

UMCL News & Notes ~ December 6, 2015

GIVING IN GRATITUDE—Many Thanks to all those who have already brought or mailed to the church their 2016 Financial Commitments for our Stewardship Campaign, "Giving in Gratitude." We appreciate both the commitments to the 2016 Annual Ministry Fund and the ongoing or new commitments to the Building Fund for our renovations, soon to be completed!

If you have not yet given your 2016 Financial Commitments, we would be happy to receive them in the Offering throughout the month of December or you can mail them to the church. Your generosity and faithfulness make our ministry and life together possible. Thank You!

OUR NURSERY IS EXPANDING! Due to an increase in young families and little ones, we are outgrowing our nursery! Beginning **TODAY** through Easter we will offer two nurseries. The "nursery" (room 100) will be for little ones 0-2 years and the new "toddler nursery" (room 102) will be for 2.5-4 year olds. (4+ will attend church programming) If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering please contact Amanda at the church office.

CHRISTMAS PARTNER ANGELS—The Blessing of the Gifts takes place this morning, with gift delivery happening this week. Thanks to all who have given gifts! There are several angels left; if you are able to help provide a merry Christmas for someone, please contact Jeris Boyce **TODAY!** If you willing to help transport gifts, please also contact Jeris.

SUPPORTING HUMBOLDT PARK—Our friends at Humboldt Park are collecting good winter boots for men (mostly larger men), thick winter socks, and blankets and sleeping bags (thick and ideally waterproof). Drop them off at the church through next Sunday!

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL GIFT CARDS—MOOve on over to the Heifer International display in the back of Fellowship Hall **today and next Sunday** between services. For as little as \$10, you can purchase a share of a goat, sheep, pig, llama, flock of chickens, bees, or a cow. Your contribution can be made in the name of a loved one, and you will receive a card explaining the program cornerstone of "Passing on the Gift."

LOVE IN ACTION is an opportunity for faith, fellowship and service during the Advent season! Women and children of all ages are invited to come together to celebrate the season **this afternoon, 3:00-5:00 PM** to assemble UMCOR health kits and learn about their purpose, as well as enjoy snacks, holiday music and fellowship. Sign up with Mary Ann Burson, Erin Mayes, Bonnie Lill, Kathie Slocum, or simply show up this afternoon!

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE....The holiday season can be a painful time because of a death in the family, a lost or broken relationship, or painful memories of the past. Stephen Ministry of UMCL is offering an ecumenical remembrance service **this Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 PM** at St. Lawrence Episcopal Church (125 W Church Street, Libertyville). We invite you to attend this worship service for those suffering with pain, loss, isolation and grief in the holiday season. Details: Mary Spooner (847-548-3703), Kevin Garren (847-816-7340) or the Pastors.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK—Your help is needed on **Sunday, December 13** with the **Live Nativity and Christmas Open House**, as well as moving into the New Sanctuary —

- ◆ **At 12 Noon**, volunteers are needed to help set-up for the Live Nativity at Cook Park. This involves bringing tables, stages and sound equipment over to Cook Park. Help is also needed to move our worship supplies back into the sanctuary from the fellowship hall. This will include moving hymnals, bibles, attendance pads, musical instruments and other supplies as well as some light cleaning and reorganizing of our storage spaces.
- ◆ **At 6:30 PM**, following the Live Nativity, volunteers are needed to help bring the equipment back to UMCL from Cook Park.

Help may also be needed to move into the New Community Room on Saturday, **December 12**. Stay tuned for details. If you are willing to help with Live Nativity set-up or tear-down, please contact Ben Hallett at Ben.Hallett@umcl.org. If you are willing to help with moving worship supplies, please contact Mark Mason at mnjmason@sbcglobal.net.

OUR FOURTH ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY is planned for **next Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6:00 PM** at Cook Park. Come see our live performance of the Christmas story, acted out by our children and youth. Following the performance everyone is invited to our church to enjoy cocoa, coffee and cookies in our **New Community Room!** **Christmas Invitational Postcards** are available in the back of Fellowship Hall—use these cards to invite your friends and neighbors!

