



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

December 2009

Christmas is a Time for Giving!

Inside this issue:

Prayer List
Pastor's Column

Birthdays & Anniversaries
Stewardship Report/News
Poinsettia Order Form

UMW News
Sunday School News

Ad Council Update

Calendar

List for Families in Need
Gift-Giving

Quick Takes:

- Court of Honor for Mike Zito as he receives his Eagle award will be held on Saturday, December 5
- Service of Communion and Confirmation will be held on December 6 as we welcome Magie Horn, Josh Nowicki, Alex Kasza, and Allie Horn as full members
- Nobius meets Saturday, December 19 at 5:30 pm
- Money Matters 101 financial basics seminar will be held at our church on Saturday, January 9 from 9:30—noon (cost \$5 for individuals or couples)

2 At this time of year, we celebrate God's great gift to us in the form of the
3 Christ-child. To aid in your preparation for the celebration of Christmas,
4 please take a minute to pick up one of the devotional resources for adults,
5 youth, and children that will be available on the table outside the
6 sanctuary. Take some time each day during Advent to prepare yourself.

7 It seems quite natural that we would give generously to others, too, in
this season of giving. As a congregation, we have several opportunities for
giving this Christmas season.

- Buy Christmas gifts for families in need in Leyden Township (see list printed in this newsletter)—pick up one of the gift tags and select a gift for someone in need this Christmas; return your gift on December 13.
- Instead of sending Christmas cards to each other, bring one card to be posted for all to enjoy, then donate the cost of cards and stamps to the church to help people in need this Christmas—and save a few trees!
- Contribute to our collection of food pantry items for Leyden Township
- Bring mittens, socks, and school supplies for Marcy-Newberry
- Share in the poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary at Christmas – see the order form in this newsletter.
- Consider your gift for our special Advent and Christmas offerings to help defray the cost of insuring our church building.

Giving is good for us all, even—perhaps especially—when economic times are tight. This Christmas, please consider these ways to bless others! And don't forget to give the gift of your presence in worship during Advent and at Christmas eve worship (7 and 10 p.m.).

From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

Did you know...?

Our congregation is working with Boy Scout Scott Moss to complete his Eagle Scout project: creating a memorial garden outside on the lawn at the west end of the sanctuary. The garden will provide a opportunities for families to memorialize loved ones, space for quiet conversation and meditation, as well as a hospitable place for the neighbors who stop there to pray.

Remember when you were a little kid, waking up on Christmas morning? Maybe you were the kind of child who had to be sent back to bed two or three times because you were so excited to see the decorations and gifts. Even if you had a less than perfect childhood, perhaps you remember years when you were really young and Christmas felt magical and joyful.

Probably there are different things today that make Christmas magical and joyful for you. Maybe you've become so jaded there's nothing that quite does that for you anymore, but perhaps, if you let down your defenses just a little more than usual, there might still be something that makes you feel like a kid at Christmas. I hope there is still something that holds even a touch of that kind of magic and mystery for you.

As we come to Christmas, we need to acknowledge that there are also many things that make us feel pangs of sadness in what can feel like an oppressively, almost forced happy time. If Christmas for you this year is a blue time with echoes of loss and a haunting feeling of sadness, I hope you can find the freedom to feel whatever it is you are feeling this year. You don't need to wallow in the painful feelings, but it is important to acknowledge them and deal with them head-on. If you need a listening ear, if this is a blue Christmas for you, please reach out to a friend or call on me. Together we can walk through it, whether this is a joyful or bittersweet season for you.

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those in need of healing prayers:

Pat Fritze Wilma Bookless Barb Horn

Those in need of our continuing prayers:

Marilyn Oxby Edna Kirchhoff Margaret Jackson
 Elois May Virginia Densborn Signe Howell
 Betty Moore Dorothy Schneider Arvis Knutson

Please remember in prayer all those in need this Christmas, especially those families in Leyden Township for whom our congregation is providing Christmas gifts this year.



Celebrating December Birthdays & Anniversaries



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12/7 Paul Feldmann | 12/26 Ben Anthony |
| 12/8 Mohini Das | 12/27 Carol Michaels |
| 12/18 Alison Shragal | 12/28 Betty Moore |
| 12/20 Elois Kasza | 12/29 Marilyn Oxby |
| 12/23 Joshua Nowicki | |
| 12/25 Nicole Kuhlman | 12/21 Brian & Victoria Revere |

Stewardship Update

Watch the weekly bulletin for more current reports of our financial stewardship as a congregation. Your faithfulness in giving is deeply appreciated!

Our Giving by the Numbers...

