is that not exactly what God wants all Christian disciples to do: celebrate Christmas all year long. Not the cultural Christmas promoted and defined by our materialistic culture but the spiritual birth Christmas that talks about radical transformation and undying hope.

Emmanuel- God With Us – Christmas. Now there is something worth celebrating everyday. May the joy of that gift fill your heart and home this Christmas and everyday through the New Year. May this be the Christmas we keep with us always.

Pastor Larry



**Pastor Larry's
Advent Sermon
Series**

Dec 2 RIGHTEOUSNESS
Catching the Vision

Dec 9 REPENTANCE
Making the Response

Dec 16 REFINEMENT
Growing in Grace

Dec 23 REVERSAL
**The World
Transformed**

Dec 24 at 7 p.m.
REDEMPTION
Christ Our Hope
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Holiday Office Closure
**The Church Office
will be closed from
Dec. 24 through Jan. 1
for the holidays. We
will open at 9:00 a.m.
on January 2, 2013.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
- 2 Sermon: Righteousness-Catching the Vision
Faithful Friends Christmas Party at 5:00 p.m.
- 3 Directory Update Photo Sessions from 2:00-9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Community ACS Relay for Life Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in Chapel
Girl Scout Troop 8189 Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Journeys
- 4 Directory Update Photo Sessions from 2:00-9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 5 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 6 "Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
Scout's Roundtable at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 7 Adult Spiritual Formation Meeting at 8:00 a.m. in Passages
- 8 U.M.M. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
- 9 Sermon: Repentance-Making the Response
- 10 Nurture & Care Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Chapel
- 11 Young at Heart at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall
Cub Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Board of Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Annex
Finance Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Annex
- 12 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Youth Ministry Team Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Passages
- 13 "Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
Girl Scouts at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Passages
- 15 Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
Book Club at 10:30 in Library
- 16 Sermon: Refinement-Growing in Grace
Children's Christmas Program at 6:30 p.m.
- 17-21 Meals on Wheels
- 17 Girl Scout Troop 8189 Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Journeys
- 18 Cub Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 19 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 20 "Disciple" Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in Faithful Friends
- 22 Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
- 23 Sermon: Reversal-The World Transformed
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.
Sermon: Redemption-Christ Our Hope
- 25 *Merry Christmas!*
- 26 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 27: Girl Scouts at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Passages
- 28 Card Workshop at 6:00 p.m. in Upper Room
- 28 D.O.D. Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Faithful Friends
- 29 Handbell Choir Practice at 9:00 a.m.
A.A. Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Upper Room
Meal and a Movie meal preparation in afternoon in Kitchen
- 30 Meal and a Movie at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall

**WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE****Ushers**

*Bob Eaton
Trina Eaton
Erin Mileur
Kyle Quigley
Rick Runge*

Sunday Stewards

*Dave Auxier
Ralph Bastien
Bob Eaton
Andy McNitt
Bill Quigley*

Acolytes

Dec. 2
*Aiden McNitt
Ben Barringer*

Dec. 9
*Megan McNitt
Caitlin Doody*

Dec. 16
*Olivia Schaldemose
Cadence Brown*

Dec. 23
*Tyler Doody
Allison Brown*

Dec. 30
*Asia Watson
Emma Bigham*

**Lighting of
Advent Candles**

Dec. 2
Brad & Soo Jin Fager

Dec. 9
*Kay Bozarth
Candy Watt*

Dec. 16
*Jerry & Kristi Miller
Kyle & Braden*

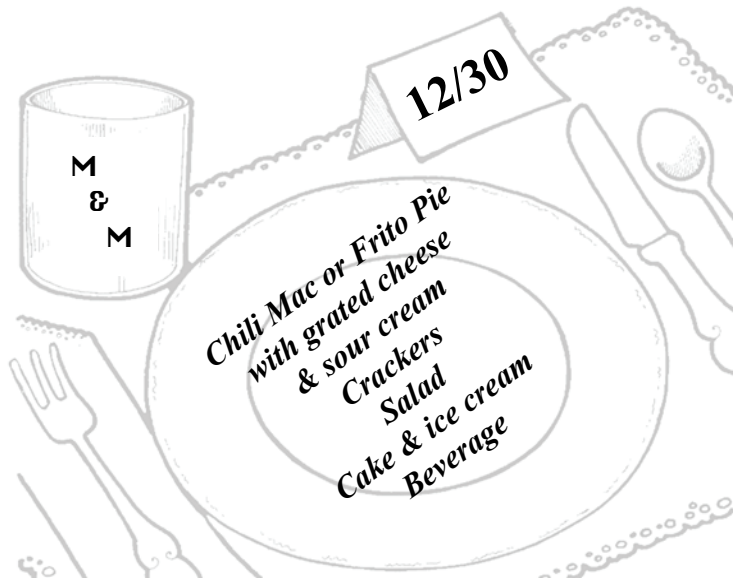


December 11th at 12:00

MENU

- Turkey & Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Cranberry Salad
- Broccoli & Cheese

We Invite Young-At-Heart Members to Bring Desserts!



**M & M NEWS
(Meal and a Movie)**

The first event had about 20 persons from the community in attendance. All involved felt it was a great opening! A huge thank you to all that helped make the day a success!

You are invited to the December 30th *Meal and a Movie* event to be held at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to help serve on the M&M team that day, please contact Clara Kiser at pontiac@egyptianpontiac.com or call Rindy Eisenhauer at 967-1380.

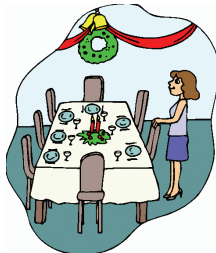
Also, if your Sunday school class or Reunion group is interested in working a month as a service project please contact Clara Kiser or Rindy Eisenhauer.

Meal and a Movie appreciates your financial contributions as well. To contribute, please make checks payable to **MUMC** and put *Meal and a Movie* on the memo line.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
MEAL AND A MOVIE!**

**Murphysboro Community
Christmas Dinner**

is looking for volunteers to help with the dinner. Please call Mary Ann Chambers Hinchcliff at 303-4768 for more information or to volunteer for this ministry.



**DECEMBER
DEADLINES**

- Please submit information for the January COMPASS newsletter no later than noon on the 3rd Monday of the month, December 17th.
- Please submit information for both the Dec. 23rd and 30th Sunday bulletins no later than noon on Thursday, December 19th (office is closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1).

Thank You

Cards for a Cure

The Methodists on a Mission Relay for Life Team is offering a second chance to order gift cards before Christmas to assist with your holiday shopping while helping to raise money for the fight against cancer.

For every gift card that we sell, we receive a percentage of the sale. For example, if you order a \$25 gift card to Bath & Body Works, you will receive a BBW gift card for \$25, then our team gets 13% back, which equals \$3.25. Every little bit helps and it really adds up!

The purchase of gift cards is an easy way to do your Christmas shopping; and some people keep gift cards on hand for that kid's birthday party we weren't prepared for. Gift cards make great 'last minute' gifts. Please consider placing an order to help you with your shopping needs and at the same time help raise money for the battle against cancer.

Order forms are on the table in the back of church, in the church office, or you can email Wilma at wmwcof@frontier.com. If you wish to order a gift card from a merchant you don't see on the order form, contact Cathy in the church office at 687-2317. She will check to see if your merchant is available.

You can drop off your order form in the church office, put it in Cathy's mailbox in the storage room in church, or mail your order form to: Wilma Westerfield at 303 South Pecan Street, DeSoto, IL, 62924.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN BY DECEMBER 10, 2012.

You will get your cards before Christmas.

Thank You!

A Big Thanks



Last month we had a wonderful article on our 100-year celebration of our Sanctuary. As I read the article, I thought of all the hours of work that went into that celebration on the part of so many.

I just wanted to express a special thanks to some folks who worked with me on the committee to pull all the information and logistics together.

