



DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 23, No 12 December 2014 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:
9:00 Children's Sunday School
9:00 Choir Practice
10:00 Worship
11:00 Koinonia
11:15 Adult Sunday School
5:00 Hispanic Service



What does Christmas mean to You?



What Christmas Means to Me



Christmas Traditions



REMEMBER THE CHILD

WORSHIP With US



Helping the Hurting



Christmas Dinner



"We seek to grow in Christ and to share our love of God in Word and Deed."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Although the secular Christmas season started before Halloween, in the church calendar the season began on November 30, the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. *Advent* derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." During this time, we are called to prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth. We are also called to think about how we are preparing for the time when Christ will come again. While the secular world prepares for our Savior's birth by shopping, wrapping gifts, baking, decorating, attending parties, followers of Jesus Christ are called to more or maybe I should say less –less meaning less time and energy and money spent on things that in the light of eternity do not really matter. More meaning more time spent in preparing our hearts to receive Christ anew. I know we are often times torn between both worlds. Before Jesus was crucified, he prayed for his disciples. He prayed that as they lived in the world, they would not become part of the world. That is our challenge today and every day, but maybe especially at Christmas time. How can we live in this world yet not become a part of it? I think it has a lot to do about keeping our priorities straight. And what are our priorities? According to Jesus they should be – *Loving God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and loving your neighbor as you love yourself.*

As I prepare for the birth of Christ, I would be less than honest if I didn't tell you my preparations will include shopping, wrapping gifts, decorating, maybe some baking, but I don't want to make those activities the focus of the season. While the saying is old and maybe even over used, the saying **Jesus is the Reason for the Season** still holds true. I read a short story years ago titled, *Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?* It was a reminder to me that this season is all about the gift of Jesus to a world desperately in need of love and forgiveness. Whatever our preparations are for this season, may we, *above all*, honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wishing you a Blessed Christ-Filled Christmas Season!

And All God's Children Said,

"Amen."

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Fund Raising

You have probably read or heard the Riverside Pride Committee has been working on a fundraising campaign for the betterment of the new Riverside Sports Complex. The complex will be named **Dr. Charles L. Pigneri Sport Complex**. Donors have the option of having engraved brick pavers placed in the donor display in the Complex. A \$400 donation will buy a 4" x 8" brick with 3 lines for text. At the November Ad Board meeting it was decided to see if there is interest in donating money for a brick from the Oakland United Methodist Church. If you are interested in this project, please send a check to the Oakland UMC with notation *for Brick Order*. Thank you.

Clothing Collection

In response to the extreme recent cold spell and the need for outerwear, especially for those who live on the streets, the Oakland UMC will be collecting new coats/used coats in good condition, as well as gloves and hats. We will also be collecting blankets. Please bring your donations to the church and place in the grocery cart in the entry way. Thank you for reaching out to those in need.

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 21st. Please join us for this special Sunday and bring a friend!

Fitness Program needs volunteers.

The Faith and Fitness After School Program that meets at the school on Friday afternoons is in need of volunteers. Please contact Kristy Rieken for more info.

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Administrative Board Meeting

October 16, 2014

Present: Barb Schorsch, Bernie Bolton, Norma Bolton, Dick Merkle, Louise Merkle, Bud Beedle, Skip Applegate, Lyle Bentley, Pastor Karen Hoff.

After prayer concerns were shared, Pastor Karen led the board in prayer.

Secretary's Report: The report was read. Norma motioned to approve the report. Lyle seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Bud explained Treasurer's Report. Some discussion was held with regard to making the report more user friendly. Lyle motioned to approve. Bernie seconded.

Finance Committee: Pastor Karen reported so far fifty 2015 Giving Cards have been returned. \$11,000 less has been given so far this year compared to this time in 2013.

Trustees Committee: Discussion was held about the roofers redoing some of the work on the church roof because the shingling was done incorrectly. The box on top of the roof that runs the Atomic Clock was broken during the roofing process. A new one was ordered at a cost of around \$250. It was suggested the roofing company should have to pay for that bill. The contractor is unable to locate new siding to match old siding on the parsonage.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Bernie reported that the committee will be meeting before Charge Conference to set the Pastor's salary.

Pastor's Report:

Calendar: Oct. 27- Pastor will attend Day Apart
Oct. 30 – Charge Conference
Nov. 1 – Ingathering
Nov. 2 – All Saints Sunday
Nov. 3 – dCom Interviews
Nov. 17&18 - Vacation

Youth: Oct. 8 – Field Trip to Treynor to hear speaker
Oct. 15 - Worship Service with Communion with Youth

Oct. 22- Field Trip to pumpkin patch/roast hotdogs

Oct. 29- Carve/Paint Pumpkins

Nov. 12- Collect cans in Oakland for RCA Food Pantry

Mission Committee: 60 Layettes were put together. Third Sunday Mission will go towards Texas Border Relief

Nomination Committee: The committee has met and is in the process of calling nominees.

