
The Mustard Seed

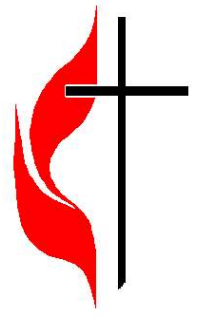
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Dear Members & Friends,

By the time you receive this letter, we will be at the beginning of our **Advent** Celebration. **Advent** comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning *coming*. This year, we begin the celebration on the last Sunday in November by lighting the first of five *Advent Candles*.

Another symbol of *Advent* is the *Advent Wreath*. Protestants in Germany first used the **Advent** wreath. Its circle represents God's unending love; the evergreen symbolizes the hope of eternal life. Four purple or blue candles are used to represent the four weeks of *Advent*. Purple represents **penitence and royalty**; blue signifies **hope**. Some traditions use a pink or rose candle for the third Sunday to represent **joy**. The fifth candle - the White Christ Candle in the center - will be lit on Christmas Eve.

Our Hispanic brothers and sisters celebrate **Las Posadas - A Service of Shelter for the Holy Family**. This takes place during **Advent** from December 16 through December 23, with a special service on December 24. It is a preparation for, and anticipation of, the birth of the Savior, commemorating the nine months when Mary carried the infant Jesus in her womb and emphasizing his coming again and the need of all persons for repentance and God's mercy.

The entire **Advent** season proclaims the comings of Christ - whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in the Word and Spirit and whose return in final victory we anticipate.

It is easy to get caught up in the hype, hustle and bustle and commercialism of Christmas. However, by careful observance of this very special season of the Christian year, we are reminded of the fact that *Jesus is the reason for the season*.

Advent, like all time markers in the Christian year, also helps us to remember that we are a people created for eternity, not time. It reminds us that *love was born at Christmas-time* and that the ways of God are not the ways of human beings.

The **Advent rituals** are designed to help us keep our focus on God and get our priorities in order. It would be sad indeed to go through all the secular events and miss the glory, wonder and mystery of the birth of the Savior.

Why not use this time, when people are especially receptive to spiritual realities, to invite family, friends and neighbors to church. The good news of Jesus's birth is too wonderful to keep to ourselves. In sharing this good news and inviting others to be part of our faith community, we continue to participate in God's plan of salvation for the world by telling the world that *Christ the Savior is born*.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Kay

It is with pleasure that we welcome all worshipers to God's house. Visitors are especially welcomed. Please introduce yourself to those near you and also to the pastor.

EXCERPTS FROM COMMITTEE REPORTS

Annual Church Conference - November 1st..

Twenty three people attended the Sunday evening conference, conducted by District Superintendent Rev. Diana Facemyer. Some of the outgoing ministries announced for Faith Church were: Military Ministries; Parsonage renovation; Food donations to Lisle Township Food Pantry; Pop top donations to the Ronald McDonald House; Christmas Baskets; Easter Baskets; Sponsorship of our CROP WALK walkers.

Jim Rendel, Rae Kipper and Dick Rowe were reaffirmed as lay speakers and Jim Rendel will continue to serve as Lay Leader.

All reports and appointed officers were approved. The meeting closed with refreshments and fellowship.

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OUR TRUSTEES report that the **parsonage has been rented** as of December 1st to Jeffrey and Elizabeth Clifford and their two daughters, Sarah 13 and Katie 11.

Jeffrey is employed by Caterpillar in Montgomery and Elizabeth is a Special Education teacher at Addison Trail High School. Their daughters attend the local schools. Friends of the family hold the Cliffords in high esteem.

We welcome the Clifford family and hope they enjoy their new home.

Scouts from Troop 108 raked leaves at the Logos and church grounds and are now (as they have done for many, many years) selling pine wreaths and garland. So stop by and give the boys a boost in sales!

Trustees also reported that the carpeting in the sanctuary has now been cleaned by GK Carpet after accepting their bid of \$392.

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Our Stone
Soup Sunday

Worship Service on November 22nd was marred when we discovered, after lunch, that a DVD player was missing from one of the Sunday School rooms. Two of our members saw a man leave a school room during worship and can probably identify him. A police report has been filed.



Warning to other churches:

BEWARE: We are all vulnerable, especially on a Sunday morning when there are many cars in a parking lot. Apparently, it is easy for a stranger to just walk downstairs (with worship going on upstairs) and case the area, with no one paying attention, and then walk out again with a coat or hoodie jacket covering any stolen evidence.

Other than that, the worship service was filled with wonderful memories when pictures of former members and pastors filled the screen. Names of the departed memorializing this dedication are listed on the plaque affixed to the audio-visual system.

Other items dedicated to God's glory were the Advent candelabrum, candles, candle carrier, and candle lighter.

Thank you, Carlene, for doing a superb job with the screen in preparing for this memorable Sunday. And to Velma Getty for preparing, how much soup? We nearly ran out of rations with more guests than anticipated.

Jim Rendel has taken the huge baskets of canned foods, etc. today (November 24th) to the Lisle Township so needy families can have access to them before Thanksgiving. Thanks, Jim.

A lot of money is tainted.
'Taint yours and 'taint mine.

FELLOWSHIP

Stone Soup Sunday

Everyone reported that the Stone Soup was delicious - "Too many cooks spoil the broth" is a very old saying, but the many contributions of vegetables and meat by our church families blended together in a very thick, tasty soup. Fresh hot cornbread accompanied the soup. Many asked if there would be leftovers to take home. And nobody reported finding even a pebble!

Some families brought fruit to be combined into a delicious fresh fruit salad. Other families contributed to our dessert bar that had a little bit of everything - angel food cake, chocolate cake, brownies, and a variety of cookies.

A heartfelt "**Thank You**" to the many people who contributed all the food - and to the volunteers who helped with food preparation - and especially to the unseen kitchen cleanup workers. And THANK YOU to the transformation crews who converted the sanctuary into a dining room and then back again!

Advent Decorating

Our church is now ready for the Advent Season which began November 29th. We truly appreciate the dedication of the families who stayed after the Stone Soup meal on the 22nd and put all decorations in place in preparation to worship the coming of Christ's Birthday.

Christmas Potluck Dinner & Program

Fellowship is wonderful over an excellent meal. We invite you to join us on Sunday evening, December 13, 5:30 p.m. as Faith Church gathers for the Annual Potluck Dinner to be followed by a Christmas Program that is in the planning stage.

It is very **important** for you to **sign up** so we know how much turkey to prepare and tables to set. The meat and beverage will be provided. Please bring a hot dish **and** a salad or dessert. **Don't** forget your table place servings! We don't do dishes.

Reservations may be placed by 1) signing up in the narthex; 2) calling the church office (630.969.6404) and leaving a message; or 3) call Velma (630.969.0639).

Everyone is welcome...*Bring a Friend...*to join our Faith Family for an evening of fellowship, food and spiritual nourishment on Sunday evening, Dec. 13th at 5:30, with the program to begin about 7 p.m.

Meet and Greet Coffees

The last two coffees were held on November 18th with two families attending. In total, we have had 33 guests representing 23 families attend the six coffees offered. Pastor Kay greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn to know each of us as individuals. Thanks to everyone for participating as a guest or hostess.

The Mitten Tree is in the narthex and ready to accept your gifts of new mittens, gloves and warm, new hats. All sizes and colors are accepted. Bring your gift to church and place it in the open branches of our tree.



After the holidays, Velma will mail those donated items to Marcy Newberry Center in Chicago. We always receive an acknowledgment of our contribution to their warm clothing bins and several children will receive new mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. An interesting sidelight - how many of you realize that the ANGEL atop the Mitten Tree was made by Margaret Gilmore and placed on top of the first Christmas Tree in Faith Church in 1961 - 48 years ago.

Christmas Boxes

Faith church has again been given the privilege of providing Christmas for one Lisle Township family. As of November 23rd, Marj Rowe had not received information on the family. We attempt to provide a gift or two for each person listed - selected from their 'wish list' and/or clothing. For many families we have also furnished provisions for their holiday meal.

Charts will be placed on the walls in back of the sanctuary. Please select the item(s) you wish to donate and sign your name to the item(s) you select. Let's be generous but do not overdo the totals for the family! Money is always welcome and is used if the family comes up short.



Please wrap your gifts! Label to whom the gift is intended, i.e. boy, age 6. Bring the gifts to church and place them in the box.

More information will be in the Sunday bulletins, the church office, or call Marj Rowe at 630.596.3229.

From our Lay Leader

Welcome to Advent and the end of the year, and what a busy time it is for Faith and all of us. Let me try to list (bullet-wise) some of the many events, opportunities, and thank you's for last month and December.



A wonderful Stewardship program from David Smith and Pastor Kay. Have you prayed and committed yourself to sacrificial giving for 2010? Well, please do so prayerfully this Advent season and really be ready for next year and the Lord's work.

A moving memorial dedication of new altar gifts and the audio-visual system, and a stirring tribute put together by Carlene Smith of all memorializing gifts.