Thank you Jan Draper for the countless hours of amazing research, which gave us all the stories and information about the window dedications. I have no idea how you ever came up with all that information but what a treasure it is to this congregation. As I pass through the sanctuary I often pause now to look at the windows and remember the stories of the people who represented there. *Thank you.*

And thanks to Sharon and Mike Jones who put together the wonderful cornerstone artifacts display and coordinated dozens of other details concerning the celebration. The day would never had happened without your help and support. *Thank you.*

I know there were many others who helped in so many ways; telling the window stories, assisting with the meal, helping with set up and clean up, our DS Roger Russell who brought a great message, and many others things.

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate our past and sustain a great future.



Pastor Larry



Pick up an Advent Postcard in the back of church and pass on to a friend!



The Library Corner: News from the MUMC Library

Christmas DVDs and More



Don't let the holiday 'busy-ness' that overtakes all of us at times also take over your pleasure in this special time of year. Perhaps it's time to kick back and enjoy a Christmas DVD or book from the library. Here are some good choices for adults, children, and the whole family:

- The lovely **Nativity Story** brings one of the world's most familiar stories to life for us. There is also an animated version in VHS for children.
- **The Nativity**. Gregory Harrison is the voice of Joseph, Helen Hunt the voice of Mary, and Vincent Price is the voice of King Herod!

In DVD for adults, we have:

- **Christmas Child** a Max Lucado story of coming home, featuring Stephen Curtis Chapman.
- Rick Warren brings us **The Purpose of Christmas** in a video based three session study for adults and families.
- There are also several **Hallmark Collection** DVDs, each of which features several "feel good" movies, although not necessarily Christmas related.

For children we have

- Veggie Tale DVDs **Saint Nicholas—A tale of Joyful Giving** and a **Christmas Sing Along** which the little ones will enjoy.
- Also new in the library for older children is the **Polar Express**.

For listening in the car or as you work at home, we have two audio Christmas books by Debbie Macomber – perhaps go for **The Perfect Christmas?** Amy Grant's CD of Christmas songs, **Home for Christmas**, is new in the library as is **WOW Christmas**, featuring songs by 32 top Christian artists. And don't miss the special experience of **Mark Lowery** reading the Christmas story, and featuring his song "Mary Did You Know."

In the book section you might try **Christmas Stories for the Heart** featuring various thoughtful and inspirational authors such as Max Lucado and Joni Earickson Tada. **Christmas Spirit** has a compilation of daily readings, stories and carols, which will keep your attention on the real meaning of Christmas.

In the fiction section we have Jan Karon's **Shepherd's Abiding**, and our newest Karen Kingsbury novel **The Bridge**, a story of love lost, perhaps found, and featuring a hundred year old bookstore in Franklin, TN—definitely an intriguing combination. Or check out another of our new books, **Skipping Christmas** by John Grisham. Turns out that isn't as easy as it sounds, as most of us know!

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR



December 9: CYF/JYF
Experience "A Night in Bethlehem"
at Cobden Baptist Church
3:30-Pizza at the Church
4:15-Van leaves for Cobden
Return approximately 7 p.m.

December 23: No Meetings

BRING A FRIEND!

- *CYF: Christian Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)
- *JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)
- *Sr. UMYF: United Methodist Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th Grade)



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 16
6:30 P.M.



YOU CAN HELP...

HURRICANE SANDY
STORM SURVIVORS!!!

To donate, make checks payable to MUMC and write "Hurricane 2012" on the memo line.



December Noisy Offering
for
Community Christmas Dinner



Feeder of the Pack Pet Food Pantry News



Feeder of the Pack Pet Food Pantry began distribution of food at the Murphysboro Food Pantry on November 1st. The response has been even greater than expected. As of mid-November, over 300 gallon bags of pet food have been given to patrons of our local food pantry.

We are so thankful for all of you who have donated your time and/or money to make this mission possible. Please continue to support this ministry in prayer. If you would like to volunteer to help with *Feeder of the Pack* or you would like to donate, please contact Trina Eaton at trina.eaton1@gmail.com. And be sure to check out our website: feederofthepack.net or find us on facebook!

Just a reminder...

if you shop at the Neighborhood Coop, be sure to use your own bags and ask for a "Wooden Nickel" and put it in the box by the exit marked "Feeder of the Pack" to help our ministry. This program goes until the end of December. *Thank You*

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



ADULT MISSION TRIP

(post high-school age)

APRIL 21-27, 2013

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Group Size: 12-15 People

HOW CAN I JOIN THE GROUP?

