



Notes From The Journey . . .



We now find ourselves in the season of Advent - the beginning of a new year in the Church calendar. It is when we begin again to tell the story of faith, as we lift up themes of hope, peace, joy and love. We speak in hushed whispers of expectation and anticipation as we watch and wait and prepare for the message of Christmas - the coming of Christ into the world.

There is a stillness about this season, like waiting in the pre-dawn darkness for the wonder of the new sunrise.

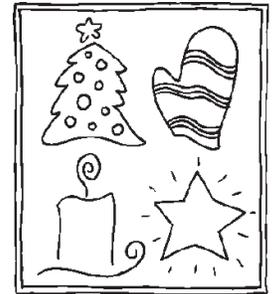
There is a stillness about this season, like waiting in the pre-dawn darkness for the wonder of the new sunrise. Stories, poetry and metaphor are the language of this season, because the reality we are trying to grasp far outstrips our

ability to describe it. The culture around us often tends to encourage a hectic, sometimes even frantic, pace during this season of the year. There are parties to attend, cards to send, gifts to purchase, decorating to do. And we in the church participate in some of that as well. But underneath all the busy-ness, there is the potential for a sense of calm. I invite you in the

coming weeks to slow down long enough to watch for signs of God's presence. Remember to breath in the Spirit of God which is all around us. May we find rest and renewal in this special season. - Roger

Christmas For Kids

Again this year we will be participating in the Christmas for Kids project here in Moscow. Through this important effort we help share the joy of the season with families who would otherwise go without. This year we are scheduled to help three families with a total of 13 children. There are several ways you can participate, including: taking a gift tag from the fellowship hall and purchasing (and wrapping) that item; making a cash donation; supporting the efforts of the Crafters group. Thank you for your generous support.



**Campus Christian Center Food For Finals
 December 13-17**

Students + Finals = HUNGER. As one of the local sponsoring congregations, we are being asked to provide **chips and bread**. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can make a cash donation towards the cause. You can also sign-up to be a mid-week back-up if/when the supply needs to be replenished.

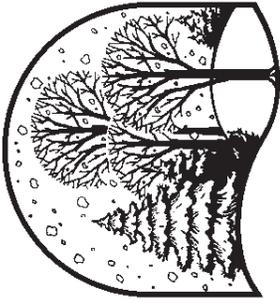
Thanksgiving Offering

We collected a *Thanksgiving Offering* last month, which will be distributed to the *American Baptist Churches One Great Hour of Sharing* and the *Disciples of Christ Week of Compassion*. Both support disaster relief and ongoing development projects. To date we have received \$767 towards this special offering. Thanks to all who participated.



Volunteer For Snow Removal Duty

There is a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board for volunteers to remove snow from the church walks on Sunday mornings when it snows. If you would like to be a part of this brave cadre of workers, please sign up or send an e-mail note (snow@unitedchurch.cc) with your preferred date(s). Sign up early before all the good dates are taken.



Advent / Christmas / New Year's Opportunities

Campus Christian Center Open House Friday, December 10 — 5-6 p.m.

You are invited to stop by the Center on the UI Campus for a simple time of refreshment and celebration.



Christmas Dinner Sunday, Dec. 19th — 6 p.m.



The turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy and rolls are provided (and are being prepared by designated volunteers). The rest of the meal is potluck. This is our “church family” holiday feast. It is a great time to bring family and friends. The evening will also include a time for singing favorite carols, and maybe even a visit from a large, jolly fellow from way up north.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Friday, December 24th — 7 p.m.

This will be a simple, quiet evening filled with candles, carols, scriptures, stories and communion. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the wonders of God’s gift of love.



Tree Burning Party Sunday, Jan. 2nd — 6 p.m.



We will gather at the Leonard farm for a bonfire, where we will burn the tree and holiday greenery from the church. You are invited to bring your own tree from home to add to the fire. We welcome in the new year with a fire to light the night and warm our bodies. There will be chili and other goodies to eat and drink. Plan to join us.



