



The Messenger

December 17, 2010

Christ United Methodist Church A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation



CALENDAR of Events

Sunday, December 19
Chancel Choir/Bell
Choir/Brass Program
8:30 & 11:00 Worship
9:40 Sunday School/Coffee
2:00 Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 20
9:30 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 21
6:00 Foster Care Review
Board, Room A
6:30 Thread Angels, Ed Room
7:00 Miriam Circle, Room B

Wednesday, December 22
5:30 Glory Ringers
6:00 Middle School Youth
Group
6:30 Chancel Choir
7:00 High School Youth Group

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Christ Academy Closed
12:00 Church Office Closes
4:00 Worship (music provided
by our children)
7:00 Worship (music provided
by Chancel and Bell Choirs)
11:00 Worship (Communion
Served)

Saturday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 26
10:00 Worship
No Children's Sunday School

Monday, December 27
Church Office Closed
Christ Academy open

Friday, December 31
Church Office and
Christ Academy Closed

Saturday, January 1, 2011
Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 2
8:30 & 11:00 Worship

Monday, January 3
9:15 Naomi Circle, Room A
9:30 Staff Meeting

Merry Christmas from Your Church Staff

As we move through these last few days towards Christmas, we remember that Christmas is about Christ's birthday and not ours, and what we do to honor Christ on his birthday. This year at our church, I have been most impressed with the outreach of our members and their generosity. This morning, the Great Hall is full of presents to be delivered this weekend for the Angel Tree program. Our warming hut is overflowing for the second week in a row with warm coats and other winter gear for the people at the shelter. I take a load of clothes each week to a mission on north 27th street operated by the Seventh Day Adventists. Heifer International continues selling flocks of chickens and other sustainable agricultural animals dedicated to ending hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. And people are being active in so many outreaches here in Lincoln. I believe we are honoring Christ and his message in a large way as we go through the Advent season. I also listen to the wonderful music of the season in our worship services and certainly the presence of the Lord (Emmanuel—God with us) is heightened.

Our staff and I want to wish you a great Christmas. As we keep the focus of celebrating Christ's birthday and God giving of His son to the world, we have lots to be thankful for. May you know God's presence with you in many ways through the celebration of Christmas and may the season meet all your expectations.

*Jim Amanda Stephanie Danielle Cindy Miss Amanda
Kim Rand Michelle Jenny Mark Stacy Mrs. B. A*

Christmas Eve Worship Services

We will again be holding three worship services on **Christmas Eve**. The first, at 4:00, will have music provided by our children and youth. This year, any musicians who would like to share their talents during this service will be performing during the prelude, anthem, or offertory. **Any children who would like to perform should contact Amanda in the office by Tuesday, December 21.** After we receive names and place each piece in the most appropriate place during the service, Amanda will contact each person so that each will know when they are performing.

The Chancel Choir and Glory Ringers will share music during the 7:00 worship service. During the 11:00 service, Holy Communion will be served and music will be provided by David Marsh, music director Jenny Vanderholm, and organist, Stephanie Schmidt.

December 26 one worship service at 10:00 will be held. There will be no children's Sunday school or fellowship time this morning.
We hope to see you here at any or all of these upcoming worship services!

Senior Pastor
Reverend Jim Miller
(402) 984-9358

**Office Administrator/
Children's Choir
Education and
Children's Ministries**
Amanda Kenney

Youth Director
Michelle Chesnut

Music Director
Jenny Vanderholm

Organist/Pianist
Stephanie Schmidt

**Building
Superintendent**
Randy Cary

CUMC Brass
Mark Eldred

Serenity Singers
Connie Adams

**Christ Academy
Director**
Cindy Laughter

Additional Teachers
Sylvia Buffington
Ann Hilton
Amanda Roby
Stacy Taylor

What's Happening?

(Please help us keep up-to-date with hospital stays/births/deaths etc. by calling the church office at 489-9618. The information will be listed in the newsletter and bulletin if we have the individual's permission to do so.)