Adult Education Committee: Marriage Workshop will start on Friday, Nov. 7.

Memorial Committee: Lyle reported if anyone is interested in adding three wise men to our existing outside nativity set the cost would be \$1309.

Old Business: None

New Business:

-*The Mission and Ministry Plan for 2015* Charge Conference Form was completed by the board.

-Pastor Karen presented the Resolution on Accountable Reimbursement Plan for 2015. Travel expenses were listed at \$1500 and non-travel reimbursement expenses were listed at \$1200. Dick approved the plan and Skip seconded.

-It was decided to replace the two Oakland UMC Welcome Signs located on highway.

-The RCA Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to help give out food on Saturdays from 1-2pm.

-Trunk or Treat will be held on Main St. on Oct. 26 from 4-5pm.

-Turkey/ham, potatoes, dressing are needed for the RCA Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 23

-There was discussion about having a chili feed/garage sale in the spring

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Norma made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Skip seconded. Barb closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Karen Hoff, Recording Secretary Pro tem

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Pray for Our Military Family

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.

December 2014 School Teachers for Nigeria

With Black Friday, Small/Local Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, **December 2 is GIVING TUESDAY!** This is an opportunity to support Advance Special projects around the world. Global Ministries will again accept gifts over the phone or online starting at 12:01 AM. In 2013 there was an overwhelming response of 6.3 million dollars given in that 24 hour period from over 34 countries and about 11,000 individuals and churches. Go online to www.umcmmission.org/give.

Because we United Methodists in Iowa support the UMC of Nigeria, consider giving on Giving Tuesday. There are other Nigeria Advance Specials as well as a myriad of projects from other countries. These can be found on www.umcmmission.org/advance.

We recommend these Nigerian Advance Specials:

10318B Banyam Theological Seminary Scholarships

3021572 Beverly Nolte Computer Training Institute and Communication Center (BNCC)

An update on the Nigerian students that we support who are studying in Iowa:

At WITCC, Sioux City, Davidson Adams has registered for his last semester at WITCC so will take 15 credit hours. His activities include International Students Association, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and working with the IT department. Here are his words of thanks to United Methodist Church members in Iowa, "I forever remain grateful for my academic support and hope for a better future

and putting a smile of hope on my face in time of need."

At Morningside College, Sioux City, Paul Johnson is taking 14 credits and the class he is most excited to take is a history class on Imperialism and Colonialism. He is involved with Student Government and serves as a Resident Assistant. Paul says, "Thank you to you Iowa United Methodists for the opportunity of this scholarship, I am doing my best to make the most of it and I am having a great experience."

At Simpson College, Indianola, Ishaya David will be a 2nd semester sophomore, serves as a Resident Assistant, is a member of the Student Government and will be traveling some place *warm* with friends during the Christmas break.

At Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe:

Yahuda Zailani completed the research for his dissertation, defended it before his mentors and is busy writing it.

Uzajja Dauda finally got all the paperwork necessary to submit to the Zimbabwe Embassy in order to receive his student permit. With 18 class hours his first semester he has been overwhelmed with research, papers and exams. Thanks to several Iowa donors he was able to purchase a new laptop computer for his studies to receive a Master's Degree.

Both Yahuda and Uzajja will be assigned jobs on campus during the Christmas break. What to get them for Christmas and to help them in 2015? They need funds to purchase toiletries, pay for copying study materials and some warm clothes for the upcoming winter season from May to September.

All gifts for any of these students may be sent through your local church treasurer to the Conference Treasurer marked: INP, #230 and your designation.

At the Beverly Nolte Communication Center in Bambar, Nigeria 34 students were graduated on Nov. 22 after having completed Information Technology courses for either 3, 6, or 9 months. They advance into the the world of employment with their new skills.

Merry Christmas and in Hausa, Barka da Kirsimati!