Monthly Giving for November 2009 (through 11/22)	\$5,178.50
Monthly Giving Needed to meet our 2009 Budget	\$7,540.40
Total Giving in 2009 to 11/22/2009	\$55,382.85
Total Giving Needed to Meet our 2009 Budget	\$90,484.81

Make a Gift for Poinsettias to Adorn the Sanctuary as we celebrate Christmas!

Gifts must be received by December 20

to be included in Christmas Eve bulletin listing!

Please find enclosed my gift of \$5 toward Poinsettias for the sanctuary.

Name _____ Phone _____

In memory of/In Honor of (choose one) _____

(you may also order by calling the church office 847.455.5858 or emailing the pastor: revdlj@att.net)
 Make checks payable to First UMC. Gifts in excess of cost will be donated to the church budget.
 Gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

United Methodist Women Meets, Plans Christmas Party

The UMW Mission Team will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 3 to complete 2009 business and plan for 2010, concentrating on the Christmas Luncheon and updating the 2010 Yearbook information. All women of our congregation, along with friends, family, and neighbors, are invited to attend the Christmas luncheon to be held at Villa Brunetti on December 12. We gather at 11:30 a.m. for a reception at the punch bowl, and our lunch will be served promptly at noon. Following the luncheon, entertainment will be provided by the costumed Canterbury Carolers, well-known in the Elmhurst area. Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased from Charline Elwardt, Ruth Tressa, Joy Perry, or Daisy Riebeling. Please plan to join for a great start in celebrating the Birth of Christ.

The UMW sends get well wishes to all our members who have been ill in the past few weeks with the hope that good health will allow them to join us for the upcoming events of the season.

News from the Circles...

Aunt Libby Circle meets **Tuesday**, December 8 at 1 p.m. in Susannah—all members are asked to bring a dessert or finger food to share for the Christmas celebration

Wesleyan Circle gathers December 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Diane Pritchett's home—all members should bring snacks, sweets, and a nicely-wrapped White Elephant item for the gift exchange

Susannah Circle meets on December 15 at Joy Perry's home for a refreshments, a cookie exchange, and a joyous noel celebration

Children's Sunday School prepares Epiphany Pageant/Brunch All children through 8th grade invited to enjoy Christmas Party on December 20

All children through eighth grade are invited to join in a Christmas party during Sunday School and extending until about 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 20. There will be games, gifts, and treats for all!

After Christmas, on Sunday, January 3, our children will be sharing an Epiphany Pageant with the congregation during a soup, bread, and salad lunch following worship. Our children will enjoy sharing the story of the magi with us, including festive costumes. The youth group will provide and serve soups, bread, and salads with all donations for the luncheon going to help defray the cost of their mission trip next summer. Make the Children's Epiphany Pageant—on the 12th day of Christmas—part of your holiday celebration!

Ad Council Update from the November 11, 2009 meeting

This update is provided in lieu of minutes to keep members aware of Ad Council's work on their behalf. Please thank them for their work, and encourage and support your Ad Council members.

Finance

- received treasurer's report of expenses and income; per the request of the DS last April
- stewardship report (see article elsewhere in this newsletter);
- working on stewardship campaign for February 2010 and preparing a proposed 2010 budget

Trustees

- received a bid for \$250 from Classic Gutters to repair sagging downspout above little alcove near parking lot; approved on consensus
- received a bid for just over \$1,500 from Feze Roofing to repair flashing on flat roof and patch obvious wear spots; approved on consensus
- received a bid to re-key all external doors to a single key; deferred until spring for reconsideration
- Pastor will contact Church Mutual Insurance to see about making a claim for roof, downspout, and internal damage (seems all of it might be related to freezing rain early last winter)
- Pastor brought a proposal in principle to hire snow removal during December, January, and February (asking members to take care of November and March, if necessary); will bring bids
- Pastor noted she has been shopping, comparing bids, and waiting for new stock in the low \$300s before purchasing a new dryer for the parsonage; several Ad Council members agreed to check for other, cheaper options
- approved building use request from Indo-Pak group (Mohini/Archana) for a dinner in Susannah on Saturday, December 12 from 4-10 p.m.