(cont. from page 1)

Tuesday, January 4

Messenger Deadline

(cont. next page)

Wednesday, January 5

5:00 Wednesday Nite Bites

Christ Academy serving spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert

5:30 Glory Ringers

5:30 Children's Choir (K-2)

6:00 Children's Choir (3-5)

6:00 Middle School Youth Group

6:30 Chancel Choir

7:00 High School Youth Group

Thursday, January 6

6:30 YMCA Basketball, FLC

Friday, January 7

1:00 Messenger Assembly, Room A

6:30 Scrapbooking, Room A

Sunday, January 9

8:30 & 11:00 Worship

9:40 Sunday School/Coffee

2:00 Youth Music Rehearsal

3:00 Brass Rehearsal



The family of **Shirley Neuman**, whose funeral was December 13.

The family of **Marietta Ackermann**, whose funeral was December 13.

The family of **Milford Collins**, whose funeral was December 15.

The family of **Grace Priest**, whose funeral is December 20.

Carroll Story on hospice care at home

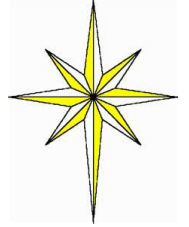
Bette Phillips at Tabitha.

Leeola Story at Brookestone Meadows in Elkhorn.

Happy 100th birthday to **Violet Erway** on January 2!

Star of Wonder: Success!

Wow! All I can say is thank you. Our children's Christmas program on December 12 was a huge success. I received so many compliments about the performance, ranging from how you could hear every word the children sang to how great the message was. All of this could not have been accomplished without the help of so many people. Thank you to all the Sunday school teachers, and especially to Mary Lange, Maggie Bates, Chris Essay, and Nancy Johnson, who gave up their Saturday mornings to help supervise and organize the kids. A huge thank you to Mindy Hawco and Georgeanne Erwin for making all of our costumes. What a relief it was to not have to do that myself! Another big thank you to Sam Bates and Dayna Pulver for running the sound system. And finally, thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and friends for all your support. I very much appreciate the card, movie passes, and flowers. It was a very nice surprise. Also, be looking for a link to a video recording to be posted soon on the website. Thanks again!



- Amanda Kenney



HEIFER | Ending Hunger,
INTERNATIONAL | Caring for the Earth

Heifer International—Join Our Flock

Meaningful gifts for the whole family.

Llamas and their cousins the **Alpaca** provide soft wool to families living in high altitude climates, so they can make sweaters, hats, and gloves. A **Water Buffalo** is really three gifts in one—tangy milk to

drink, draft power to help plow a field, and organic fertilizer to help improve crop yields. **Heifers** provide hungry families with a steady source of milk to drink or sell, and a calf to pass on to the next family. Each family that Heifer helps agrees to “pass on the gift” of offspring and knowledge to another family in need. These are not just gifts of livestock and education—they are gifts of hope, dignity, and self-reliance that are passed from community to community, generation to generation.

CUMC will be taking donations for Heifer through the month of December. The annual quarter tube will be in the Great Hall, along with other informational brochures and order blanks. Please consider contributing to this worthwhile cause.

Help Needed

Jennifer Harms, a member of CUMC who has MS, is needing help with her laundry. If you would be willing to help Jennifer, please call Connie Karges at 488-2418. Thank you.

Messenger Schedule

Submit by **December 14** for mailing on **December 17**.

Submit by **January 4** for mailing on **January 7**.

*There will be no Messenger published during the weeks between Christmas and New Year's (December 20 through January 2).

CUMC Giving and Pledge Status

As we near the end of the 2010 financial year and our 2011 commitment campaign, we would like to bring everyone up to date on the status of our finances. At the end of November 2010, our operating budget income is trailing expenses by about \$22,500. Most of this imbalance occurred during the first half of 2010, and we have been breaking even over the second half. Our Conference apportionment obligations have been met for the most part—we currently have only one more monthly apportionment payment to make to be fully paid for 2010. With strong December giving, CUMC should be able to do this. Of course, any extra efforts on our congregation's part will be a big help.

Our Building Debt balance owed to the CUMC Foundation has been reduced from \$395,000 at the beginning of 2010 to \$350,000 in December. Congregational giving to this fund has been decreasing over the past several years, but quarterly payments are continuing to be made.

Our 2011 commitment campaign has been very successful. Pledges, estimates of giving, and prepayments for the operating budget total \$338,749 to date. This is nearly 10% over the comparable 2010 figure. These 2011 commitments cover over three-quarters of the proposed 2011 operating budget expenses. Building fund commitments for 2011 total \$46,890. We are very optimistic about our financial picture for 2011.

