



# DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 24, No 11 December 2015 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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## Worship Service Time:

**10:00** Worship

**11:00** Koinonia

**11:15 a.m.** Adult Sunday School

## September thru Mothers' Day

**9:00** Children's Sunday School

**9:00** Choir Practice



*Most of us spend our lives seeking our destiny, One man created His own. It began in a manger and led to a cross, and it included us.*

*Come join us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 9:00 p.m.*



*Children's Christmas Program during worship December 20th*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I can hardly believe it is almost December. And we all know what that means- Christmas is rapidly approaching! I have been thinking of the many ways I have prepared for past Christmases. I almost always make lists, lots of lists - list of decorations I need to buy, list of gifts I want to buy, list of food I want to serve, list of food I need to buy, list of cookies, candies and breads I want to bake (note to self \*forget that list, pretty sure that's not going to happen), list of house cleaning jobs I want to get done and the lists go on. To be honest, the older I get, the shorter the lists get. I am not sure what that means, but I think it is probably okay.

This past week as I have been reading the scriptures for the first Sunday in Advent, I have read that we are to be prepared. We are to be prepared for the coming of Christ as a babe in a manger and we are to be prepared for Christ's second coming as King of all creation. Preparing for the first and second coming of our Lord and preparing for the Christmas holiday are not the same. I think I need to make different kinds of lists this December. How about a list of daily scriptures I will read during Advent. How about a list of my many blessings. I could make a list of the ways I can thank God for my many blessings. I could make a list of the people I will send cards to- thanking them for making a positive difference in my life. How about a list of the behaviors I would like to change, such as worrying, being impatient, etc. Then I could make a list of when I will take time out of my day to pray to God to help me worry less, be more patient, etc. What about a list of the nonprofit agencies I could donate to this Advent. Well, you get the idea.

It's fun to shop for gifts and decorate and cook for the holidays, but we cannot forget the One who has made all of life possible for us, the One who loves us beyond measure, the One who died for us, the One who will be with us for always.

Whatever our preparations are for Advent and Christmas, above all else, may "our lists" reflect our love

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and devotion and thankfulness to our Lord and Savior.

Wishing all of you a very Blessed Merry Christmas!

And All God's Children Said,

"Amen."

Pastor Karen

### **Treasure**

Money affects your heart. Whether you are in plenty or in want, money has a direct connection to your stress level, your anxiety, and the health of your relationships. It is no wonder, then, that Jesus talked about the relationship between our treasure and our hearts.

For a four-week period in January, we will look at the many ways that our treasure (time, energy, money) affects our spiritual and emotional lives. Join us in worship starting January 10 as we begin our new sermon series called *Treasure*. We will explore Matthew 6 and Jesus' teachings on money, giving, worry, and more.

At the end of the four weeks, we will have an opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in 2016. We will receive commitment cards in the mail, and cards will be available on Sunday mornings.

We hope that you'll join us as we look at Jesus' teaching on how we can avoid freedom from some of the common pitfalls related to money, and how we can give our lives and our treasure to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen

Stewardship Committee

### **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.

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### Ecumenical Youth Group

On the first Wednesday in November, the youth viewed a video about our Veterans. Following the video, the youth wrote letters to our veterans and people from the area currently serving in the military. The youth participated in a worship service on the evening of Nov. 11. On the third Wednesday, the youth went door-to-door collecting food items for the RCA Food Pantry.

### Helpers Needed

Do you like to organize things and feel good when you put things in order? If this describes you, do we have a job for you. We are looking for a volunteer to help organize the storage cupboards in the Nursery. These cupboards are home to lots of candles, candle holders, and miscellaneous items. We also could use help organizing the church library. If either of these jobs sounds like something you would like to help out with it, please see Sheryl or Pastor Karen.



### Coat Collection

We will be collecting new coats in good condition (all sizes) to be given to those in need. Please place them in the box in the entry way of the church. Thank you!



### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be presented during the 10am worship service on December 20th. Please join us for this special Sunday and bring a friend!

### 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.



### Un-decorate the Sanctuary

We will be un-decorating the Sanctuary on January 10th after Sunday Worship.

