

United Methodist Church of Libertyville

MEMOS

Lifting Up Christ, Using Our Gifts, Ministering To All

Volume 2011, Issue 24



December 14, 2011

My Christmas Meditation

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Only two weeks until Christmas! Every year the time seems to whiz by and suddenly it's here. Am I prepared? Will everything be ready? The house, the gifts, the food, the services, my soul? Sounds like a lot of anxiety to me. I feel like Charlie Brown – "Good Grief!"

Okay, okay, time to settle down a little, time to quiet your heart and pray. Breathe. Listen.

"Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find the child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

I am listening, imagining the scene, standing in the field at night with the shepherds, the cool air, the stars and then the glory of God.... what wonderful thing is happening? Good News of Great Joy. A baby lying in a manger. A Savior.

Quiet reflection. Pondering. Meditating. Waiting....

I am breathing more deeply now. I am feeling more relaxed, less worried and concerned... peaceful. Thank You, God.

May God help you find a little time in your busy Christmas preparations to rest and reflect... to feel the love and peace of God as you prepare for the birth of Christ. We hope to see you in worship! The schedule for the Christmas Eve Services is listed on page three.

Blessings and Joy to you all,

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



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Libertyville, IL 60048
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Fax: 847-362-8146

Web site:
www.umcl.org



Announcements, Joys & Concerns



*“The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious
about anything,
but in everything,
by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to
God. And the peace of
God, which transcends
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds in
Christ Jesus.”
— Philippians 4:5b-7*

Our deep sympathy and love is extended to Nancy Grange on the passing of her husband,
GEARY GRANGE,
who died last Wednesday, December 7.
Services were held at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
on Tuesday, December 13.

Condolences go out as well
to the family of
DOROTHY PORTEOUS.
who died this past Friday,
December 9.
Private services are planned.

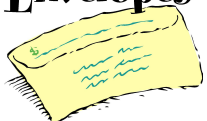
Please hold in prayer all those in our church family who are ill, hospitalized or recovering at home. Please pray for our pastors and committees as they work to discern and shape our future in ministry. If there are specific prayer requests you would like circulated through our prayer chain, please contact the church office, Mickey Donahue (mickey162@comcast.net), Karen Kuhlman (akkuhl@att.net) or Becky Ferguson (beckyferguson3@gmail.com).

From the Church Finance Office



- ◆ It's not too late to return your 2012 pledge cards. Additional cards are available in the Sanctuary and the East Room and from the Finance Office
- ◆ 2011 contributions will be accepted through December 31, 2011. If you are still considering security contributions, please contact the Finance Office immediately to expedite the process and assure your contribution is completed for this fiscal year.
- ◆ Again this year, the extension of the Pension Protection Act allows anyone over 70½ years of age to make church contributions under \$100,000 directly from their IRA account. Contact your IRA administrator for the details on how to make this type of contribution.

Offering Envelopes



2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available in the Heritage area of the Church Foyer on Sunday, December 18 through Sunday, January 8. Please note—everyone will be assigned a **NEW ENVELOPE NUMBER** this year. It's therefore important that you look for your name, not your old number, and that you double check to make sure you've picked up the envelope box labeled with your name. Please contact the Finance Office if you have questions or have trouble locating your offering envelopes.

Church Staff & Email Addresses



STAFF DIRECTORY

PASTORS: Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams
Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams
Youth Pastor – Ben Hallett
Youth Coordinator: DeeAnn Clausen
Business/Operations Manager: Ruth Ross
New Member/Ministries Coordinator: Joyce Bedell
Director of Adult Choir: Jeff Brown
Contemporary Service Director: Jeff Brown
Director of Music: Jim Grace
Please use the main church email address for Donna Castele; Lori Miller

pastorswilliams@sbcglobal.net
pastorjhwiliams@sbcglobal.net
BenHallett@sbcglobal.net
deeann-clausen@sbcglobal.net
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libertyvilleumc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH WEB SITE = www.umcl.org

*Find us on Facebook! **United Methodist Church of Libertyville***

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 PM — FAMILY SERVICE

A blended worship service for the young at heart with contemporary music by the Adult and Youth Praise Bands, traditional Christmas carols, Children's Message and Meditation and candle lighting. Worshipers are invited to bring simple wrapped gifts for our PADS guests—a warm pair of socks, gloves, hats, toiletries or other small gifts are welcome.

