



DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 21, No 12 December 2013 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship
11:00 Koinonia

Sunday school
Youth 9:00 a.m.
Adult 11:15 a.m.



*Sunday School
Christmas Program
During Worship
December 15*



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
9:00 p.m.*





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Several years ago a friend shared the following story with me (author

unknown). I came across the story this past week. As I read it again, I remembered why I had saved the printed copy I had been given. It has a message for all of us. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Wishing you a very Blessed Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Karen

The Spirit of Christmas

Once upon a time in a community much like our own town, there was an old man who lived alone. His neighbors and his fellow workers thought of him as a crusty old sort of hard-nose who seldom smiled except in sarcasm. He'd been married once, but his wife died early on and people who remembered say he'd never been the same since.

Of course, there were people all around him, where he worked and lived, but inside, this old man was all alone. He often thought, "There's not a single person in the whole world who loves me." At Thanksgiving, no one invited him for turkey. On Halloween, the kids tee-peed his bushes and trees even when he treated them. No one sent him Christmas presents or remembered his birthday.

Then one late December forenoon, something happened that changed his life and the lives of many people in his town. He received a Christmas card.

Actually, the whole thing was a very big mistake. A young woman who lived down the street intended to send the card to her boyfriend, but she put down the wrong house number. And so it came to the lonely old man. The envelope simply said, "To my favorite person, 213 2nd St., City." When the old man opened the card, he saw the words, "Merry Christmas, I love you." signed, "Guess Who?" Suddenly tears came to his old eyes...his heart surged...and he thought to himself, "Finally, someone loves me."

Not sure who has sent the card, he did what you might consider to be a strange thing. He went downtown. And he bought Christmas cards – hundreds of Christmas cards.

So that he would not miss that special somebody (who was really that girl down the street, you remember), this old man spent many late nights in front of his fireplace addressing Christmas cards to send to everyone he could think of: all his neighbors, fellow workers, janitors in his building, folks in his church, people in his old high school

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class; and the lonely man signed all the cards; "....And I love you too!" - knowing for sure that the right person would understand.

When all these people received the old man's cards in the mail signed, "And I love you too!" they all hurried out and bought all the Christmas cards they could find, because, you see, many of them were just as lonely as the old man. Many thought that no one in the world loved them either. And when that card came which said "And I love you too!" they decided to send one to everyone they knew so that someone special would not be missed, even though by now Christmas had come and gone.

Days ran into weeks, and weeks ran into months. People all over the community where the lonely man lived were so involved with his mighty chain of Christmas cards with greetings on them that they closed the courts (no one had time to fuss or be bad), people smiled at each other all the time (not sure of who might be their loved one), old ladies helped children across the street, flowers grew in garbage cans, the penitentiary was closed (no business).

As for the lonely old man, he became the jolliest man the community had ever seen. He lived a long and happy life because his mailbox, like everyone's in his neighborhood and in his town, was always stuffed with Christmas card that told greetings of love.

A little piece of fantasy, to be sure, something for our children. But tucked away in there is a message for all of us. A message that had its beginning on that night so long ago, whose events we will always come together and celebrate. And that message, deep from the heart of God is this: "Merry Christmas my people. I love you."

And what a way to tell us. God, there in Jesus Christ at Bethlehem in the manger where Joseph could tickle his toes and smelly shepherds could breathe their germs on him and Mary could shake her head and smile. And from that most humble of beginnings with a little crying and cooing and gurgling of a newborn, God's message has come tumbling and rolling down through the centuries, touching the hearts of millions of people throughout the world: "Merry Christmas, my people, I love you,"

Let this Christmas become a time when we open ourselves up to share the greatest gifts we have been given – the gift of Jesus who is love. For Christmas reminds us of that message that will melt the coldest heart and comfort the loneliest and most fearful person:

"Merry Christmas, my children, I love you."

The "W" in Christmas

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience.

I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending.

Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old.