Nurture

- (nurture calendar in writing) noted the upcoming Hymn Sing & Improvisation, Knot Much, Community Thanksgiving service, confirmation on Dec 6, Christmas eve worship @ 7 and 10 p.m., Service of Carols on Dec 27, Children's Epiphany Play with Soup/Bread/Salad provided by Youth Group, advent devotional materials available for all ages on 11/29

SPRC (no report)

Pastor's Report

- provided report in writing (filed and posted outside church office with minutes)
- reported that replacement computers for lab will cost \$100 for CPU/flat panel monitor, plus cost of Windows and Office and other software; eliminating second phone line and adding DSL internet for lab and wireless throughout building
- thanks to Rudy Stefanski for making two additional sandwich board signs for publicity
- offered prayer for village Veteran's Day observance; working with Cub Scouts for Pack meetings; working with two more Boy Scouts on Eagle projects; planning 'Signs of Life' Lenten photo exhibit

New Business

- created worship task force: Mary Lou, Andrea, Harnand, Diane, Taylor—to be supplemented by additional members to be invited

The next meeting of Ad Council will be Wednesday, December 9 at 7 p.m. in Susannah.

DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent/Confirmation 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 10:30 Coffee Hour/Cake Reception	7	8 1 pm Aunt Libby Circle in Susannah	9 6:00 pm SPRC 7:00 pm Ad Council	10 7:30 pm Wesleyan Circle at Diane Pritchett's home	11	12 noon UMW Christmas Luncheon at Villa Brunetti
13 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Worship	14	15 noon Susannah Circle at Joy Perry's home	16	17	18	19 5:30 pm Nobius
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Worship 10 am Children's Christmas Party 10:30 Coffee Hour	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve worship services at 7 pm and 10 pm	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship—Service of Carols	28	29	30	31		

Buy a Gift for These Local Families in Need at Christmas!

This year more than ever, our neighbors would appreciate help with gifts to brighten their Christmas celebrations. Before you buy a gift from this list, please check the sign-up at church to see if it is already taken, or call/email Pastor Denise to express your interest and check on availability. Gifts need to be returned wrapped with a tag attached indicating the letters/numbers listed below. Thank you for your generosity!

F-CF-1-1A Boy 18 yrs Fusion razor

F-CF-1-1B Boy 18 yrs socks (multi-pack of white sport ankle style)

F-CF-1-1C Boy 18 yrs Play Station 2 game, action or military (especially Marines) theme

S-AB-1-1A Girl 18 yrs gift card to buy makeup (JC Penney's, Ulta,)

S-AB-1-1B Girl 18 yrs hair straightener/flat iron

S-AB-2-1A Girl 15 months Baby dolls

S-AB-2-1B Girl 15 months Winter clothes any color size 18 months

S-AB-3-1A Boy 7 yrs Lego set/anything with building

S-AB-3-1B Boy 7 yrs cars and trucks

F-CF-1-2A Man wrist watch or Walmart gift card to buy one

F-CF-1-2B Man Fusion razor blade refills (multi-pack sold at Sam's)

F-CF-1-2C Man socks (multi-pack of white calf-high)

S-KJ-2-1A Girl 12 yrs Hello Kitty pillow from Toys R Us

S-KJ-2-1B Girl 12 yrs Connect 4 game with Sponge Bob theme

F-CF-1-3A Girl 10 yrs Nintendo DS game—Club Penguin or Cooking Mama 2 or Sims Secret Agent

F-CF-1-3B Girl 10 yrs XL white cotton camisoles (three-pack sold at Target & Walmart)

F-CF-1-3C Girl 10 yrs pierced earrings (small) or girls plus size jeans size 16 1/2 to 18 1/2

S-ZH-3-1A Woman Winter Jacket size M color Black

S-ZH-3-1B Woman Mittens/Gloves, hat, scarf for Black coat

S-ZH-3-2A Girl 4yrs Baby dolls

S-ZH-3-2B Girl 4 yrs Hannah Montana doll

S-ZH-3-3A Boy 12 yrs Jeans size 14 boys

S-ZH-3-3B Boy 12 yrs Tee shirts size 14/16 boys

S-ZH-3-4A Girl 15 yrs Cool Boots size 7.5 young color

S-ZH-3-4B Girl 15 yrs Jeans size 1

F-CF-1-4A Girl 14 yrs Nintendo DS game—bowling, Brain Age 2, or classic games

F-CF-1-4B Girl 14 yrs XL pajamas or a large or XL shirt

F-CF-1-4C gift card to buy make-up (Walmart, Target)

S-KJ-3-1A Boy 8 yrs Pants size 10 slim boys

S-KJ-3-1B Boy 8 yrs Shirts size 8 boys

F-FC-1-5A Woman plus size 2 XL dressy sweater—deep blue, purple, or black

F-FC-1-5B Woman gift card to Walmart or Target for socks, underwear, etc.

F-FC-1-5C Woman gift card to Jewel, Dominicks, Aldi for food at Christmas

*****Please request gift receipts for all gifts and include them with wrapped gifts, just in case*****

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Service of Lessons & Carols

Thursday, December 24

7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Invite Your Friends

and Neighbors

to Join You!!