LIVE NATIVITY COOKIES AND HELP NEEDED! If you are able to provide 2-3 dozen small cookies for our **Live Nativity on December 13**, please sign up on the sheet in the back of Fellowship Hall or contact Mary Ann Burson. Please label any cookies containing nuts and deliver to the kitchen next Sunday. We also need many **volunteers** to set-up, serve and clean-up after the anticipated crowd. Contact Mary Ann Burson to help (847-270-0633 or bookwormburson@att.net).

UMCL News & Notes Continued

FINANCIAL UPDATE ~ FOURTH QUARTER CRITICAL

The final quarter of the church year is critical to our overall financial health. At the beginning of November, the gap between actual income and actual expenses was \$112,000. We always anticipate a gap due to the pattern of giving throughout the year, but our gap at that point was about \$29,000 more than we expected. We have made some progress in November, but December will be a critical month to help us end the year in the black.

If you have gotten behind in your regular giving, we hope that you will be able to catch up. If you have been blessed this year and would like to make additional offerings and gifts to the church, this would be greatly appreciated.

God is faithful. There is much to celebrate in our life and ministry together!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

POINSETTIAS—It's time to order the poinsettias which will decorate our New Sanctuary during the Christmas Season! Order forms are available in today's bulletin, Memos, or online at www.umcl.org/poinsettias. Orders and payment are due this **Thursday, December 10**.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—Plan to celebrate the birth of Christ by coming to worship in our transformed Sanctuary on Christmas Eve! We will have three services that day: a **Family Service at 4:00 PM** with nursery care provided; a **Traditional Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM** with nursery care provided; and a **Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion at 10:00 PM**.

PRIME TIME will meet **Monday, December 7 at Noon** for lunch (\$5) and our 'White Elephant' exchange... wrap up that item around the house you no longer want and pass it on!

AD BOARD MEETING—Our next Administrative Board meeting will be held **Saturday, January 16, 2016, at 8:30 AM** in Room 206. All are welcome to attend!

RUTH CIRCLE will hold the annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on **Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 PM** at the home of Beth March (15660 Timber Lane, Libertyville, 847-367-5175). It is a time for special Christmas fellowship so please feel free to join in! RSVP with Beth March.

2015 CONTRIBUTIONS will be accepted through **December 31, 2015**. This includes any additional cash or check contributions received in the office through the end of the day. For those considering security contributions, a copy of the Church security contribution procedure and forms are available from the Finance office. Security contributions must be initiated by **December 10!**

OFFERING ENVELOPES—You can select weekly or monthly/periodic offering envelopes or no envelopes at all (for electronic and annual contributors). No notice is needed if you are not making a change from last year's schedule of envelopes. Please let the Finance office know by **Dec. 15** if you'd like to make a change to your envelope plan. Offering envelopes will be available for pick up December 15-20. Everyone will be given a number to use for their contributions regardless of the envelope option chosen. Questions? Contact Ruth at 847-362-2112 or ruth.ross@umcl.org

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE! Help support our Boy Scout Troop 72, Lake County ministries sponsored by United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Youth by getting your beautiful fresh tree, wreath, and greenery at UMCL! The sale runs **daily through December 19**.

Tree Sale Hours: Saturdays, 9:00 AM—9:00 PM; Sundays, 12:00—8:00 PM., Monday-Friday: 6:00—9:00 PM. Help needed with the sale—please contact Bert Kibbler at 847-858-1456.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will begin an 8-week study of 2 Timothy on **Wednesday, January 13 at 1:00 PM** in room 103 at church. If you would like to join the study, please contact Terry Johnson at JGTAJohnson@aol.com. Books will be ordered on Dec 22, 2015, cost \$7, and will be available for pick up in the office in early January. Everyone is welcome to join the study.

PADS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, especially overnight and clean-up shifts, as well as folks willing to bring in dinners on the 2nd or 4th Saturdays of the month. Contact Cathy O'Brien at 847-367-8062 or cobrien1021@hotmail.com to find out how you can help!

United Methodist Church of Libertyville
429 Brainerd Avenue, Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847-362-2112 ▪ www.umcl.org ▪ info@umcl.org



The United Methodist Church
of Libertyville
December 6, 2015
9:30 & 11:00 AM



Today's Scripture Passage

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

— Matthew 5:43-48



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

PASTORS

Stephen C. Williams • Jamie Hanna Williams

Traditional Service ~ 9:30 am



Greetings & Announcements Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams
We welcome you to our service today and invite you to greet each other with words of grace and peace. May God's blessing be upon us all as we worship together in spirit and truth. Thank you for passing the attendance pads at this time.