For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant."

I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation.

All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then.

Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats.

As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback

by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads.

Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen.

In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTMAS LOVE"

And, I believe, He still is.

**Amazed in His presence... .
humbled by His love.**

**HAVE A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

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along with phenomenally high winds, knocked down power lines, crumpled red steel roofs as if they were Christmas tinfoil, and picked up and tossed heavy objects like boats, cars, trucks, and even a bus from one place to another.

Peñañiel, a single mother of three grown children, climbed with them and three grandchildren to the roof of their home for safety. She said the adults hung onto the roof with one hand and to a child with the other for at least an hour. "We wanted to survive," said Peñañiel, who works two jobs, as *baranggay* treasurer and with an express mailing service.

So many days later, she said, she still does not sleep well. Like those of her neighbors who are able to do so, she has returned to her damaged home, set up tarps, and now lives in the more-or-less habitable parts. She said she is afraid of burglars who have been on the prowl for vulnerable homes to loot. But, she said, she was "overwhelmed" by the assistance UMCOR brought. "We're very glad you came," she said. "This will be a very big help."

UMCOR will carry out a second food distribution tomorrow, Wednesday, just outside of Tacloban, where small and vulnerable communities have received little attention.

These distributions help meet immediate needs, but recovery from the super typhoon will be long—as anyone who lived through disasters like Hurricane Katrina or Superstorm Sandy can attest. Your support for **International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #982450**, will help meet the needs of survivors long after Typhoon Haiyan has slipped from the headlines.

FROM THE BISHOP

November 13, 2013

Dear sisters and brothers of the Iowa Annual Conference,

Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippines on November 8, 2013. It has been reported that over 2,000 have died. The storm destroyed at least 80,000 homes, according to the latest Philippine

government accounting. Although estimates of the number left homeless vary, the Philippine government puts it at more than 582,000. Images depict a truly frightening path of devastation.

From UMCOR's reporting we've learned, once again, that "UMCOR is making plans to fill the gaps in the disaster-relief delivery network and go where the need is greatest." Rev. Jack Amick, UMCOR Assistant General Secretary for International Disaster Response, reports, "This was an extremely destructive storm." And yet, even so, "UMCOR is well-positioned through its office in the Philippines to play a significant role in long-term recovery efforts."

As we learned in a powerful way, five years ago, God is present, even in the midst of a disaster. A gentle caring hand, a bottle of cool water, a flood relief bucket, the skills of a master carpenter...all of these are tangible glimpses of God being at work.

We can help sisters and brothers in the Philippines to experience the unlimited power of hope, even in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. As Catie and John Newman, our Iowa Conference Disaster Coordinators have invited us to do, pray for persons affected by the storm. Second, support family members here in Iowa as they wait for word regarding their loved ones. And finally, you can support UMCOR's relief and recovery work in the Philippines by contributing your donation to *International Disaster Response, Advance #982450*. All of your gift, 100 percent, will be used to help those in need. (You may click the "donate" button, below, to make your contribution.)

We can rise to the challenge of caring for sisters and brothers who have been beaten down by the winds and storm surge of Typhoon Haiyan. We can lift them up in this low time in their lives. We can, in the name of the compassionate One for all, Jesus Christ.

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble

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Please join me following worship on Sunday mornings for an Advent Bible Study. We will meet on December 1, 8, 15, 22 in the lounge. This will be a special time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Hope you can join me!

Pastor Karen

Thank you for your commitment of gifts to Christ for 2014.

If you have not yet returned your giving card and plan on doing so, we would be grateful if you could return your giving card to the church office by the end of December. Thank you for participating in the ministries of the church by your prayers, your presence, your service, your witness, and your gifts.

Finance Committee

Ecumenical Youth Group

On Wednesday evening, November 13, the youth went door to door in Oakland to collect food for the Food Pantry. Although it was a cold evening, the youth had fun and collected a lot of food for the pantry. Special thanks to the drivers who volunteered to transport the youth – Doc Blanchard, Sharon Jones, Tim Petersen, Trevor Jefferson, Debbie Rollins, Tim White, Jerry Hoff.