### I WISH I HAD....



At this time of year the Christmas catalogues arrive in the mail or with the newspaper that capture the attention of both young and old. Kids say, "I wish I had....(name of toy, book, electronic gadget, etc.) and most likely attentive parents are noting this "wish list."

How about noting a few items on the Nigerians "wish list"? Here's what would make UM church people happy....

- Supplies for a school child or an adult taking literacy class \$2
- A Hausa Bible for a literacy graduate \$8
- A one month stipend for a UMC teacher \$20
- Purchase of fingerlings for the agricultural program \$35
- Provide a micro loan to an EmpowHer woman \$65
- Offer a village woman tuition support to attend the Women's Training Center \$90
- Stock the medicine shelf at one of the church clinics \$110
- Purchase a treadle sewing machine \$125
- Give one free eye surgery at the June UMC Eye Camp \$150
- Assist a seminary student with tuition support to attend BTS Seminary \$300
- Enable the North Conference Internet/Computer School to purchase a new computer \$600
- Purchase a solar refrigerator for the mobile medical clinics \$1,500
- Repair a seminary staff house at Banyam Theological Seminary \$3,000

When you don't know what to get Aunt Velma or Uncle Hiram, pick a gift from the "wish list" and give a gift in their name. Perhaps your Sunday School class, UMM or UMW's group would share in making "wishes" come true. Surprise our Bishop, your District Superintendent or pastor with a gift in their honor! Have fun picking out something to support from this "wish list."

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## NURSERY

### VOLUNTEERS

- 6th Lisa Pierson  
 13th Sheila Applegate  
 20th Cyndy Haines  
 24th VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
 27th Kyra Martens



## USHERS, GREETERS, CANDLELIGHTERS



- 6th Terry & Cyndy Haines  
 Marvin & Carolyn Clark  
*Candle Lighters*  
 Aiden Bell & Bella Gute



- 13th Lyle and Peggy Bentley  
 Craig & Lisa Hummel  
*Candle Lighters*  
 Allyee Pierson & Elly Henderson

- 20th Dave & Sheila Applegate  
 Paul & Debbie Rollins  
*Candle Lighters*  
 Anna Duhachek & Kiley Bentley

### 24th Volunteers needed for Ushers/Greets and Candle Lighters

- 27th Dana & Tami Palmer  
 Terry & Amy Gleaves  
*Candle Lighters*  
 Claire Harris & Emma Ehmke

## KOINONIA

- 6th Dick & Louise  
 13th **NEEDED**  
 20th Sue Duhachek  
 24th Christmas Eve  
 27th **NEEDED**



Coffee Fellowship



Remember those in  
Nursing Homes with  
cards and visits.



- Oakland Manor Margaret Alff  
 Lucille Bentley  
 Erma Cleaveland  
 Joan Turner



- Oakland Heights Janice Harris  
 Neuonia Timberman  
 Anita Killion



## 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.*

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## December Birthdays

12/01 Calvin Duhachek  
12/03 Gloria Gleaves  
12/03 Don Applegate  
12/03 Lindsey Henderson  
12/05 Sonya Kinnison  
12/06 Chase Roller  
12/07 Chris Hamilton  
12/08 Quintin Forrester  
12/10 Joretta Johnson  
12/11 Lauren Anderson  
12/12 Bernie Bolton  
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  
12/20 Donna Kelly  
12/20 Abby Taylor  
12/21 Ross 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

This  
Month's  
Birthdays



## Daily Bible Readings

1 Philippians 1.1-30  
2 Philippians 2.1-30  
3 Philippians 3.1-21  
4 Philippians 4.1-23  
5 Isaiah 40.1-31  
6 Isaiah 41.1-29 (2nd Sunday of Advent)  
7 Isaiah 42.1-25  
8 Isaiah 43.1-28  
9 Isaiah 44.1-28  
10 Isaiah 45.1-25  
11 Isaiah 48.1-22  
12 Isaiah 49.1-26  
13 Jeremiah 23.1-8 (3rd Sunday of Advent)  
14 Jeremiah 31.1-22  
15 Jeremiah 31.23-40  
16 Jeremiah 33.1-26  
17 Malachi 1.1-14  
18 Malachi 2.1-17  
19 Malachi 3.1-18  
20 Malachi 4.1-6 (4th Sunday of Advent)  
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 (Christmas Day)  
26 John 1.19-34  
27 Luke 2.21-52  
28 Luke 3.1-22  
29 Titus 1.1-16  
30 Titus 2.1-15  
31 Titus 3.1-15