7:00 PM — TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

A Traditional Service with beautiful music by the Adult Choir and soloists, a Children's Message, the Christmas Story in Scripture and Song, Christmas Sermon, and the traditional lighting of the Christmas candles.

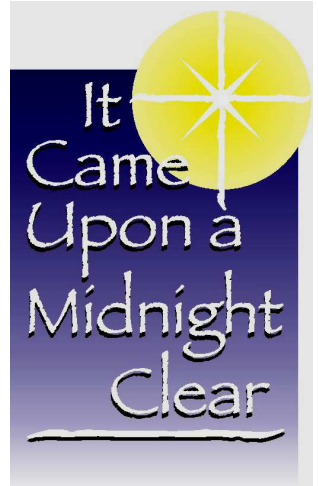
10:00 PM — TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

A Traditional Service with beautiful music by the Adult Choir and soloists, the Christmas Story in Scripture and Song, a Christmas Sermon, A Celebration of Holy Communion and the traditional lighting of the Christmas candles.

Christmas Day Worship Service and

New Year's Day Worship Service

10:00 A.M. only



CHRISTMAS TREES & WREATHS LAST CHANCE!

This is the final week of sales, ending on Saturday, **December 17** — hours:

Mon-Fri	6—9 PM
Saturday	9 AM—5 PM
Sunday	11:30 AM— 8 PM

Support Boy Scout Troop 72, and our own Youth Missions by getting your Christmas trees and wreaths here! Questions? Please contact Bert Kibbler (847-367-4894).

175th ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS:

This beautiful reminder of our 175th Celebrations will be on sale between now and Christmas before services on Sundays.

We only have a limited number, so please get them early. If you wish to have some reserved for you, please contact:

Joyce Bedell at church (847-362-2112 or joycebedell@sbcglobal.net).

They make wonderful gifts!



Fellowship and Nurture



YOUNG COUPLES IN JANUARY

**Friday Night
January 6, 2012 @ 6:30 PM**

We will celebrate the New Year with our tradition of Jambalaya and White Elephant gift exchange. We will meet at the home of Scott and Charlotte Allen (1201 Hampton Lane, Mundelein—847-968-4565 or allencs@comcast.net).

PRIME TIME IN JANUARY Monday, January 9, at 12:00 PM

We will have a potluck lunch at noon, and dessert will be provided. We will have a Game Day, so bring your cards, board games and dominoes. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 6 (libertyvilleumc@sbcglobal.net or 847-362-2112).
Hope to see you there!

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP:

The Women's Bible Study group will be starting a new 9-week study on *The Fruits of the Spirit*, beginning January 4, 2012. Join us on Wednesdays at 1 PM at the Church. Lessons are designed as individual units. The Bible will lead us to discover: love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Call Joyce Jeffries at 847-566-6944 for more information.



Christian Education



2011-2012 ALL-STARS:

All 3rd, 4th & 5th graders are invited to our December meeting:

**December 14 @ 5:30 PM
Christmas Celebration**

Plan to join us for this special event!

Questions?

Contact DeeAnn Clausen
deeann-clausen@sbcglobal.net

JANUARY ACOLYTE TRAINING

Any youth 3rd Grade and older can serve as an acolyte during 8:30 and 10:00 worship services. If you are interested, please come to "Acolyte Training" on:

**Saturday, January 7, at
10:00 AM.**

For more info, please contact Marni Corrigan at lcorrigan@comcast.net.

PAJAMA SUNDAY January 8, 2012

Don't hibernate! Come and join us! All children are invited to wear their pajamas to worship services and Sunday School on January 8. We will serve breakfast treats and have a special craft for all ages.

For more information, contact DeeAnn Clausen
deeann-clausen@sbcglobal.net



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS OR POTENTIAL TEACHERS:

Our children's program has enjoyed a tremendous start! Help us keep it going strong in the New Year by signing up to facilitate a class or be the "helper." We need you to help our Christian Education program continue to impact young peoples' lives. The sign up is located on the bulletin board at the entrance to the Education Wing. Questions?

deeanne-clausen@sbcglobal.net

SOUPER GAME NIGHT— A New Multi-Generational Event!

Saturday, January 14 from 5-7 pm. Bring a crock pot of your favorite soup and your favorite game to share. Fellowship Hall is the place to be for warmth of food and fellowship this January! This event is being hosted by Children's Ministries and the Family Life Committee. Please sign up in the church office or email DeeAnn (deeann-clausen@sbcglobal.net) by January 8th. If your children would rather have pizza, please note that when signing up!

