



United Methodist Church of Libertyville

Our Mission Is To Glorify God By
Lifting Up Christ, Using Our Gifts, Ministering To All

MEMOS

Volume 2015, Issue 23 December 2, 2015

The United Methodist Church of Libertyville Presents . . .

4th Annual Live Nativity & Christmas Open House

**Sunday,
December 13
at 6:00 p.m.**

**Cook
Memorial
Park**



The Live Nativity is a performance by our children and youth of the story of Jesus' birth.

Angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus will all be with us to tell the humble and glorious tale of the coming of the Savior.

Live animals – goats, sheep, a donkey, and a cow will be part of the scene.

The children and community will be invited to join in singing our favorite Christmas carols.

Following the twenty-five minute performance, everyone is invited back to the church for a **Christmas Open House Celebration** in our **New Community Room!**

We hope you will come!

Bring your family, neighbors and friends and share the spirit of Christmas.

The performance is directed by Amanda Seibert with support from Blair Brockman and a host of others.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Please pick up our special invitational postcards in the back of Fellowship Hall to pass out to your neighbors, friends, co-workers, inviting them to our Live Nativity and Open House Celebration.

We are excited to welcome members of our community to our church to share in the joy of our new space!

Our Christmas Eve Services are listed on the back.



LIVE NATIVITY COOKIES & 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 foyer or contact Mary Ann Burson.

Please label any cookies containing nuts and deliver cookies to the kitchen on Sunday, December 13.

We also need many volunteers to set-up, serve & clean-up after the anticipated crowd.

Contact Mary Ann Burson to help
(847-270-0633 or bookwormburson@att.net)

Announcements, Joys & Concerns



Our condolences to the family of **LINDA BALSOM**, on her death, October 8, 2015.

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathies to Barbara & Bob Mudd and family on the loss of Barbara's mother, **MARY FRAN ZEEDYK**, and her sister, **DEBBIE ZEEDYK**, both on November 18th.



Happy 85th Birthday to **LARRY LEON** on November 29, 2015!!

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

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

- 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.

ASP (Appalachian Service Project) June 11-18, 2016 is a service project for high school youth and adult leaders focused on improving homes of Appalachia residents in need, deepening our Christian faith, and most of all spiritually connecting with our group and those residents we serve. Anyone (youth and adults) that will be an incoming high school freshman fall 2016 or older are eligible. To reserve your spot or find out more about the trip, contact Steve Neil (sbneil@comcast.net or 224-475-8701).



PRAYER CHAIN—Please hold in prayer all those in our church family who are ill, hospitalized or recovering at home. Also 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, Karen Kuhlman, or Kathy Locke, using our new email address: prayerchain@umcl.org.*

PASTORS: Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams
Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams
Business/Operations Manager: Ruth Ross
Director of Contemporary Worship & Spiritual Growth: Ben Hallett
Children/Family Ministries: Amanda Seibert
Youth Pastor: Brittney Stephan
Junior High Youth Minister: Heidi Nelson
New Member/Ministries Coordinator: Joyce Bedell
Director of Music: Jim Grace
Director of Adult Choir: Jeff Brown
Children's Choir Director: Blair Brockman
Church Office/Administrative Secretary: Karla Bolkema
Communications Secretary: Valerie Baker

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pastorjhwilliams@umcl.org
Ruth.Ross@umcl.org
Ben.Hallett@umcl.org
Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org
Brittney.Stephan@umcl.org
Heidi.Nelson@umcl.org
Joyce.Bedell@umcl.org
Jim.Grace@umcl.org
Jeff.Brown@umcl.org
Blair.Brockman@umcl.org
info@umcl.org
Valerie.Baker@umcl.org



STAFF DIRECTORY

Our Excellent Administrative Secretary, Karla Bolkema, is Moving!

We are very grateful for the excellent ministry and service of Karla Bolkema who has been working with us for the past three years as our secretary. Karla and her husband Kevin are moving to Michigan in December to be closer to their family. They look forward to living near their daughter who is due with their second grandchild in December. Karla's sister and her father are living nearby.

We will miss Karla as she has been a wonderful blessing to the pastors, staff and the church, always keeping us centered and on track with grace, good will, dedication and true Christian character.

The pastors and SPRC are working hard to find a new Administrative Secretary. Please keep all of us in your prayers.

Blue Christmas Service



When Christmas hurts.....The holiday season can be a painful time because of a death in the family, a lost or broken relationship or because of painful memories of the past. For all the joy Christmas can hold, it holds the potential for sorrow as well.