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### POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

*Jeep & Ruth Miller.....Paul & Sandy Grant*

*Jim Johnson Family.....Jim Johnson; Harold & Parthena Carley; J.D. & Eleanor McConnell*

*Bobbette Beedle.....Rick Beedle*

*Craig & Lisa Hummel.....Don & Darece Hummel*

*Sandra Bane.....Barry Bane*

*Donna Kelly.....Jodi Grobe, Leo Kelly, Luella & Norman Dreyer, T.J. & Jennie Blevins*

*Dick & Leslie Cleaveland.....Les & Judith Fritz, Marlene Fritz Bentley*

*Terry Haines Family.....Friends and Family*

*Sue & Scott Duhachek Family.....Our Family*

*Harold & LaVinna Blanchard.....Jennie Blanchard, Belle Ruckor, Henry & Jennie Killion*

*Jerry & Karen Hoff.....Rebecca Blake, Earl & LaVina Hoff, Junior & Betty Conklin*

*Sue & Scott Duhachek Family.....Our Family*

*Harold & LaVinna Blanchard.....Jennie Blanchard, Belle Ruckor, Henry & Jennie Killion*

*Schorsch Family.....Skye Schorsch; Carl Schorsch, Patty Marsh, Rick Beedle; John Taylor*

*Ward Young.....Nancy Young*

*Hazel Harvey.....Walter, Phyllis and Wayne Harvey, Robert & Roberta Bingham,*

*Raymond & Hazel Bingham*

*Wife Erma, Son Richard &*

*Wife Leslie & All the Family.....Berwyn Cleaveland - "We Miss You So Much"*

*Richard & Joan Shanno Troy Shanno, John & Virginia Ford, and Past Family Members*

*Jones Family.....Our family and friends; those who are unable to be with their family  
and friends during the holiday season*

*Jerry & Suzanne Pierce.....The Pierce - Campbell - Dobbs & Johnk Families*

*Hilda Beedle.....Perry Beedle*

*Mary Lou Colvin & Family.....Wayne Colvin, Joseph, Robert, & Elva Colvin,*

*Porter Howard & Mary Gibson, Stanley Howard*

### **I wish you enough**

A father and daughter were in their last moments together at the airport.

The airline had announced her departure and standing there near the security gate, they hugged and he said, "I love you and I wish you enough."

She replied, "Dad, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I love you so much...and I wish you enough, too, Dad."

They hugged and held each other tightly and then she turned and left.

The father walked over toward the window to watch his daughter's plane take off. Tears rolled down his cheeks.

Another man had been watching them. The father turned to the man and said, "Did you ever say goodbye to someone knowing that you would not see each other again in this lifetime?"

"Yes, I have," the man said. Please forgive me for asking, but why is this a final goodbye?"

The father answered, "I am old now... not in good health and the real truth is that her next trip back will be for my funeral."

"I'm sorry," said the stranger.

"It's O.K. I have had a wonderful life and it will soon be over for me. But it's been a great ride. God has blessed me and He has always been with me... and he will be with me in the life to come. I have no regrets. I trust God for whatever is ahead."

The other man said, "May I ask you about something? When you were saying goodbye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough.' What does that mean?"

The father smiled and said, "That's a wish that has been handed down for many generations in my family. My parents used to say it to everyone."

When we say, "I wish you enough," we are wanting the other person to have enough good things to sustain them. The wish goes like this:

"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough adversity so the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to be grateful for all you possess.

I wish; you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbyes."

The father looked at the other man and said, "I wish you enough"... and then he turned and walked away.

Because we are Christians, we can be confident because in Christ, God gives us enough... enough strength to keep us going, enough forgiveness to make us a new creation, enough courage to enable us to stand tall when times are tough, enough assurance to convince us that ultimately God wins and He wants to share his victory with us.

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### **Ad Board Meeting October 15, 2015**

**Present:** Barb Schorsch, Skip Applegate, Norma Bolton, Bernie Bolton, Dick Merkle, Louise Merkle, Pastor Karen Hoff

After prayer concerns were shared, Pastor Karen opened with prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** The report was read. Louise motioned to approve. Skip seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was read. Bernie motioned to approve. Skip seconded.