United Methodist Women



RUTH CIRCLE December 21 at 7:00 PM

Ruth Circle will meet for their annual Christmas dinner at the home of Beth March (15660 W. Timber Lane, Libertyville). Please RSVP to Beth if you are planning to attend and have not previously signed up (847-367-5175). Come join us for Christmas devotions and a wonderful shared meal.



PRISCILLA CIRCLE December 20 at 11:30 AM

We will enjoy a Christmas Potluck at the home of Shirley Mason (419 Ames Street, Libertyville—847-362-0523).

Please RSVP to Shirley, and plan to join us for this special time of fellowship.



Lydia Circle



LYDIA CIRCLE — No December meeting!

Lydia Circle will not meet in December. Please watch future bulletins and MEMOS for details on our January meeting.

United Methodist Men

MONTHLY BREAKFAST MEETINGS:

UMML will not hold its monthly Saturday breakfast meeting in December, due to the holidays. The next regular meeting will be **Saturday, January 28.**

Please watch future bulletins and MEMOS for details to come.



Green Team

Don't know what to do with unusable strings of broken lights this holiday season?

One very good option is to recycle them! Several suburbs are partnering with Elgin Recycling to collect old lights and keep them out of landfills. You can recycle strands of incandescent, LED lights and extension cords. They can be in any condition. Elgin Recycling will collect lights and recycle the copper and plastic parts. Suburbs participating in our area include Mundelein, Arlington Hts., Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. For more information, see: www.elginrecycling.com/news?article.aspx?newsid=8



Children's Choirs / God & Family

CALLING ALL SINGERS AND CHIMERS!

We are singing on **Sunday, December 18,** for the last time in 2011! We will have a special rehearsal on Saturday, December 17 from 2-3 PM and an ornament exchange! Please bring a wrapped ornament (\$5 limit). Then, on Sunday, we will meet in the East Room promptly at 8 AM. We sing and chime at 8:30 and 10 AM services. At 9:30 we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and a prize drawing!

GOD & FAMILY AWARD:

Discover how building and strengthening families can be compared to making pizza! Study the Bible to learn about God's recipe for living together as children of our heavenly Father. For boys and girls in grades 4 & 5 and an adult mentor. Begins Sunday, January 8 and runs weekly until January 29. We will meet from 5—7 PM and the cost is \$22 per student. Registration deadline is December 30. Contact Lynette Ferro 847-837-8179 or bluehat82@comcast.net.



Pastor Steve on TV



Last May, Pastor Steve was part of the Association of Theological Schools Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program through North Park Seminary. As part of his program he prepared a video-taped sermon which was judged for content and delivery by the faculty of all the Chicago seminaries participating in the Preaching Program. Of the thirty entries they reviewed, Steve's sermon was deemed to be the best, and he was honored by being invited to speak and be interviewed on the "30 Good Minutes" TV show. You can see this program at the following time:

Sunday, December 18 ~ 5:00 PM on WTTW, Channel 11

Service Opportunities



PADS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

On the 3rd Saturday each month we join with others to hand out food at the mobile food pantry at First Presbyterian Church, usually outside in their parking lot. If you would like to help occasionally, the commitment is minimal—2-3 hours in the morning once a month when you are available. We try to send 5-9 people each month from a list of about 20 volunteers.

Interested volunteers should contact Cathy O'Brien (847-367-8062).

PADS VOLUNTEERS:

PADS continues to need volunteers for the following shifts:

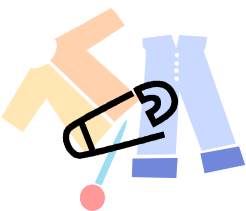
- ⇒ Overnight (11 PM - 3 AM)
- ⇒ Two people to stay from 3 - 6 AM.
- ⇒ Clean-up (5:30 AM - 7:15 AM)

Please consider helping us with these overnight and early morning shifts. Thankfully, we do not need more volunteers for Christmas Eve, but there are many other spots open. Contact Cathy O'Brien — (847-362-2212).

UMCOR BABY LAYETTE KITS:

The UMW Mission Team asks for your help with collecting items for UMCOR Baby Layette Kits, or assembling the kits on **Saturday, January 28, 2012**.

Each kit consists of the following items: 6 Cloth Diapers, 2 Undershirts or Onesies, 2 Baby Washcloths, 2 gowns or Sleepers, 2 Diaper Pins, 1 Sweater (open in front), and 2 Receiving Blankets (no quilts or knitted blankets). A basket for the items is located in Fellowship Hall. Please bring only new items. For more information, please contact Sheila Hillier (847-984-2794).