The youth participated in a special Thanksgiving worship service held on the third Wednesday evening in November. The youth and adult leaders worshiped together and shared in the Lord's Supper together.

Tim White and Debbie Rollins presented a skit for the youth titled Problems. The skit was a reminder to all of us that many people in the world would eagerly trade their problems for our problems.

Support Typhoon Haiyan Relief

Super Typhoon Haiyan, a category 5 storm—and perhaps the strongest storm ever recorded—swept through the Philippines on Friday, November 8, causing extensive damage, displacing at least 670,000 people, and affecting a total of 11.3 million people. Initial estimated numbers of those killed and injured by the super storm are expected to climb. The United

Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is providing emergency food, water, and water purification tablets to 7,500 individuals (or 1,500 families) in Tacloban City in Leyte Province. The city was devastated by the typhoon and many there have no access to food, water, or medicine. Give generously to International Disaster Response, Advance #982450, to support UMCOR Philippines staff and volunteers as they work tirelessly to provide assistance to those in need.

www.umcor.org



PREPARE

As the Christmas Season approaches, the stress and anxiety of even everyday chores increases. Take time for yourself and for your spiritual being. Don't worry if the glass is half full for half empty.

A psychologist walked around a room while teaching stress management to an audience. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the "half empty or half full" question. Instead, with a smile on her face, she inquired: ... "How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralyzed. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." She continued, "The stresses and worries in life are like that glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and they begin to hurt. And if you think about them all day long, you will feel paralyzed – incapable of doing anything."

It's important to remember to let go of your stresses. As early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Remember to put the glass down!

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ANGEL TREE

The Oakland UMC Mission Committee invites you to help provide Christmas gifts for families in need in the Oakland area this Christmas. When you come to worship in December an angel tree will be set up in the narthex. You can take an angel off of the tree and go shopping for the requested item. Please bring the wrapped gift with the angel taped to the outside of the gift back to the church.



COAT COLLECTION

Brianna Skank will be collecting coats this season to give to those in need. You can bring your coat donations to the Oakland UMC or you can give them to Brianna.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas Eve service will be held at 9pm on Christmas Eve. The service will be a service of scripture lessons and carols, and will end with a candlelight service. We invite you to attend and to bring a friend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be presented during the 10am worship service on December 15. Please join us for this special Sunday and bring a friend!

Volunteer for Camp Hope next summer!

As most of you know, we've been planning and running a camp for the last two years that is specifically designed for children of incarcerated parents or family members. The camp is called 'Camp Hope'. It truly has been a blessing for those of us who have been involved with this camp and we've had very positive responses from the families involved with this camp too. In fact last summer we had 23 youth come to this specialized camp at Wesley Woods. We have been blessed to have had individual donors for this camp, churches, plus a

significant financial commitment from the Iowa UMC Church and Society Conference agency. Due to the increased need we are already planning to double the size of this camp, in fact next summer we are shooting for up to 60 youth between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. We have already had several financial commitments to allow this camp to expand, and we are so grateful for this. The dates for Camp Hope for the summer of 2014 will be the following:

Camp Wesley Woods—Sunday, July 6th through Tuesday, July 8th.

Camp Pictured Rocks—Sunday, July 13th through Tuesday, July 15th.

We will be working extensively with the Iowa Department of Corrections and also with the Iowa UMC Women at the Well program at Mitchellville so as to get more information out about this special program. With this being said, the one other thing that we'll need as we move forward is some more volunteers that would have an interest in working with this camp. We already have a very good team that's been working with our Wesley Wood's program, but we would welcome some more volunteers for our new Pictured Rock's program. If you're interested you will need to be at least 18 years of age and have the willingness to be part of our training program for this camp, which will include a comprehensive background check and safe sanctuary training. If you've ever had any experience in this type of ministry, or just have an interest in this type of camping program, please give me a call and I would love to share more about what we're doing and how it might be a ministry that you're called to be part of. My email is david.hobbs@iaumc.org and my phone number is (515) 974-8913. Thanks for your continued prayers and support of our Iowa UMC Camp and Retreat programs, it really is appreciated.



