



First Things @ First

December 7, 2011
Vol. XV No. 25

“Living that all may know Jesus”

660.747.8158 ~ FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WARRENSBURG ~ www.umcburg.org



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES DECEMBER 24, 2011 4:00pm and 11:00pm



First United Methodist Church welcomes everyone to our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services held at 4:00pm and 11:00pm on Saturday, December 24th. Bring the whole family for the 4:00pm service which will have child care available. The 11:00pm service will end at midnight as we ring in Christmas Day. These services will be beautiful and moving with song, scripture, bells and candles. Invite a friend to join in your celebration of this holy night!

ANOTHER DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSION ADDED

Olan Mills has added Tuesday, December 13th, for scheduling directory photo sessions. Contact Anita at 747-8158 to schedule your photo session. We need to have at least 15 families scheduled to keep this date.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

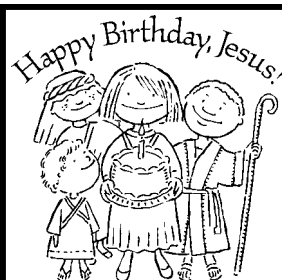
The Chancel Choir will perform the “The Voices of Christmas” on December 18th during the 10:45am worship service. Sherry Printz will be directing this Christmas cantata written by Joseph Martin. Invite your family, friends and neighbors for this beautiful service.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Welcome to our recently hired FUMC wedding coordinator. Rachel Oglesby will begin with the next upcoming wedding.

FRUIT BASKET SUNDAY

Come to the Family Life Center at 9:00am on Sunday, December 18th to help with the Fruit Basket/Shut-in project. Everyone is invited to help put together fruit baskets and/or deliver them to persons on the Senior Center’s Meals on Wheels list. Help is also needed to deliver poinsettias to FUMC shut-ins. CLT has been raising funds through the 5th Sunday Brunch for this project – but additional donations are welcomed. For more information contact Kathy Howard at 747-7810.



CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 11th
10:45am

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30am Connection / *Connected* Band
10:45am Classical/Blended with choir
and “Kids Own Worship.”
*A nursery is available for children through
2 years of age.*

SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH BUS

Call the office by noon on Friday to arrange a bus stop at your home. The FUMC bus is handicap accessible.

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CHURCH CLOSING POLICY

December, 2011- Effective immediately, the First United Methodist Church is adapting the following closing policy:

When the Warrensburg public school district **cancels/closes early** due to bad weather or other imminent danger, our Preschool, Wednesday after-school children's programming, Wednesday Night Dinner and all non-church "outside groups" scheduled for the day will also be cancelled.

Church committee chairs/leaders/ministry coordinators will be responsible for advising the office, by 9:00 am, if you will be meeting or not on that day.

The church office may not necessarily be closed, but if it is, a notice will be sent out on Kumbayah e-mail. (To sign up for Kumbayah, e-mail Jeffries@socket.net and type "Kumbayah Subscription" in the subject line.)

College-Age Ministry | Evelyn Howard, Staff Assistant | evelyn@umcburg.org



Mitten Tree ... College-Aged Ministries invites you to place kid-sized mittens and hats on the Mitten Tree. During the month of December the Mitten Tree will be located in the Atrium. The items will be donated to local organizations for children who are in need of warm hats and mittens this winter. Thanks for your help.

Small Group Ministry | Mike Cassidy, Associate Pastor | mike@umcburg.org

The Underground Church Waits ... During Advent our midweek worship offering is learning what it meant to wait for Jesus in that very first time of Advent and what waiting means in our lives today. The Underground Church meets in Fellowship Hall every Thursday and offers an informal and intimate chance to gather in a community of believers. All are welcome to come for fellowship Thursdays at 9:00pm before the Underground Church and worship starting at 9:30pm. For more information contact Evelyn Howard at evelyn@umcburg.org or Pastor Mike at mike@umcburg.org.

Children's Ministries | Melanie Montambeault, Director | melanie@umcburg.org

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!" CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This Sunday, December 11th, our children will help the congregation celebrate the coming of Christ with a children's program during the 10:45am service. All the kids in **Gabriel's Gang**, **Littlest Angels** and the **Children's Bell Choir** have been working hard to prepare for this program and look forward to sharing their musical talents with the congregation. A BIG "Thank you" to **Carla Maltas** who wrote the program, Children's Choir director **Caitlin Bird**, Children's Bell Choir director **Cole Braun**, and **Hidden Treasures Puppet Team**. A special "Thank you" to the children and parents of our wonderfully talented children. Be proud!

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Just a reminder to all the 3rd through 5th graders at FUMC that the acolyte training is just around the corner. I would like all current acolytes and anyone interested in becoming an acolyte to attend the training on January 4th at 5:30pm. The duties have changed slightly for our acolytes and I want to make sure that everyone is aware of those changes. I hope to see a big crowd of acolytes at the training!



Preschool Doodlings | Colleen Reed, Preschool Director | preschool@umcburg.org

The energy level in the preschool area is definitely at a higher level than normal with the count-down towards Christmas. This week we are working on our traditional nativity scenes both in the preK and in the 3-year old classes. Our theme this week was "Holiday Givings" and in that spirit we are collecting books for the Christmas Store, canned goods for the Food Center, and mittens for the Mitten Tree. We may be little, but we know how to give. :)

Next week we are learning that "J" is for Jesus. We will be making candy cane ornaments (upside down they are in the shape of a "J" for Jesus). We will also be finishing the gifts for our loved ones. Our Christmas Parties will be on Tuesday, December 20th for the T/TH classes and Wednesday, December 21st for the MWF classes. If we are lucky, maybe Santa will make an appearance!