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" M. Hayes

*** Call to Worship** Woody Bedell

Leader God is making preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope and Prince of Peace.

People **We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.**

Leader We look into our hearts, our lives, our communities to see where we have missed the path of peace.

People **We seek God's grace and forgiveness, power and love that we might be peacemakers in this troubled world.**

Leader May God's Spirit fill us with hope.

People **May God's Spirit lead us into the ways of peace. Amen.**

*** Opening Hymn** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" No. 213

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Introduction

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6-7

An Advent Reading

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Advent Song "Come and Fill Our Hearts" J. Berthier

(The Choir will sing this song once, the congregation will join the second time through.)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

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Blessing of the Christmas Gifts Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

Gracious God, we thank you for the joy of being able to give gifts at Christmas time. As the Wise Men gave gifts to the Christ Child, we offer these gifts to you today. Bless them and those who will receive them. Let your hope and peace fill their hearts and ours this day and throughout this holy season. Amen.

Musical Response "In the Bleak Midwinter" No. 221, verse 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 23:1-4 Beth March

Anthem "People, Look East" H. Helvey
Adult Choir

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

** Please consider completing a "Joys and Concerns" card and placing it in the box at the back of Fellowship Hall. The Pastors and Prayer Team will use the cards to guide weekly prayer. Thank you.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns** Rev. Williams

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn** "Blessed Be the God of Israel" No. 209

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 5:43-48

Sermon "Who Is Your Neighbor?" Woody Bedell

Offering / Offertory "Of the Father's Love Begotten" M. Hayes

* Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 94

* Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion UM Hymnal pages 13-15

Gluten free wafers are available.

All who are seeking the grace of God are welcome to share
in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

*** Closing Hymn** "In Christ There Is No East or West" No. 548

*** Benediction**

Postlude "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" M. Hayes



A Warm Welcome to All!

If you are visiting for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Table at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall to pick up a Visitor Packet and meet our Welcoming Ministries Coordinator, Joyce Bedell (Joyce.Bedell@umcl.org), for more information about our church family. All are invited to join us for coffee, refreshments, and community sharing between the services. We look forward to seeing you there!



*This morning's flowers are given by
Herb and Mary Spooner in loving memory
of their daughter, Dr. Kerry Spooner Dean.*

Many thanks to the following people for helping with our service this morning:

Sound Tech: Connor Clausen

December Ushers: Jane Aten, John Aten, Mike Fennewald, Tom Plohr

*Coffee Time: Please join us for coffee and refreshments between services,
hosted by Jan Grigsby.*

Contemporary Service ~ 11:00 am



Gathering Into Worship

Greeting

*** Song** "Angels We Have Heard on High" D. Crowder

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Johnson Family

Introduction

Scripture Reading

An Advent Reading

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Isaiah 9:6-7

*** Song** "Rise" K. Kaple

Announcements & Greeting Each Other

Blessing of the Christmas Gifts Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

Gracious God, we thank you for the joy of being able to give gifts at Christmas time. As the Wise Men gave gifts to the Christ Child, we offer these gifts to you today. Bless them and those who will receive them. Let your hope and peace fill their hearts and ours this day and throughout this holy season. Amen.

Community Sharing

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Message & Scripture Woody Bedell

"Who Is Your Neighbor?" ~ Matthew 5:43-48

Offering & Celebration of Holy Communion

As you come forward to receive Holy Communion,
we invite you to bring your gifts and offerings and place them in the basket.

Gluten free wafers are available.

All who are seeking the grace of God are welcome to share
in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Prayer

Song "All of God's Children" J. Foreman

Scattering into the World



Worship Team: David Bedell, Woody Bedell, Ben Hallett, Jacqueline Hallett
Heidi Nelson, Christina Parmar, Tom Seibert, Tim Tonon,
Jennifer Whittington

Multimedia Coordinators: Connor Clausen, Mark and Janet Mason

Children are welcome in worship. We enjoy having kids with us in worship but there is also a special program for them called *Kids Own Worship* that meets in room 201 during the service. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers in Room 100.