Stephen Ministry of UMCL is offering an ecumenical remembrance service next Tuesday, **December 8 at 7:00 PM** at the St. Lawrence Episcopal Church, 125 W Church Street.

We invite you to join us for this service.

Blue Christmas is a service of worship for those suffering with pain, loss, isolation and grief in the holiday season. By offering this service, we acknowledge the struggles that we face while providing a safe place of peace where you can just be, and rest in a quiet place for your soul.

Please contact Mary Spooner (847-548-3703), Kevin Garren (847-816-7340) or the Pastors for more information.

Offering Envelopes—A Few Different Options

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 would like to receive a box of offering envelopes or if you wish to use the same option as you did last year.** If you'd like to contribute your offering using a different option, we ask that you let the Finance office know which works best for you **no later than December 15th**. Offering envelopes will be available for you to pick up sometime between that date and December 20th. Everyone will be given a number to use as they make contributions regardless of the option chosen with those opting for no envelopes being notified by mail. Questions? Contact Ruth at 847-362-2112 or ruth.ross@umcl.org

Order Form—Christmas Poinsettias For Our New Sanctuary

It's time to order the poinsettias which will decorate our New Sanctuary on December 20 and 24!

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. (Or go online www.umcl.org/poinsettias)



Please respond with your payment by Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, by placing this form and your check in the marked basket in the foyer, or by mailing both in to the office.

RED _____ WHITE _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Christian Education



Due to a lot of recent births and an increase in young families attending our church we are starting to outgrow our nursery!

Beginning on December 6th, we are going to launch 2 nurseries. The “nursery” will be from 0-2 year olds and the new “toddler nursery” will be for ages 2.5-4 year olds (4+ will attend church programming). Parents of little ones will receive a letter in the mail with more details. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering please contact Amanda (amanda.seibert@umcl.org) or at the church office.

PAJAMA SUNDAY— JANUARY 3, 2016



Do you lack the motivation to get dressed and come to church on cold, snowy Sunday mornings? We have a solution for you - PAJAMA SUNDAY!

All ages are invited to wear their comfy, warm pajamas to worship and B.I.G. Time (Sunday School) during the 9:30 and 11:00 services on January 3, 2016.

We will serve breakfast treats and have a special activity during B.I.G. Time and Kids Own Worship. But please find the motivation to at least brush your teeth!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



B.I.G. Time (Sunday School) and Kids Own Worship classes are in need of teachers for January, February & March. If you are able to teach or assist a teacher, please contact Amanda Seibert at Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org.

SELL SOME SWAG!!

The Youth program will be selling wreaths, garland, and some swag (yes, that's actually a term for Christmas decorations) out in front of church until **December 19** to help raise funds for our summer mission experiences! If you're looking for greenery - stop on by! YOUTH - we will be working the tree sale on Thursday evenings during this time. **Come help sell some trees - you will receive a \$10 discount on your mission trip cost for every sale you help with!**



United Methodist Men—Annual Christmas Tree Sale



Come support the annual Troop 72 Boy Scout, and UMCL Men’s Christmas Tree sale. Beautiful fresh trees from Wisconsin will be available in a variety of sizes. Proceeds from the sale help support our scout troop and also provide funds to support local and global ministries through the UMCL Men’s group. **Able-bodied UMCL men are needed to fill volunteer time slots.**

The sale runs daily thru **Saturday, December 19th** with the following hours:

- Saturdays: 9 AM—9 PM
- Sundays: 12 PM—8 PM
- Monday-Friday: 6 PM—9 PM

Please contact Bert Kibbler if you can help! (847) 858-1456 or bertkibbler@gmail.com.

Second Mile Giving For December Will Support:

Larry & Jane Kies —These Northern Illinois Conference sponsored missionaries, who visited our church some years ago, are based at Africa University in Zimbabwe. Jane teaches English and Larry has several roles within the agricultural curriculum. For their recent updates, go to www.africau.edu.



United Methodist Global Aids Fund (UMGAF) – This UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) sponsored program supports education, prevention, care and treatment programs for people living with HIV/AIDS around the world. One of their current initiatives is to eradicate HIV by 2020. More information can be found on the UMCOR website: www.umcor.org/projects.

United Methodist Women



RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will hold their annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on **Wednesday, December 16 at 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. If you are interested, please call Beth to tell her what you will be contributing for the meal.

LOVE IN ACTION—DECEMBER 6th 3:00-5:00PM

Women and Children – Come assemble HEALTH KITS for UMCOR and learn about where they are sent. Enjoy snacks, signing and fellowship.

Love In Action

Sponsored by United Methodist Women. Sign up in the church office or just show up on Sunday afternoon. Bring items for health kits or donate funds and we will buy the items.