UMCOR gets food packages to typhoon survivors

By Linda Unger*

Tacloban, November 19, 2013—The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) delivered food packages today to waiting residents of *Barangay* Naganaga, a struggling and impoverished community in Tacloban, Philippines, that was hard hit by wind, intense rain, and an estimated 15-foot storm surge during Typhoon Haiyan on November 8.

At least 800 of the bright yellow bags of rice, oil, beans, and other staples were handed out to residents who had survived the storm by grit and grace, and who waited for the food packages in muddy lines. “Thank you for helping us,” one survivor after another called to UMCOR staff and volunteers as they struggled under the more welcome burden of the 33 pound bags.

The UMCOR convoy of three vehicles had departed from Dasmariñas on Sunday with three staff, 10 volunteers, and four drivers. After what turned out to be a 36-hour drive from Cavite Province in the north, where the UMCOR Philippines office is located, to Leyte Province in the country’s midsection, the convoy reached the devastated city early Tuesday afternoon.

Along the way, the destruction caused by Typhoon Haiyan became increasingly apparent. Groves of palm trees stood limp like closed but unsecured umbrellas; power poles and lines lay on their backs as if shoved; cement walls of buildings were blown up in parts, leaving gaping holes; while modest homes of thatch or wood lay shifted on their stilts or flattened.

Everywhere, hand-lettered signs revealed an unfolding story of destruction, need, and hope: “No Food & Water; We Can Survive But of You”; “Merry Xmas Go Leyte Survive”; “Dead Bodies for Pick Up”; “TINDOG TACLOBANAON” [in the local Visayan dialect this means: “Stand Up People of Tacloban”].

Determined to deliver the still-desperately needed food supplies before the city’s 6:00 pm curfew, UMCOR staff quickly met with local officials and personnel from the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) in the interior of a damaged sports complex and at city hall to learn which communities were in

greatest need. The city supplied a social worker and a peer counselor to accompany the UMCOR distribution.

Ciony Ayo-Eduarte, head of mission of UMCOR Philippines, and the Rev. Jack Amick, UMCOR assistant general secretary for International Disaster Response, then led the convoy to *Baranggay* (or neighborhood) Naganaga, where food assistance had only begun to trickle in the day before, 10 days after the typhoon.

Baranggay Chairman Nikki Leaño, a locally elected leader of this neighborhood, said it was coastal communities like this one in Tacloban that were most affected by the category 5 typhoon, a super storm on the order of hurricanes Katrina and Sandy in the United States. “When the storm surge rose up, we were a spillway, and the water poured through our streets from other communities,” he said.

He estimated that about 100 of his neighbors in this small community of about 1,200 families died in the storm, and said Naganaga was among the Tacloban *baranggays* with the highest fatalities. Leaño had sent his own family, including three children ages 6, 9, and 12, to Manila ahead of the storm for their safety. He and his brother stayed back with their neighbors.

“We thought it was the end of the world,” said one of those neighbors, Erlinda Andal, 30, as she waited for the contrastingly sunny-yellow food packages. She, her husband, and their four children ages 7, 8, 9, and 12, had climbed to the roof of their modest home for safety as the storm surge rose. “The water kept going up and up,” she said. “It was up to our chests.”

Andal, a manicurist, said she and her husband, a carpenter, were thankful for the assistance. “It will be a very big help for our family,” she said.

Another neighbor, Maria Theresa Peñafiel, 45, called the storm “horrifying.”