Such a great Stone Soup Thanksgiving of fellowship, food and fun with appreciation to Velma Getty and all for that, and to those who stayed to help with Advent decorating!

A meaningful SPIRIT GIFTS study in adult Sunday School; looking forward to our 4-week Advent sessions.

Our Military Ministry and its fruits - we look forward to attending their family Christmas party December 6th. We still need your contributions for the 70+ new devotionals we provided for the unit at \$5.60 each.

Your generous special offerings support the following: Thanksgiving (food pantry & apportionments), U/M Student Day (scholarships & support) and Fifth Sunday Appeal (United Voices for Children, including Marcy Newberry). If you have not yet given to any of these, please feel free to still do so - just designate them specifically - and thanks.

Meaningful daily prayer sheets from Pastor Kay and the so relevant activity and follow-up for those persecuted for the Church.

Bishop Jung's visit on Nov. 30th and all present and welcoming him as he is trying to come to all 300+ congregations of our Northern Ill. Conference within a year or so.

All the hard work and dedication of our pastors, staff, leaders, committees, and everyone this year.

Downers 1st UMC ecumenical service and Tony Compolo's presentation, and including us.

Scouts for military ministry donation, leaf-raking and other yard help, and wreath sale.

Wishing you and yours a most blessed, happy, healthy and safe Merry Christmas!

With Faith in Christ,
Jim Rendel

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Christmas poinsettia orders are now being taken. They are \$13 each for a 6 1/2" pot with foil and a bow. Please call the church office if you would like to order one, or send a note. December 13th is the deadline. Thank you.



Christmas with United Methodist Women of Faith



Christmas potluck luncheon plans were made when the UMWomen of Faith met November 11th and Wednesday, December 9th, 12:30 p.m. is the date. All men and women are invited. The luncheon will be at the Logos, with UMW furnishing meat, dessert, beverages and table service. Please bring a salad or vegetable to complement the above.

Please write your name and number of people you will bring to the luncheon on the sign-up sheet posted in the church narthex. We look forward to welcoming many of our church friends for food and fellowship. If you need a ride or more information, please call Marge at 630-963-1935.

Our UMW are still very happy to receive your Campbell soup labels (we'll cut out the part we need) and the Box Tops for Education coupons found on many products. These help Red Bird Missions and Marcy Newberry Center purchase educational products for their work with children. Pop can tabs are also collected to help Ronald McDonald Houses. Our collection containers are on the narthex table as you enter church.



Thank you for your generous response, and see you at the luncheon.



Candlelight Worship at 9 p.m.

We have a beautiful new candelabra for lighting the Advent wreath candles,

and the choir has two lovely anthems for this special service. Please join us for this holiest of nights.

DECEMBER

1	Carol McGee
8	Emily Hahn
10	Jim Rendel
11	John Meyers
13	Dale Mackey
14	Rich Rowe
16	Sue Populorum
17	Charles Fultz
19	Dale Getty
22	Sean Ill
24	Terry Hendricks
25	Sue Novak
28	Dorothy Pascale
28	Justin Moore
31	David Amato
31	Lisa Clark

You can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles these three things:

- 1) a rainy day
- 2) lost luggage
- 3) tangled Christmas tree lights.

—Maya Angelou

Christmas Eve Prayer

Give us, O God, the vision which can see your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.




And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

—Frank Borman, Apollo 8 commander

2009

December

2009

<p>Dec. 13th</p>  <p><i>Sunday School Program</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:45</p>	<p>2</p> <p>SPPRC meeting 6:30 followed by formation of a small group prayer group led by Rae Kipper</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ministry Council 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Crosswinds Church 5:30 - 8:30</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 Church School</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Trustees Meet 7:30 7:30 AA, L</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:45</p>	<p>9</p> <p>UMW Christmas Potluck - Logos 12:30 Finance Mtg 7 p.m. Adm. Council 7:30 - Logos</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>West Town's Christ- mas Program 2 p.m. Crosswinds Church 5:30 - 8:30</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 Church School Christmas Potluck & Program 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 AA, L</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:45</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Gaither Christmas Concert 6 p.m. Crosswinds Church 5:30 - 8:30</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 Church School</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 AA, L</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ecumenical Carol Sing in Lisle Choir Rehearsal 7:45</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Candlelight Service 9 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Crosswinds Church 5:30 - 8:30</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 Church School</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30 AA, L</p>	<p>29</p>  <p><i>Christmas Party</i> & choir rehearsal at Raht's</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.</p>	