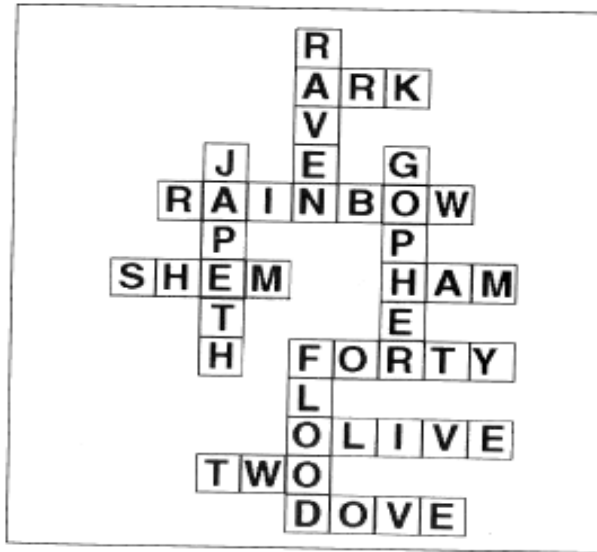
Beverly Nolte <beverly.nolte@gmail.com>

Ecumenical Youth Group News

The youth met on November 5th. We discussed the freedoms we have in this country that other countries do not have, especially the freedom to worship. Trevor Jefferson and Jerry Hoff talked about how they were prepared for the work they had to do as military personnel. We then talked about how, as Christians, we need to be prepared for the work we are called to do. The youth then wrote thank you letters to veterans and those currently serving in the military. The letters were given out to veterans during our November 9 worship service.

On the 12th, the youth went door to door to collect items for the RCA Food Pantry. Many thanks to the drivers who transported the youth: Doc Blanchard, Jerry Hoff, Trevor Jefferson, Debbie Rollins, Tim Petersen, Tim White.

On the 3rd Wednesday, the youth played a fun Thanksgiving Trivia game about turkeys. Following the game, the youth discussed Psalm 111 and the importance of praising God and saying thank you.



Trivia with Clues

1. The only female judge in Israel, she judged the tribes from under a palm tree. Her victory song is famous. *Judges 4:*
2. What widowed prophetess was 84 years old when she saw the young Jesus in the temple? *Luke 2*
3. What wife of David had been married to Nabal, who died when she told him of the gifts she had given to David? *1 Samuel 25:*
4. What elderly cousin of Mary became the mother of John the Baptist? *Luke 1:*
5. What prophetess, active during the reign of Josiah, consoled the king while chastising the people of Judah? *2 Kings 22:*
6. What scheming princess of Tyre married and manipulated the weak Ahab and imposed her pagan religion on Israel? *1 Kings 16:*
7. What Israelite woman aided the people by murdering the Canaanite Captain Sisera in her tent? *Judges 4:*
8. What Jewish girl married a Persian emperor and helped save her exiled people from extermination? *The book after Nehemiah*
9. What two sisters from Bethany had a brother named Lazarus and were close friends of Jesus? *Luke 10 & John 11*
10. What prophetess was the sister of two great leaders and was once afflicted with leprosy for being rebellious? *Exodus 15 & Numbers 12*

From *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia* by
J. Stephen Lang
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Copyright 1988

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NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS

- 7th Lisa Pierson
- 14th Barb Schorsch
- 21st Cyndy Haines
- 28th Kyra Martens



KOINONIA

- 7th Wilson Family
- 14th Gloria Gleaves
- 21st Sunday School Program
- 28th Dick & Louise Merkle



December Sunday School

	Pre K-K	1st-2nd	3-6th	Music
7th	Jodi	Kristy	Susan H.	Sue
14th	Carrie	Jamie	Pam	Sue
21st	PRACTICE FOR PROGRAM			
28th	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL			



USHERS,

GREETERS,

CANDLELIGHTERS

- 7th Bud & Marsha Beedle
Gene & Gloria Gleaves
- Candle lighters
Aiden Bell & Eric Duhachek



- 14th Marvin & Carolyn Clark
Larry & Lucia Kinnison
- Candle lighters
Emma & Aaron Ehmke

- 21st Lyle & Peggy Bentley
Craig & Lisa Hummel
- Candle lighters
Camryn & Allyee Pierson

- 28th Dave & Sheila Applegate
Paul & Debbie Rollins
- Candle lighters
Kyler Rieken & Anna Duhachek



Mark your calendars!

- Sat, 13th 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
- Sun, 21st Christmas Program
- Wed, 24th 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Sun, 28th No Sunday School, Confirmation Class or Choir Practice

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, Neuonia Timberman, Joan Turner, Anita Killion



December Birthdays

12/1 Calvin Duhachek
12/3 Gloria Gleaves
12/3 Donald Applegate
12/3 Lindsey Henderson
12/5 Sonya Kinnison
12/6 Chase Roller
12/7 Christopher Hamilton
12/8 Quintin Forrester
12/10 Joretta Johnson
12/10 Jerry Hoff
12/11 Lauren Anderson
12/12 Bernie Bolton
12/12 Caitlin Wilson
12/13 Mary Galitz
12/13 Kelsey Hackett
12/15 Sean Ehmke
12/16 Austin Wright
12/16 Cale Henry
12/17 Jessica Santiago
12/18 Barbara Schorsch
12/19 Shirley Textor [V]
12/19 Virginia Pitt
12/20 Donna Kelly
12/20 Abigail Taylor
12/21 James Stott
12/21 Kiley Bentley
12/24 Margaret White
12/27 Megan Gleaves
12/28 Bonni Hering
12/28 Tyler Putnam
12/28 Averi Jefferson
12/30 Peggy Bentley
12/30 Tiffany Schutt
12/30 Bergynn Kinnison
12/31 Bobbette Beedle