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INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER: The December 14th menu will be a Smorgasbord, dessert, and beverages. The cost is \$6/adult, \$3/student and children age three and older, \$16 max./family. Guests are invited to dine-in with us. *Help us be more accurate in purchasing the amount of food needed. Please call the office or email receptionist@umcburg.org to make your reservation, cancel your reservation, or ask to be added to the standing list by noon on MONDAY. Walk-ins will be served starting at 5:45pm. There will be no Wednesday Night Dinner on December 21st or December 28th.*

CHRISTMAS STORE: To volunteer to work at the Christmas Store, please call Carrie Ewing at 429-6122. Please take one of the decorated grocery bags, fill it with items on the attached menu and return your filled bag to Atrium by December 11th. The food will then be transported to the Christian Church. Checks may be made payable to "Christmas Store 2011" and mailed to Christmas Store, c/o Joy Stevenson, 91 Grandview Drive, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093.

BOOK COLLECTION: Containers are at each FUMC entrance for new and gently used books for children of all ages. These books will be displayed at the Christmas Store. Adult clients may choose a book for each child in their family. Books for teens are especially needed.

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHONE NUMBER LISTING: Cell phone numbers will not be listed in the new church directory unless you request it as your primary phone number. Only one phone number may be used. If you wish to use a cell phone number, you must call the church office (660-747-8158 or e-mail office@umcburg.org) by Friday, December 9th.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dan and Joyce Hoadley on the birth of a daughter, **Lucy Hoadley**, who was born on November 18, 2011.

In Our Prayers

In Our Prayers: Maxixe UMC (our sister church in Mozambique) & its pastor Geraldo Nataniel Matsinhe, shut-ins, care givers. **Ill/Recovering:** Jim Baker, Sandy Culp, Judy Hicks, Kris Kennard, Clair Swan.

Sympathy to: June Mellinger, whose brother Kenneth Merle passed away November 27, 2011 and to Meg Brigman, whose step-nephew Nathan Haycraft passed away December 6, 2011.

Military: Brad Adams, Christopher Lozo, John Rodgers.

Pastoral Care: If you have a death in the family, are sick or hospitalized, please let the church office know so we can arrange for spiritual care. *If you or a loved one is admitted to a local hospital, please call us, as the hospitals do not notify us.*

CHECK-IN WITH THE OFFICE

For security, safety, and in case of emergency, everyone entering the building for unscheduled activity needs to check-in and check-out with the office, so that we know where you are located in the building. Thanks for your help.

BAPTISM

Joseph Roy Manley, son of Chris and Kara Manley was baptized during the 9:30am service on November 27, 2011. Joseph is the grandson of Paul and Karen Dorsey.

THANK YOU

Thanks for all the support shown our family during the recent passing of our "Pop", McHarg. We are so blessed with such a wonderful church family.
~ **Jim, Kathy and Evelyn Howard**

Attendance & Offerings

November 27th attendance at the two services was 337.
Operating Fund Contributions were \$6,990.48..

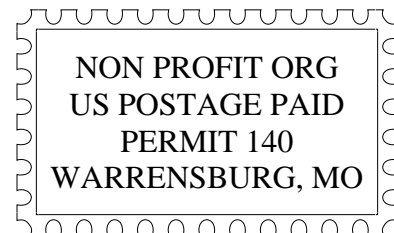
Capital Improvement Fund Contributions were \$155.00.

December 4th attendance at the two services was 337.
Operating Fund Contributions were \$12,958.50.

Capital Improvement Fund Contributions were \$1,690.50.



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141 E. Gay Street
Warrensburg, MO 64093
Office: (660) 747-8158
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Return Service Requested

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The office will be closed on December 26, 2011
and on January 2, 2012. Happy Holidays!

Pastor's Corner... | Rev. Louie Lowe, Senior Pastor | llowe@umcburg.org

If you are an adult, you may remember taking part in a worship service as a child or teenager. I am sure it was a very exiting experience for you. After all, you were doing something very important for God.

This Sunday, December 11th, during the 10:45am worship service, the young people of our church are also going to do something very important, very exciting, and very special for God. They are going to lead us in worship.

As a youth, Samuel served God. As a youth, Mary served God. As a youth, Jesus himself was found serving in the Temple, leading a worship experience. This Sunday the young people of our church will also be serving God in a very special way.

Come join us for this special holiday event, as we gather to worship God and show our support for the young people of our congregation, the "Future of Our Church!"

See you in worship,

Louie

First Things @ First is published every other Wednesday by the First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg. Newsletter submissions are due Monday at noon for the upcoming Wednesday's newsletter. Submissions may be communicated to **Marge Ballew**, Publications Editor (660-747-8158; receptionist@umcburg.org). Calendar updates, prayer requests and address changes may be communicated to **Anita Ellis**, Administrative Coordinator (660-747-8158; office@umcburg.org).



And he will
be called...
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

ADVENT CALENDAR

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 11th at 10:45am

An inspirational Christmas program filled with the sound of children, youthful music and a puppet presentation.

A regular Advent worship service will still be offered at 9:30am.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 18th during the 10:45am Worship Service

A beautiful service of song and scripture that's guaranteed to move you.

A regular Advent worship service will still be offered at 9:30am.

FRUIT BASKET SUNDAY

Sunday, December 18th at 9:00am

Meet in the Family Life Center to help assemble and deliver fruit baskets for shut-ins and senior citizens.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24th 4:00pm & 11:00pm

Bring the whole family for the 4:00pm service which will have child care available. The 11:00pm Candlelight Service will end at midnight as we ring in Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, December 25th 10:45am only.

Come for an informal service. (No Sunday School.)

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION SERVICE

Saturday, December 31st at 4:00pm.

Begin your New Year's Eve celebration with this short communion service.