- ◆ Hand Towel (15" x 25" to 17" x 27")
- ◆ Washcloth
- ◆ Comb (Sturdy and longer than 6")
- ◆ Metal nail file or nail clippers
- ◆ 6 Adhesive bandages (common, plain band-aids)
- ◆ Bath-size soap (3oz and larger)
NO IVORY OR JERGENS
- ◆ Adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
- ◆ 1 Plastic bag (gallon-size, sealable)
- ◆ \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

For additional information, please contact:

Erin Mayes: erin@rusticrenaissance.com

Bonnie Lill: bonifer57@yahoo.com

Kathie Slocum: kslocum@ameritech.net

Mary Ann Burson: bookwormburson@att.net

A Reminder From the Church Finance Office

2015 contributions will be accepted through December 31, 2015. This includes any additional cash or check contributions received in the office through the end the day and postmarked on or before that date.

For those considering security contributions, a copy of the Church security contribution procedure and the other forms are available from the Finance Office or can be emailed to you on request. To assure that all security contributions are processed in 2015 and correctly reflected on your annual contribution statement, the following time frames are suggested:

- ◆ Having your broker prepare a security certificate for donation to the Church is normally a manual process and can take four to six weeks to complete. Please check with your broker before starting this process to make sure that certificated shares can be ready within our time line and then fully processed by year-end.
- ◆ Existing security certificates take longer to process than electronic transfers. If you are considering donating existing security certificates, please contact the Finance Office immediately to expedite the process.
- ◆ We request that electronic transfers be initiated by December 11, 2015.



ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

As we move into 2016, we'd like to remind you of our electronic giving options.

- ◆ UMC of Libertyville offers a monthly electronic funds transfers (EFTs), moving funds from your bank account to the Church's on or around the 15th of each month. Enrollment forms for this option are available from the Finance office or the Main office.
- ◆ Contributions to UMCL can be made through your bank's online payment option much like you'd pay your monthly bills.

For more information or questions, please contact Ruth Ross at 847-362-2112 or via email (ruth.ross@umcl.org).

Fellowship and Nurture

CLIP AND SAVE



PRIME TIME — WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE

We will meet Monday, **December 7th**. Lunch (\$5) will be served at **noon**.

December is time for our 'White Elephant' exchange ... Wrap up that item around the house you no longer want or the gift you received last December! Where else can you give a gift that cost you zero \$, receive an interesting gift in return and socialize with friends.

PLEASE remember to make a reservation BEFORE FRIDAY, December 4th at 10:00 A.M.

FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS —December 4, 7:00 PM

 A pre-Christmas KISS party - Keeping it Simple, Silly!

Brad and Jen Johnson are hosting and serving a light supper - Portillo's beef sandwiches. Feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. We have a few games from the Chicago Toy and Game Fair to preview and play. Meet our new puppy, Snickers. Just hang out and have fun. Hope you can make it!

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, December 2**—847-902-0998 (Jen cell) 847-680-7288 (home)



Women's Bible Study—Wednesday Afternoons

We will start meeting on **Wednesday, January 13th at 1:00 PM** in Room 103 at the church. We are studying the book of '2 Timothy'. The study lasts 8 weeks. If you would like to join the study, please contact Terry Johnson at JGTAJohnson@aol.com. Books will be ordered December 22, 2015 and cost \$7. They will be available for pick up in the office the beginning of the year. Everyone is welcome to join the study.

Women's Ecumenical Advent Worship

All women are invited to come together to begin Advent with prayer, music, and contemplation at First Presbyterian Church, (219 W. Maple Avenue, Libertyville) on **Wednesday, December 2**. Refreshments will be served in the Social Hall at 7:00 PM; Worship will begin in the Chapel at 7:30 PM. Invite a friend to join you!

Service Opportunities



CHRISTMAS PARTNER ANGELS

We still have approximately 30 names left to be distributed. Please call Jeris at 847-295-0409 and Jeris will get the info to you.

Please return your wrapped gifts to the church by **December 6**, for the Blessing of the Gifts during the service. We will deliver all gifts by December 12.

Thank you for joining in making this a Merry Christmas for a great many children and adults!

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL GIFT CARDS

MOOve on over to the the Heifer International table in the back of Fellowship Hall on **December 6th and December 13th**. For as little as \$10, you can purchase a share of a goat, sheep, pig, llama, flock of chickens, bees and yes – even a cow. Your contribution can be made in the name of a loved one, and you receive a card to send to that person. The card explains how the program works and describes their cornerstone of "Passing on the gift." Each family receiving an animal or plant then commits to passing on the offspring to another family. In this way, more than 4.5 million families in 128 countries have been helped.



PADS

PADS HELP NEEDED!

We are called by Jesus to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.

Please consider serving with PADS! Volunteers are **desperately** needed for **overnight shifts (11 PM—3 AM or 3-6:30 AM) or clean-up (5:30-7:15 AM)**.

The PADS signup book is in Fellowship Hall service or call Cathy O'Brien 847-367-8062. Thanks!

Calendar

Deadlines for MEMOS articles: Friday, December 11 by 10 AM; for Sunday Bulletins: the Wednesday before by 10:00 AM. Helping hands are always appreciated to help assemble MEMOS; we'll next meet at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, December 16, in Room 101!!

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>November 30</p> <p>10:00 AM—Advent Study "Under Wraps" 7:00 PM—Troop #72 7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study 7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>9:15 AM—Staff Mtg. 9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth 12:00 & 7:30 PM—Living Free / AA 7:00 PM—Resource Committee</p>	<p>December 2</p> <p>8:45 AM—Memos 9:45 AM—Lectio Divina 7:00 PM—Heritage Bells 7:00 PM—BSA District Committee 7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE 7:00 PM—Advent Study "Under Wraps"</p>	<p>December 3</p> <p>12:00 PM—Living Free / AA 7:00 PM—Disciple IV 7:30 PM—Adult Choir 7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)</p>	<p>December 4</p> <p>7:00 PM—First Friends</p>	<p>December 5</p> <p>8:45 AM—Advent Study, "Watch for the Light" 5:00 PM—PADS (off site) 6:30 PM—Visitation Dinner (off site)</p>
<p>December 6</p> <p><i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 AM—Adult Class 8:15 AM—Adult Class 9:00 AM—Cherub Choir 9:30 AM—Traditional Worship 9:30 AM—Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM—B.I.G. Time 10:30 AM—Coffee Time 10:40 AM—God's Soul Girls 11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship 12:00 PM—Children's Ministry Committee (off site) 3:00 PM— "Love In Action" UMW Advent Event 4:30 PM—Joyful Noise 4:30 PM—Choristers 6:30 PM—SrHI Tide</p>	<p>December 7</p> <p>10:00 AM—Advent Study "Under Wraps" 12:00 PM—Prime Time 5:45 PM—Daisy Girl Scouts 7:00 PM—Troop #72 7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study 7:00 PM—UMW Leadership Team 7:00 PM—Trustees 7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)</p>	<p>December 8</p> <p>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</p>	<p>December 9</p> <p>9:15 AM—Staff Mtg. 9:45 AM—Lectio Divina 5:30 PM—All Stars 7:00 PM—Heritage Bells 7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE 7:00 PM—Advent Study "Under Wraps" 7:30 PM—Troop #72 Committee</p>	<p>December 10</p> <p>12:00 PM—Living Free / AA 7:00 PM—Live Nativity Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Disciple IV 7:30 PM—Adult Choir 7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)</p>	<p>December 11</p> <p>6:00 PM—Young Life Capernaum 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts</p>	<p>December 12</p> <p>8:45 AM—Advent Study, "Watch for the Light" 10:00 AM—Live Nativity Rehearsal 5:00 PM—PADS (off site)</p>
<p>December 13</p> <p><i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 AM—Adult Class 8:15 AM—Adult Class 9:00 AM—Cherub Choir 9:30 AM—Traditional Worship 9:30 AM—Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM—B.I.G. Time 10:30 AM—Coffee Time 10:40 AM—God's Soul Girls 11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship 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)</p>	<p>December 14</p> <p>10:00 AM—Advent Study "Under Wraps" 1:00 PM—BookTalkers 7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study 7:00 PM—Outreach Committee 7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)</p>	<p>December 15</p> <p>9:30 AM—Priscilla Circle 12:00 & 7:30 PM—Living Free / AA 7:00 PM—New UMW Circle 7:00 PM—Resource Committee</p>	<p>December 16</p> <p>8:45 AM—MEMOS 9:15 AM—Staff Mtg. 9:45 AM—Lectio Divina 7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE 7:00 PM—Advent Study "Under Wraps" 7:00 PM—Ruth Circle (off site)</p>	<p>December 17</p> <p>12:00 PM—Living Free / AA 7:00 PM—Disciple IV 7:30 PM—Adult Choir 7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)</p>	<p>December 18</p> <p>No Scheduled Events</p>	<p>December 19</p> <p>8:45 AM—Advent Study, "Watch for the Light" 5:00 PM—PADS (off site)</p>

MEMOS is a bi-weekly publication of the
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*A Stephen Ministry
Congregation*



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