December Daily Reading Guide

1 Mark 12: 35-44
2 Mark 13: 1-23
3 Mark 13: 24-37
4 Jeremiah 10: 1-16
5 Jeremiah 23; 1-8
6 Nehemiah 8: 1-18
7 Zephaniah 1: 1-18
8 Zephaniah 2: 1-15
9 Zephaniah 3: 1-20
10 Zechariah 1: 1-21
11 Zechariah 2: 1-13
12 Zechariah 9: 9-17
13 Zechariah 10: 1-12
14 Isaiah 35: 1-10
15 Isaiah 56: 1-8
16 Isaiah 57: 1-21
17 Isaiah 0: 1-22
18 Malachi 2: 17—4:6
19 Malachi 3: 13—4:6
20 Micah 5: 2-15
21 Luke 1: 1-25
22 Luke 1: 26-56
23 Luke 1: 57-80
24 Luke 2: 1-20
25 John 1: 1-18
26 John 1: 19-34
27 Luke 2: 21-40
28 Luke 2: 41-52
29 Luke 3: 23-38
30 Psalm 81
31 Psalm 84

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UMC #GivingTuesday Shows the Strength of a Denomination United -

United Methodists once again responded with extravagant generosity on UMC #GivingTuesday. On December 2, 2014, more than \$2.5 million was donated online through The Advance to support mission and ministries around the world.

The denomination's General Board of Global Ministries matched the first \$1 million in gifts to help build excitement and leverage donations.

More than 770 projects and missionaries received more 8,700 gifts through UMC #GivingTuesday. The response was global with donors from 25 countries giving generously. The Advance is the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church.

Noting that donors can partner with Advance projects and missionaries throughout the year, Thomas Kemper, who leads Global Ministries, said, "Having one day when United Methodists from around the world are united around giving shows the strength of the denomination's connection, while strengthening the impact of the gifts to each ministry."

He continued, "Every gift made through The Advance this season makes a difference in the lives of the people they touch."

The projects and missionaries supported through The Advance were key to the success of UMC #GivingTuesday. According to the head of The Advance, Ellen Knudsen, "The relationships our projects have with churches and individuals generated excitement for supporting specific ministries."

This is the second year that The Advance participated in UMC #GivingTuesday, part of a larger international movement that provides an alternative to the shopping traditions following Thanksgiving—Black Friday, Local Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. According to Mashable, the number of nonprofits that received an online donation this year on #GivingTuesday increased 15 percent from 2013, while the total number of transactions was up 50 percent.

The United Methodist Church has become a model for other organizations wanting to participate in the larger #GivingTuesday campaign. Global Ministries was among the partners invited to the White House by the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Partnership on Oct. 6 to promote and support #GivingTuesday. And an article in USA Today highlighted The United Methodist Church among the significant participants, reporting, "Big names—Microsoft to United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and PayPal—got involved this year with promises to match donations."

Denominational agencies such as The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Board of Discipleship, Commission on Religion and Race, and United Methodist Communications united to help promote giving through The Advance on UMC #GivingTuesday.

Emily Miller, Global Ministries' associate general secretary for Communications and Development, said she is thrilled about the creative ways diverse groups participated in #GivingTuesday and about how United Methodist organizations got involved.

"For example," she said, "Cokesbury and the United Methodist Publishing House pledged a portion of the day's sales to Advance projects, and our colleagues at United Methodist Communications helped answer donor questions through Infoserve."

She added, "We know that the giving on December 2 will have a ripple effect throughout the season as people look for ways to stay focused on the spirit of giving."

A full report of projects that were supported and the gifts that Global Ministries matched will be available at www.umcmmission.org on December 15.

- See more at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/learn-about-us/news-and-stories/2014/december/1203umcgivingtuesday#sthash.S1umO12j.dpuf>

College Addresses

If you have a student in college and they do not receive this newsletter, please forward their address to us. We would love to keep in touch.

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"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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New Baby Born

Declan Craig Schueman, born November 26, 2014 to Lauren and Cody Schueman, and joining London and Caelen at home.



See us at:

Web page: www.oaklandiaumc.org
Facebook.com/oakiamethchurch