Order Form
Christmas Poinsettias
for the New Sanctuary

It's time to order the poinsettias which will decorate our **New Sanctuary** during the Christmas Season! If you would like to place an order, please fill out this form and return it with your check made payable to the United Methodist Church of Libertyville (UMCL), in the amount of \$17 per plant.

Please respond with your payment by **Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015** by returning this form and payment to the basket in the church office or Fellowship Hall.

Poinsettias may be picked up following the 10 pm Christmas Eve Service or on Sunday, December 27.

FLOWER CHOICE:

- _____ **Red Poinsettia**
_____ **White Poinsettia**

Given by:

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Orders are due December 10!

UMCL Church Calendar

Sunday, December 6, 2015

8:00 AM—Adult Sunday School Class
8:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class
9:00 AM—Cherub Choir
9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)
9:30 AM—B.I.G. Time (Believers In God /
Children's Sunday School; room 206)
9:30 AM—Youth & Adult Sunday School
10:30 AM—Coffee Time
10:40 AM—God's Soul Girls
11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship Service
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)
11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship (room 201)
12:00 PM—Children's Ministry Committee (off site)
3:00 PM—"Love in Action" Advent Event
4:30 PM—Joyful Noise & Choristers
6:30 PM—SrHI Tide

Monday, December 7, 2015

10:00 AM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study
12:00 PM—Prime Time
5:45 PM—Daisy Girl Scouts
7:00 PM—Trustees
7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study
7:00 PM—UMW Leadership Team
7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)
7:00 PM—Troop #72

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth
12:00 & 7:30 PM—Living Free/AA
7:00 PM—Blue Christmas Service
(at St. Lawrence Church)
7:00 PM—Faithful Threads (off site)
7:00 PM—Cub Scout #273 Committee

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

9:15 AM—Staff Meeting
9:45 AM—Lectio Divina
5:30 PM—All Stars
7:00 PM—Heritage Bells
7:00 PM—Troop #72 Committee
7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE
7:00 PM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study

Thursday, December 10, 2015

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA
7:00 PM—Disciple 4
7:00 PM—Live Nativity Rehearsal
7:30 PM—Adult Choir
7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)

Friday, December 11, 2015

6:00 PM—Young Life Capernaum
7:00 PM—Cub Scouts

Saturday, December 12, 2015

8:45 AM—"Watch for the Light" Advent Study
10:00 AM—Live Nativity Rehearsal
5:00 PM—PADS (off site)

Sunday, December 13, 2015

8:00 AM—Adult Sunday School Class
8:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class
9:00 AM—Cherub Choir
9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)
9:30 AM—B.I.G. Time (Believers In God /
Children's Sunday School; room 206)
9:30 AM—Youth & Adult Sunday School
10:30 AM—Coffee Time
10:40 AM—God's Soul Girls
11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship Service
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)
11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship (room 201)
4:00 PM—Confirmation
4:00 PM—Live Nativity Rehearsal
6:00 PM—Live Nativity (in Cook Park)
6:30 PM—Christmas Open House (in our New
Community Room!)

Monday, December 14, 2015

10:00 AM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study
1:00 PM—BookTalkers
7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study
7:00 PM—Outreach Committee
7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

9:30 AM—Priscilla Circle
12:00 & 7:30 PM—Living Free/AA
7:00 PM—New UMW Circle
7:00 PM—Resource Committee
7:00 PM—Sound System Training

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

8:45 AM—Memos
9:15 AM—Staff Meeting
9:45 AM—Lectio Divina
7:00 PM—Ruth Circle (off site)
7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE
7:00 PM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study
7:00 PM—Sound System Training

Thursday, December 17, 2015

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA
6:15 PM—Sanctuary Tech Rehearsal
7:00 PM—Disciple 4
7:30 PM—Adult Choir
7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)

Friday, December 18, 2015

~ No Scheduled Events ~

Saturday, December 19, 2015

8:45 AM—"Watch for the Light" Advent Study
5:00 PM—PADS (off site)

Staff ~ United Methodist Church of Libertyville

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