She said that although her home is old, she was trying to make some last-minute repairs to protect it from the storm. When Typhoon Haiyan, known locally as Yolanda, hit, she said, no one expected what she called a “tidal wave.” She was referring to the surge that,

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Calvin Duhachek
- 3 Gloria Gleaves
- 3 Don Applegate
- 3 Lindsey Henderson
- 5 Sonya Kinnison
- 6 Chase Roller
- 7 Chris Hamilton
- 8 Quinin Forrester
- 10 Joretta Johnson
- 11 Lauren Anderson
- 12 Bernie Bolton
- 12 Caitlin Wilson
- 13 Mary Galitz
- 13 Kelsey Hackett
- 16 Austin Wright
- 16 Cale Henry
- 17 Jessica Santiago
- 18 Barbara Schorsch
- 19 Shirley Textor
- 19 Virginia Pitt
- 20 Donna Kelly
- 20 Abby Taylor
- 21 Ross Stott
- 21 Kiley Bentley
- 24 Margaret White
- 27 Megan Gleaves
- 28 Bonni Hering
- 28i Tyler Putnam
- 29 Averi Jefferson
- 30 Peggy Bentley
- 30 Tiffany Schutt
- 30 Bergynn Kinnison
- 31 Bobbette Beedle



**REMEMBER OUR SERVICE
MEN AND WOMEN**



Kristie Copenhaver, John & Mary Lou Copenhaver's daughter; **Jared Myers**, son of Robert Myers and Sid & Tami Skank; **Sonja Husz**, Niece of Butch & Velda Husz; **Lucas Smith**, Addie Mae's grandson; **Brian Thornton** from Avoca; **Tyler Clark**, Marvin & Carolyn Clark's grandson; **Brad Grosvenor**, Cathey Grosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men and women. **Landen Pedersen**, son of Tab and Lorie Pederson

If you have a loved one in the service and wish to have them listed on our prayer list, please contact the church office.



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NURSING HOMES - Remember those in the nursing homes with cards and visits.

Oakland Manor: Margaret Alff, Audrey Hartje, Dorothy Martens, Lucille Bentley, Erma Cleaveland,

Oakland Heights: Janice Harris, Pat Burgett



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing..... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Keeper

I grew up with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused

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it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones.

Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away.

I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dish-towel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more.

Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away... never to return. So... While we have it..... it's best we love it.... And care for it... And fix it when it's broken..... And heal it when it's sick.

This is true. For marriage..... And old cars..... And children with bad report cards..... And dogs with bad hips.... And aging parents..... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with.

There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special..... And so, we keep them close!

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NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS



- 1st Kristy Rieken
8th Lisa Pierson
15th Suzanne Pierce
22nd Cyndy Haines

USHERS, GREETERS,



CANDLELIGHTERS

- 1st Gerald & Carol Wilson
Larry & Judie Danker
Candle lighters
Camryn Pierson & Emma Ehmke
- 8th Ward Young & Ron Lockwood
Jean Blackburn & Jessie Shiffer
Candle lighters
Eric Duhachek & Anna Duhachek
- 15th Joan Shanno & Dawn Tuner
Lisa Rollin & Lauren Schueman
Candle lighters
Calvin Duhachek & Sarah Jones
- 22nd Lindsey Henderson & ReAnn Hildebrand
Claire Palmer & Mary Waggoner
Candle lighters
Kristian Martens & Grace Gleaves
- 24th Doc & LaVinna Blanchard
Candle lighters
Eric & Anna Duhachek
- 29th Cathey Grosvenor & Norma Taylor
Bud & Marsha Beedle
Candle lighters
Haley Haines & Hannah Hummel



KOINONIA

- 1st
8th Sheila Applegate
15th NEED VOLUNTEER
22nd Dick & Louise Merkle
29th Mary Waggoner & Mary Lou Colvin



5:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship Service

- | | Host | Nursery |
|------|------|----------------|
| 1st | | |
| 8th | | NEED VOLUNTEER |
| 15th | | Cyndy Haines |
| 22nd | | NEED VOLUNTEER |
| 29th | | NEED VOLUNTEER |

Sunday School Teachers

- | | Pre K | K-1st | 2nd-4th | 5th-7th |
|------|-------|-------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1st | | | | No Sunday School |
| 8th | | | | Practice for Christmas Program |
| 15th | | | | Practice for Christmas Program |
| 22nd | | | | No Sunday school |
| 29th | | | | No Sunday school |

**Youth Sunday school is in need of
volunteers to teach a class or music.
Please contact the church office if
you are interested in helping!**

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December Calendar of Events

December Daily Reading Guide

Sun, 1st	9:00 a.m. Choir Practice w/cd/no Sunday school 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/1st Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Koinonia 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	1 Matthew 24:29-44 2 Matthew 25:1-13 3 Matthe3 25:31-46 4 Psalm 24 5 Psalm 29 6 Psalm 81 7 Psalm 84 8 Psalm 93
Mon, 2nd	6:30 p.m. Hispanic Team meeting	9 Isaiah 11:1-16
Wed, 4th	6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	10 Isaiah 35:1-10 11 Isaiah 51:1-23 12 Isaiah 52:1-12
Sun, 8th	9:00 a.m. Choir Practice/Sunday school/Women' Study 10:00 a.m. Worship/2nd Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Koinonia 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	13 Isaiah 54:1-17 14 Isaiah 55:1-13 15 Isaiah 60:1-22 16 Isaiah 61:1-11 17 Isaiah 62:1-12 18 Malachi 3:1-12 19 Malachi 3:1-13
Wed, 11th	6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	20 Mark 1:1-13 21 Luke 1:1-25 22 Luke 1:26-56 23 Luke 1:57-80 24 Luke 2:1-20
Sun, 15th	9:00 a.m. Choir Practice/Sunday school/Women' Study 10:00 a.m. Worship/3rd Sunday of Advent/Sunday School Program 11:00 a.m. Koinonia 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible 5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	25 John 1:1-18 26 John 1:19-34 27 Luke 2:21-52 28 Philippians 1:1-30 29 Philippians 2:1-30 30 Philippians 3:1-21 31 Philippians 4:1-23
Thu, 19th	7:00 p.m. Ad Board Meeting?	
Sun, 22nd	9:00 a.m. Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Worship/4th Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Koinonia 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	
Tue, 24th	9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	
Wed, 25th	Office closed for Christmas	
Sun, 29th	No Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Koinonia 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	
Sun. Jan 5th	Un-decorate the tree after church	

Disciple Express

OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Karen Hoff, Pastor
Sheryl Sindt, Secretary

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Address Service Requested

"We invite all persons to be a part of our Community of Faith by participating in worship, education, fellowship and Christian service."

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BIBLE TRIVIA Answers for November

1. John (20:19-21)
2. Dropsy
3. The centurion
4. Isaiah's
5. Into a herd of pigs
6. The healing of the man with the withered hand
7. Not to tell anyone else
8. Nathanael
9. Beelzebub
10. A ghost

BIBLE TRIVIA with hints

1. What was the affliction of the young boy who was throwing himself into the fire? Matthew 17
2. How did Jesus heal the two blind men who asked for his help? Matthew 20
3. Where was Jesus doing his healing work when he caused the chief priests and the scribes to be angry? Matthew 21
4. What miracle in Jesus' life is mentioned most in the New Testament?
5. Where did Jesus heal a man who had been sick for 38 years? John 4
6. What dead man at Troas was raised up by Paul after falling out of a window? Acts 20
7. Whom did Peter heal of long-term palsy? Acts 9
8. Where did Paul exorcise a spirit from a possessed slave girl, whose owners then became furious? Acts 16
9. What woman did Peter raise from the dead? Acts 9
10. Where did Paul heal a crippled man? Acts 14