The anticipated cost will be about \$300 per person. A deposit of \$100 per person now will get you a seat on the bus. The next \$100 is due by 2/1/13 and the final payment is due by 3/1/12. Payments can be made in the church office or put in the offertory. Checks should be made payable to **MUMC** with "Mission Trip" written on the memo line.

This Adult Mission Trip is in coordination with CAMP RESTORE. Housing and meals provided. The only meals that are not included would be during travel to and from the destination. Camp Restore has a great range of projects that can easily be arranged for the abilities of each participant; community to construction. For more information, contact Trina Eaton (trina.eaton1@gmail.com) or Barb Hughes (jdbkhughes@frontier.com).

Students for Hire

The students at the Wesley Foundation are holding a fundraiser that runs until 4/1/13. These students are going on a mission trip this summer to Honduras and they are willing to work to earn \$\$\$.

If you or anyone you know needs help with raking leaves, painting, cleaning house, decorating for the holidays, or other chores around the house or office, please contact Sherry Smedshammer at the Wesley Foundation at 457-8165 or send an email to umwesley@siu.edu. The trip will be a life-changing experience and the students are eager to work!

Coming In January A Sewing Bee!!!



We are looking for people who love to sew (and even if you just "like" to sew) to join us for a day of sewing, fun and food!

We are going to sew goodie bags for the 2nd Annual Blessing of the Animals service.

We will be cutting out the bags, sewing them, fellowshipping and of course, EATING so there will be something for everyone!

Mark your calendar for Monday, January 14th and plan to join us!

Please contact Trina Eaton at trina.eaton1@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Christmas Poinsettia and Christmas Memorial



Purchase a
Poinsettia

If you wish to order a poinsettia for our church sanctuary in memory of a loved one, please fill out the order form in the church bulletin and return to the church office no later than December 10th.

Please enclose payment with your order and make your checks payable to MUMC.

Donation is \$10 each.

United Methodist Church
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Larry A. Gilbert
Coordinator of Ministries: Earl R. Renshaw
Discipleship Coordinator: Teresa Gilbert
Financial Secretary: Christine Nolan
Church Administrator: Cathy Lilley
Custodian: Elmer McRoy

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Phone: 618-687-2317
Fax: 618-687-2604



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Murphysboro, IL
Permit No. 63

Return service requested

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

See You On The Trail!



We're On The Web!
www.MurphysboroUMC.com

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 JANIS CREWS | 14 GLORIA BARKER |
| 2 CHARLIE MCNITT | 14 JOHN VALLINO |
| 2 PHOENIX CRUZ | 19 MADISON JACOBS |
| 4 RENE DODDY | 20 MARK TWENHAFEL |
| 4 ROSALIE WINTERS | 21 SYLVIA CARVELL |
| 6 JERRY CREWS | 24 CARRIE SCHWEBEL |
| 7 MARY SLIDER | 25 TRAVIS SHANDS |
| 8 NANCY TILLITT | 27 AIDEN JACOBS |
| 10 CINDY ABBADUSKY | 27 NANCY MCNITT |
| 11 MYRRL BURROUGHS | 27 LISA BUSTOS |
| 12 LEE SULLIVAN | 28 SANDY SCHWEBEL |
| 12 ROSIE WEECE | 30 TRINA EATON |
| 13 HOLLY FLETCHER | 30 CINDY GORDON |
| 13 KATHY RIPLEY | |



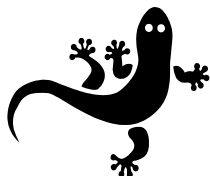
Open Hearts.
Minds.
Doors.

The United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service:
9:00 A.M.

Sunday School:
10:10 A.M.



Happy Anniversary

- 15 JACK & SANDY HERRING
17 JIM & CONNIE BOUCHER
20 GENE & SANDY SCHWEBEL

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the Compass, please contact Cathy in the Church office at 687-2317.

Matthew 1:23

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel” which means “God is with us.”