No Faith Exploration Classes On December 26th

Because Christmas will have been just the day before, with lots of people out of town or otherwise occupied with family and guests, there will be no Faith Exploration Classes on the Sunday after Christmas. Plan to join us for Morning Worship at 11 a.m.



New Year’s Potluck Brunch Jan. 2nd — 9:30 a.m.



Bring your favorite breakfast treats to share. Start the new year with this relaxed morning of food and fellowship.

Personal Glimpses. . .

We keep *Sandy Cooper and her family* in our prayers. Her brother, *Rob Clement*, died suddenly in Atlanta last month from complications related to Hepatitis C.

Congratulations to *Vanessa Suquet*, who gave birth to *Kalena Christine* on November 12th. Kalena weighed in at 5 lbs 9 oz and measured 18 inches. Proud grandparents are *Christine Suquet and Paul Santoro*. Great grandmother is *Gerda Santoro*.

Mariah Talbott and Shannon O'Malley arrived safely in Auckland, New Zealand (by way of Sydney, Australia), where they will be travelling for several months.

Zoe Lassen-Purser (Veronica's daughter) has been in Paris, France since September participating in an educational exchange program. She will be returning home in mid-January, and then returning to college in Portland.

Alberta Hill is recovering from pneumonia. Please keep her in your prayers.



Celebrating Birthdays . . .

. . . In December

5th - Charlotte McCallum
11th - Ed Goforth

11th - Gerda Santoro
17th - Lois Bradberry

21st - Pat Gentry

. . . In January

2nd - Lisa Hawley
5th - Mariah Talbott
13th - Iris Manning
16th - Lou Stevens

21st - Naomi Blacker
21st - Agnes Kottke
22nd - Dale Gentry
28th - Scotte Hecht

*If we've missed your birthday, please let us know so we can update our records.
We want to include you.*



Tables & Chairs Still For Sale

Earlier this year the church purchased new tables and chairs (thanks to a generous donation). Now we need to get rid of some of the old ones. The tables are \$15. The folding chairs are \$5. Check with Roger if you are interested.



Other Upcoming Activities In The Months Ahead

Valentine Dessert Party

Saturday, February 12th @ 6:30 p.m.

Movie Night

Friday, March 11th @ 7 p.m.

Easter Potluck Brunch

Sunday, March 27th @ 9:30 a.m.

Talent Night & Group Sing-A-Long

Saturday, April 23rd @ 7 p.m.



*Being a part of a local congregation means that everyone's participation is needed.
Everyone is enriched when you get involved.
There are opportunities right now for you to volunteer:
to shovel snow, as liturgist, as usher/greeter, to bake communion bread, to prepare communion.
Please consider how you would like to get involved.*

Volunteers Always Needed

2004 / 2005

Dec / Jan

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 <i>Fellowship Fund</i> 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM, Hanging the Greens - Decorate the Sanctuary 2:00 PM, Care Center Worship 	6 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	7 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	8 12:00 PM, Cancer Support 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club 7:00 PM, Board Meeting 	9	10 5:00 PM, Campus Christian Center Open House 	11
12 3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas for Kids presents due 	13 CCC Food for Finals 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	14 CCC Food for Finals 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	15 CCC Food for Finals 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	16 CCC Food for Finals	17 CCC Food for Finals	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent 6:00 PM, Christmas Dinner 	20 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	21 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	22 7:00 PM, Elders & Deacons 	23	24 7:00 PM, Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 	25 Christmas! 
26 No Faith Exploration Classes Today 11:00 AM, Morning Worship 	27 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	28 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	29	30	31 New Year's Eve. 	1 New Year's Day • January •
2 <i>Fellowship Fund</i> 9:30 AM, New Year's Potluck Brunch 6:00 PM, Tree Burning Party  	3 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	4 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	5 10:00 AM, Watercolor 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	6	7	8



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