2nd Mile Giving for December

This month we will support:

- 1) **Feed My Starving Children:** This is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding the body and spirit of God's children. Hand-packed meals are shipped to 70 countries around the world. 93% of donations go directly to the food program (www.fmsc.org).
- 2) **United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission** helps children learn about mission projects chosen for their value in understanding what it means to "be in mission." Two international and two U.S. projects are chosen annually (www.gbod.org/children).



Calendar

TAKE NOTE--MEMOS & BULLETIN PUBLISHING POLICY--It is the policy for the MEMOS and Sunday bulletins to publish items related only to the United Methodist Church of Libertyville or the specific activities, programs, and missions it sponsors. Any items submitted to the MEMOS or Sunday bulletins will be subject to editing as available space may require. Likewise, the timing of publishing articles is an editorial decision. Deadlines for MEMOS and Sunday Bulletin articles are: for the next MEMOS, Sunday, January 1; for Sunday Bulletins, the Tuesday before by 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to help with MEMOS; we will meet at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 4, in Room 101.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>December 18 4th Sunday in Advent 8:30 AM –Worship 8:30 AM –Children’s Worship Time 9:30 AM –Coffee Time 9:30 AM –Cherub Choir 10:00 AM –Worship 10:00 AM –Sunday School 11:15 AM –Contemporary Worship 12:30 PM – “The Everyday” Youth Band 5:30 PM –SYNERGY</p>	<p>December 19 7:00 PM –According to Thomas 7:00 PM –Boy Scouts</p>	<p>December 20 11:30 AM –Priscilla Circle (off-site) 12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free / AA 1:00 PM –Women’s Spiritual Growth 7:00 PM –Resource Committee 7:00 PM –Boy Scout Committee 7:00 PM –TNT (Sr. Hi)</p>	<p>December 21 9:00 AM –Lectio Divina (off-site) 9:00 AM –Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM –Women’s Bible Study 7:00 PM –Ruth Circle (off-site) 7:00 PM –Disciple 1 7:00 PM –Heritage Bells</p>	<p>December 22 12:00 PM –Living Free / AA 7:30 PM –Adult Choir</p>	<p>December 23 No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>December 24 Christmas Eve 8:30 AM –Praise Band 12:00 PM –“Everyday” Youth Band 4:00 PM –PADS Setup 6:00 PM –PADS Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:00 PM Family 7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight 10:00 PM Traditional Candlelight w/ Communion</p>
<p>December 25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM –Worship</p>	<p>December 26 Church Office Closed No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>December 27 12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free / AA 1:00 PM –Women’s Spiritual Growth 2:00 PM –Stephen Ministry Leaders 7:00 PM –Faithful Threads</p>	<p>December 28 9:00 AM –Lectio Divina (off-site) 9:00 AM –Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM –Women’s Bible Study 7:00 PM –Venture Crew 7:00 PM –Disciple 1</p>	<p>December 29 12:00 PM –Living Free / AA</p>	<p>December 30 No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>December 31 New Year’s Eve 8:30 AM –Praise Band 4:00 PM –PADS Setup 6:00 PM –PADS</p>
<p>SUNDAY SERVICES 8:30 AM—Traditional Church Service & Children’s Worship Time (3 yrs-K) 10:00 AM –Traditional Service (A hearing interpreter is present at this service) 11:15 AM –Contemporary Service</p>			<p>SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:00 AM –Classes for all ages Nursery Care All worship services for ages 0—2 years.</p>			

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you, you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger:!" —Luke 2:11-12



Youth 411

December 2011/January 2012

Middle School Student Group (SYNERGY)

SUNDAYS:

- December 18: SYNERGY @ 5:30 PM
- January 8: SYNERGY @ 5:30 PM
- January 15: 30-Hour Famine Meeting (Confirmands only)

Senior High Student Group (TNT / SNS)

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS:

- December 20: TNT @ 7 PM
- December 24: "Everyday" practice @ Noon
- January 10: TNT @ 7 PM
- January 15: 30-Hour Famine Meeting

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Check out our
UMCL Facebook
Group!

MEMOS is a bi-weekly publication of the
United Methodist Church of Libertyville
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Jamie Hanna Williams; Stephen C. Williams
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Office Hours: 8:30—3:30 p.m. weekdays

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED