



United Methodist Church of Libertyville

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

MEMOS

Volume 2017, Issue 1

January 2017

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!

G. K. Chesterton, the famous British poet and theologian, was a brilliant man who could think deep thoughts and express them well. However, he was also extremely absent-minded... and over the years he became rather notorious for getting lost. He would just absolutely forget where he was supposed to be and what he was supposed to be doing.

On one such occasion, he sent a telegram to his wife which carried these words: "Honey, seems that I'm lost again. Presently, I am at Market Harborough. Where ought I to be??"

As only a spouse could say it, she telegraphed back a one-word reply, "Home!"

The idea of Home is the real meaning of Christmas. The Gospel of Luke emphasizes how God created a home for Mary. Matthew highlights how God created a home for Joseph. What brought them together was the miraculous birth of their son.

Now, it's interesting that when the writer of Matthew's Gospel wanted to capture the meaning of Christmas in a single word, he did a very wise thing.

He reached back into the Old Testament, pulled out an old word, dusted it off and used it to convey the message. The word was "Emmanuel." That's what Jesus is about. "His name shall be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

"God is with us." That's what Christmas is about. "God is with us," so we can be part of a family. "God is with us," so we can all come home.

The impact of that promise is incredible. When you believe it, it will change your life. You will discover the meaning of Christmas. When we kneel before the manger we discover our true Home. Jesus Christ is the same Yesterday, Today, Forever. He has born in the humblest of circumstances, died in the cruelest of manners, was raised up in spectacular glory, all so we could know.... we are welcome to come Home.

Our spiritual home on earth is our church. I thought you should know that through November we have experienced a budget deficit of \$114,000. This is \$69,000 more than we normally anticipate given the seasonality of our revenues. While we hope to close a large portion of this gap in December, we want to remind everyone to make sure you are up to date on your financial commitments to the church's mission. Like Jesus, Mary and Joseph we need to band together and do what we can for the future of our Home, the glory of God and the salvation of this world.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Steve



Announcements, Joys & Concerns

ONE SERVICE ONLY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016 and JANUARY 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

AD BOARD MEETING— is scheduled for **Saturday, January 7, at 8:30 AM** in Room 206.
All are welcome to attend!



The family and friends of **WILMA JEAN WHITLOW** on her passing December 16th, at the age of 92.

To **MARYANNE GOLDEN** on the death of Maryanne's aunt, Peggy Smith, who passed away on December 16th.



THOMAS PAUL SEIBERT

was baptized on November 27, 2016 in the 9:30 service by Pastor Steve.

ELIJAH THOMAS SEIBERT

was baptized on November 27, 2016 in the 9:30 service by Pastor Jamie.
Congratulations to parents Tom and Amanda!

MICKY DONAHUE—January 3rd

GLADYS GRIFFIN —January 8th

SANDY PALMER—January 14th



RAMONA SWANICK — January 17th

MARGUERITE MASSIN —January 25th



Congratulations to **STEVE and BETH MARCH** on their 50th wedding anniversary on December 30th.

To My Wonderful Church Family,

My husband, John, was sick through the summer and died in November. Through all of it, you guys have been right beside us...praying, calling, "carding", feeding and just generally loving us. Your support has meant the world to me and I love you all. Terry Johnson

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.



STAFF DIRECTORY

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: Gonzalo Santillan
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: Melinda Bryant
Communications Secretary: Valerie Baker

PastorSCWilliams@umcl.org
PastorJHWilliams@umcl.org
Ruth.Ross@umcl.org
Ben.Hallett@umcl.org
Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org
Gonzalo.Santillan@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

Find Your Sanctuary

- Who:** Targeted to the UMCL congregation, but welcome to the public
- What:** A 4-hour period at the peak of the holiday rush, opening our sanctuary as a quiet/inspiring place for prayer and contemplation.
- When:** Friday, December 23, from 3-7 pm
- Where:** The UMCL sanctuary, supervised by SGC members
- Why:** The short-term SGC vision is to offer a set aside time and space this Advent, away from the chaos of the normal holiday rush. This fits with some of the underlying themes of this year's Advent offerings (e.g. Christ in the Chaos; Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam). It provides a quiet bookend on Friday evening to the three services on Saturday and worship on Sunday. Ultimately it further illuminates the beauty and potential of our sanctuary, laying the groundwork for future such prayer/quiet times during key church seasons (e.g. Lent).

2016 Christmas Partners Thank you!

All gifts will be distributed and what a JOY it will be to see the faces of the children as they received their gifts.

Gifts are going to Humboldt Park United Methodist Church (children and families), Emmanuel United Methodist Church, San Pablo United Methodist Church, I-PLUS, Staben House, Eddie Washington Center, The Harbor, and The Haven. A total of 246 gifts.

Next year we have on the calendar to give out the names on the 12th and 19th of November, right before Thanksgiving and we will Bless the gifts in December.

Thanks so much! God's Best Gift to us is JESUS and so we GIVE to show our LOVE.

A Reminder From the Church Finance Office

2016 contributions will be accepted through December 31, 2016. This includes any additional cash or check contributions received in the office through the end of the day and those postmarked on or before that date. If you have questions, please contact Ruth Ross at the Church (847-362-2112) or via email (ruth.ross@umcl.org).



Appalachia Service Project

The ASP Mission's trip is open for registration. Youth and Adult volunteers June 10-17 of 2017.

This summer, come and be a part of a movement in Central Appalachia that speaks louder than words, Share **GOD'S LOVE THROUGH ACTIONS** with us!

You will:

- be making a difference by repairing homes in an impoverished pocket of the U.S. (NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!)
- experience the unique Appalachian culture.
- connect in Christian fellowship with homeowners and other volunteers.
- learn new skills and have lots of fun!

The fee this year is once again \$325, with \$100 deposit on sign up and the remainder due March 1.

If you are interested in signing up for the 2017 ASP or have any questions, please contact either Steve Neil (sbneil@comcast.net or 224-475-8701) or Gonzalo Santillan (gonzalo.santillan@umcl.org or 612-735-9015) to let us know of your interest. We hope that the spirit will move you and join us for LOVE IN ACTION this coming summer of 2017 in June!



Christian Education

LIVE NATIVITY THANK YOU!

Amanda Seibert and the Children’s Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone that helped out with the Live Nativity on December 18th.

A BIG thanks to our director Denise Gibson and our music team Blair Brockman, Amy Kamai, Mary Arendt, Mary Ann Burson and Jim Grace.

We are also VERY thankful for our stage, lights and sound crew – Andrew & Eric Fouts, Ben Hallett, Mark Mason, Tom Seibert and many more!

We would also like to thank our talented cast, the United Methodist Women and congregation members for the delicious cookies and hot cocoa, and many others for making this event a success!

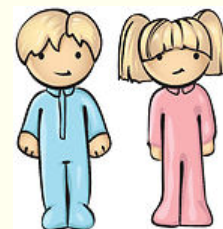


PAJAMA SUNDAY— JANUARY 8, 2017

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 (adults included) are invited to wear their comfy, warm pajamas to worship during the 9:30 and 11:00 services on January 8, 2017.

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!!



ALL-STARS

All-Stars (3rd, 4th and 5th grade youth group) is meeting on **January 11th and 25th** from **5:30 to 7:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

Dinner is provided (suggested donation of \$3). Friends are always welcome!



HELP 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 at Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org



VALENTINE'S DANCE



ALL AGES INVITED TO THIS SOCK-HOP COMPLETE WITH ICE CREAM SUNDAES.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH 7-9 PM.

SOUPER SATURDAY!!

Is a fun and flavorful multi-generational afternoon planned for **Saturday, January 28, 12:00—3:00 PM.**

Bring your favorite game to play and a crockpot of your favorite soup. We will try all the soup and award the top 3 favorite soups with prizes!

Cost of admission is a non-perishable item per person - maybe a can of soup!?

Please sign up online at www.umcl.org/souper_saturday



United Methodist Women



RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle invites any "crafters" to join us on a worthwhile project **Wednesday evening, January 18th** in Fellowship Hall...if you are not a crafter, don't worry you'll have fun anyway!

We will start the project at **7:00**, but some folks are coming at 6:00 and bringing their sack supper for a social time...your choice.

For more information contact Julie Garren (847-816-7340) or Sue Hamilton (847-362-7972)

HEARTFUL THANK YOU!



Heartfelt thanks to all those who provided cookies for Cookies and Cocoa following the Live Nativity.

Thanks also to all those who helped setup, serve, and cleanup and to Jan Grigsby, who makes it all come together.

Books AND Brunch

Our usual February event sponsored by United Methodist Women, will not be held this year.

We will hold our next "Books and Brunch" in February 2018.

Sunday Morning Fellowship Volunteers

We hope you join us in the Community Room for Coffee and Refreshments on Sunday mornings.

Hosts are desperately needed to volunteer for 2017. Now is a great time to get your committee signed up to help. There is a clipboard in the community room that you can sign up, contact Jan Grigsby at grigsjan@sbcglobal.net or the church office at info@umcl.org.



Mini Memos

Highlights the rest of the January and any new announcements that you have. Please email valerie.baker@umcl.org with new announcements by **January 6th** latest 10:00 AM to be included. Thank you!

Stephen Ministry

Christmas Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness
 To an opponent, tolerance
 To a friend, your heart
 To a customer, service
 To all, charity
 To every child, a good example
 To yourself, respect



If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister, contact:

Kevin Garren (847-816-7340), Mary Spooner (847-548-3703) or the Pastors

Fellowship and Nurture

CLIP N SAVE

PRIME TIME LUNCH (\$5) AND GAME DAY—JANUARY 2

Join us for lunch at Noon followed by fun after lunch playing games to celebrate the New Year. Please bring your favorite game.

PLEASE remember to make a reservation before
Thursday, December 29th at 10:00 A.M.



FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS —JANUARY 6, 6:30 PM

Scott and Charlotte Allen will host First Friday Friends at their house at 1201 Hampton Lane, Mundelein. We will celebrate the new year with our tradition of jambalaya, white bean chicken chili and White Elephant gift exchange!

White Elephant—this should not be something that you go to the store & purchase new. These are gag gifts, things that you may prefer to re-gift, etc. The rule is that you leave with as many gifts as you arrived with. If you want to bring 2 gifts, you should expect to go home with 2 gifts.



Hope you can make it! Please **RSVP** at (847) 968-4565 or rscallen@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study—Wednesday Afternoons

We will start meeting on **Wednesday, January 4th at 1:00 PM** in Room 103 at the church. We are studying the book of 'Isaiah.' The study will last 18 weeks. If you would like to join the study, please contact Joyce Jeffries: john.joyce@yahoo.com.

Books will be available for pick up in the office the end of December. Cost is approx. \$10. Everyone is welcome to join the study.

Inquirers Study Group

Interested in a deeper understanding of the parables of Jesus?

The Inquirers Study Group will begin “The Parables of Jesus”, a Deeper Connections Small-Group study on **February 6, at 7:00 P.M.** This six-week study features video lessons by theologians and includes three components: historical and cultural background; an engaging, close look at the biblical text and its meaning; and accurate, encouraging, and challenging applications of the Bible’s message to life today.

Questions, sign up, etc., contact Mary Ann Burson (bookwormburson@att.net or 847-270-0633).

(Inquirers is a coed group currently ranging in age from young adult to 93.)

Second Mile Giving For January Will Support:



Lake County United-This broad-based non-profit citizen organization, comprised of churches, synagogues, mosques, civic, and labor groups has been addressing common goals since April 2003. The mission of their members is to work as agents for change on issues that most impact the people of Lake County, including affordable housing, senior care, mental health, education, gun violence, and leadership development. For additional information regarding recent initiatives, please go to www.lakecountyunited.org or call 630-743-9649.

Breakfast Club – UMCL’s own Jim Stewart functions as the coordinator of volunteers for this ministry that serves juice, fruit, granola bars and yogurt to underprivileged children at two local schools before school each day. This ministry was started in 2011 by former Pastor Jim Bell, and serves between 100-150 students per day. Volunteers staff this ministry, so all funds donated go toward the purchase of food for the children, who have shown improvement in school after participating in this program.

Calendar



Deadlines for MEMOS articles: Friday, January 20 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 8:45 AM, Wednesday, January 25, 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>January 1 10:00 AM—New Year's Service</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY 8:00AM—Cornerstone 8:15 AM—Explorer 9:00 AM—Choristers 9:00 AM—Coffee Time 9:30 AM—Journey of Faith 9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM—B.I.G. Time 10:30 AM—Cherubs 10:30 AM—Joyful Noise 11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM—Kids Own Worship 4:00 PM—Confirmation 6:30 PM—Sr. High Tide</p>	<p>January 2 Office Closed 10:00 AM—Lectio</p>	<p>January 3 12:00 PM—AA/Living Free 7:00 PM—L.C.G.C. 7:30 PM—AA/Living Free</p>	<p>January 4 9:30 AM—Staff Meeting 1:00 PM—Women's Bible 7:00 PM—Heritage Bells</p>	<p>January 5 12:00PM—Living Free/AA 7:30 PM—Choir</p>	<p>January 6 No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>January 7 8:30 AM—Ad Board Meeting 4:30 PM—PADS</p>
<p>January 8 PAJAMA SUNDAY *Every Sunday Schedule</p>	<p>January 9 10:00 AM—Lectio 5:45 PM—Brownies 7:00 PM—Outreach</p>	<p>January 10 9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth 12:00 PM—AA/Living Free 7:30 PM—AA/Living Free</p>	<p>January 11 8:45 AM—Mini MEMOS 9:30 AM—Staff Meeting 1:00 PM—Women's Bible 5:30 PM—All Stars 7:00 PM—Heritage Bells 7:00 PM—Jr High Tide</p>	<p>January 12 12:00PM—Living Free/AA 7:30 PM—Choir</p>	<p>January 13 6:00 PM—Young Life 7:00 PM—Pack 72</p>	<p>January 14 8:30 AM—Pack 72 4:30 PM—PADS</p>
<p>January 15 *Every Sunday Schedule</p>	<p>January 16 10:00 AM—Lectio</p>	<p>January 17 9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth 12:00 PM—AA/Living Free 7:00 PM—Resource 7:30 PM—AA/Living Free</p>	<p>January 18 9:30 AM—Staff Meeting 1:00 PM—Women's Bible 6:00 PM—Ruth Circle 7:00 PM—Heritage Bells 7:00 PM—Jr High Tide</p>	<p>January 19 12:00PM—Living Free/AA 7:30 PM—Choir</p>	<p>January 20 No Scheduled Activi- ties</p>	<p>January 21 4:30 PM—PADS</p>
<p>January 22 *Every Sunday Schedule</p>	<p>January 23 10:00 AM—Lectio 7:00 PM—UMW Meeting</p>	<p>January 24 9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth 12:00 PM—AA/Living Free 7:30 PM—AA/Living Free</p>	<p>January 25 8:45 AM—MEMOS 9:30 AM—Staff Meeting 1:00 PM—Women's Bible 5:30 PM—All Satrs 7:00 PM—Heritage Bells 7:00 PM—Jr High Tide</p>	<p>January 26 12:00PM—Living Free/AA 7:30 PM—Choir</p>	<p>January 27 6:00 PM—Young Life</p>	<p>January 28 12:00 PM—Souper Saturday 4:30 PM—PADS</p>
<p>January 29 SUNDAY FUNDAY *Every Sunday Schedule</p>	<p>January 30 10:00 AM—Lectio 7:00 PM—Inquirers</p>	<p>January 31 9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth 12:00 PM—AA/Living Free 7:30 PM—AA/Living Free</p>				

MEMOS is a publication of the
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 429 Brainerd Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048-2198
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Traditional 9:30 AM—Contemporary 11:00 AM
 Office Hours: 8:30 AM—3:30 PM weekdays
 Phone: (847) 362-2112

 info@umcl.org 

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:
 4PM—7PM—10 PM**

*A Stephen Ministry
 Congregation*



Website:
www.umcl.org

Twitter:
 @UMCLibertyville



Blue Christmas Service December 13, 2016

*Merry
 Christmas
 and
 Happy
 New Year
 to you
 and
 your family
 from the
 Staff
 of
 UMCL*