We would like to thank all our members and friends for their continuing support of all the ministries and programs of Christ United Methodist Church.



CUMC has another opportunity to serve a segment of the Lincoln community that needs assistance. Our church has accepted the responsibility for preparing lunch on an additional day once per month at Matt Talbot Kitchen. As many of you know, we have a team that has been preparing lunch on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at MTK for quite a few years. We will now be serving lunch on the **3rd Thursday** of each month. A crew of 6-8 volunteers is needed to make a commitment to serve this meal at MTK.

Providing this service to the less fortunate of Lincoln is our main goal here. However, the fellowship with your fellow volunteers is an added plus. All our volunteers always have an enjoyable morning. Lona Dearmont has agreed to head up this new team. Please check your schedule and see if you can make this once a month commitment. If you are able to help, please call Lona at 489-9884, as we will begin serving in January. Thank you.

Church Conference Report

Our Church Conference, planning for 2011, was held December 16 with the District Superintendent Galen Wray presiding. Rev. Wray discussed with our Church Conference changes happening with the Annual Conference in the near future, particularly about the Nebraska Annual Conference joining with the two Kansas Conferences in sharing a bishop and the possibility of being one large conference.

Our plans included a revised Disciple Making Program for 2011. An alternative administrative structure was brought to the Church Conference by our Administrative Council and passed. The proposed narrative Missional Budget of \$437,141 was passed. Church membership is now at 954. Church conference booklets are still available in the office if you would like to stop and pick one up.



Merry Christmas from Hospitality

Greetings from your Hospitality Team! We rejoice this season and always in the blessings of the smiles, greetings, handshakes, mission giving, and attendance at events and services that bring us together in service to others and each other. Merry Christmas, and may your New Year be wonder-filled also.



Mission Opportunity

Christ United Methodist Church
4530 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 489-9618
christumclinc.org

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 55

December 17, 2010

Change service requested

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, 9:40 am

Acolytes

December 19	8:30	Jack Jewell and Ethan Dyer
	11:00	Eli Sommerich and Hailee Lynn
December 24	4:00	Jack Jewell and Vincent Wieser
	7:00	Volunteers Needed!
	11:00	Volunteers Needed!
December 26	10:00	Volunteers Needed!
January 2	8:30	Kaylee Loehr-Orosco and John Dearmont
	11:00	Maddie Hawco and Torin Lynn
January 9	8:30	Cooper McClure and Gabriella Soriente
	11:00	Adam Deutsch and Emma Jewell

Greeters

December 19	8:30	Burnita Den Hartog, Lois Schulenberg, Larry and Carolyn McClure
	11:00	Dick and Sally Schneider, Louise Mountford
December 24	4:00	Doug, Kim, Carter, and Molly Garrison
	7:00	Louise Mountford
	11:00	Volunteers Needed!
December 26	10:00	Les Williams and Phyllis Maurer, Jerrie Michaelson
January 2	8:30	Volunteers Needed!
	11:00	Liz and Larry Bady
January 9	8:30	Volunteers Needed!
	11:00	Merle and Pat Derry

Communion Helpers

January 2	8:30	Larry and Carolyn McClure, Emilye Dunn
	11:00	Carroll and Doris Foust, Mildred Gardner

Fellowship Servers

December 19		Helen McPherrin and Bev Noble
January 2		Rick and Karen Wilson
January 9		Burnita Den Hartog and Lois Schulenberg

Electronic Options

Did you know that you have several options to communicate electronically with CUMC? Please check out the list below, and use whatever methods work best for you. This allows you to stay connected with our church family no matter where you go!

Email—Does the church office have your current email address? Several communications are sent out via email, including the Messenger, semi-annual giving statements, and meeting reminders. If you would like to join any of these distribution lists, please email Amanda at amanda.kenney@christumclinc.org.

Website—Make sure to check the CUMC website often! Here you will find the latest Messengers and bulletins as well as registration forms and information about any activities.

Facebook—Attention all Facebook users—make sure to “like” the CUMC Facebook page. Updated frequently, our profile page is a great way to get the most current information about the activities at CUMC.

Electronic Giving—Currently, members can give electronically using their personal bank’s online bill pay feature. Be on the lookout for a new program to allow users to give electronically by signing up only once.

If you have any questions about any of our electronic communications, please contact Amanda in the office.