**Finance Committee:** Committee will be meeting to set budget for 2016. The annual Stewardship Program will be held in January.

**Trustees Committee:** The Elevator Planning Committee was not able to present a report this month. If info is ready, the committee will report at the November Ad Board meeting.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Committee will be meeting to set salaries for 2016

#### **Pastor's Report:**

##### **Calendar:**

- Oct. 19 Finance Meeting
- 20 Memorial Committee Meeting
- 22 dCOM Meeting in Atlantic
- 25 Thanksgiving Ingathering Dedication Sunday
- 27 Community Meal
- 29 Nursing Home Service
- Nov. 1 All Saints Service
- 3 Charge Conference in Macedonia
- 7 Thanksgiving Ingathering in Greenfield
- 21-28 Vacation

##### **Youth:**

- Oct. 14 – 38 Youth to Tim's Pumpkin Patch /Hot Dog Roast
- 21 – Field Trip to Treynor
- 28 – Carve/Paint Pumpkins
- Nov. 18-- Collect Items for Food Pantry

**Mission Committee:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Mission Offering will be for the Syrian Refugee Crisis

**Nomination Committee:** The committee is in the process of nominating officers and ministry participants for 2016.

**Adult Education Committee:** Kristy is leading a DVD/Book Study (Blessings) on Wednesday evenings.

**Old Business:** Charge Conference will be Nov. 17 at 7pm at Macedonia UMC. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book is in progress. Barb contacted Olan Mills. They will give copyright release for photos in our directory to be used in 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book.

**New Business:** "Reconciled" were not available on Nov. 22. We will find a Sunday in Jan./Feb. for them to come. Trevor Jefferson was approved by the board to be added to the youth account. It was decided to decorate for Advent following the worship service on Nov. 29. The RCA Thanksgiving Supper/Worship will be on Nov. 22 at 6pm at the Carson Community Building.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Barb closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Karen Hoff, Recording Secretary Pro tem

### **NO ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER.**

**DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL  
FOOD PANTRY. IT MAY NEED RESTOCKING  
AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.**

#### **Shoebox Angels**

If you would like to contribute to the Shoebox Angels, you can send your donation to the Oakland United Methodist Church. Mischa Martens is

busy purchasing and packing the shoeboxes to help children enjoy a little bit of Christmas.





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### **The Best Sermons are Lived Not Preached**

1. Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."

2. Today, I asked my mentor - a very successful business man in his 70s what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."

3. Today, after a 72 hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said, "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center ."

4. Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.

5. Today at 7AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.

6. Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."

7. Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.

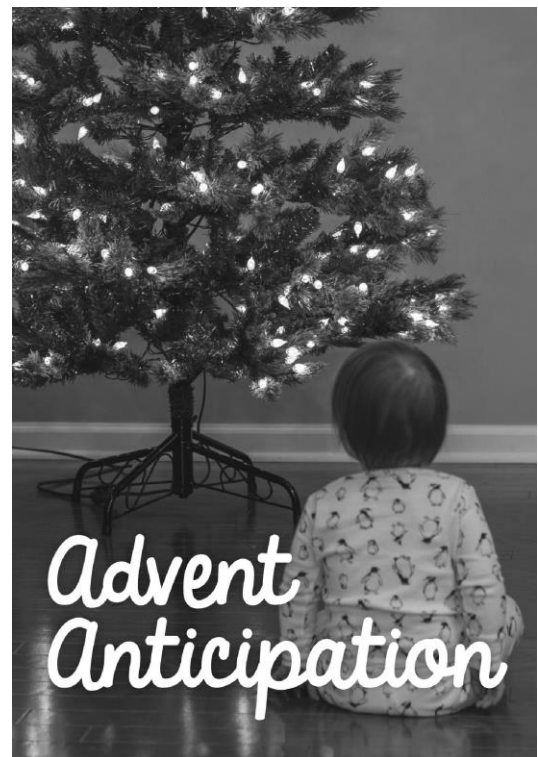
8. Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.

9. Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

10. Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon"

11. Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant. When I got home, I opened an e-mail that said, "Thinking of you today. If you need me, I'm a phone call away." It was from a high school friend I hadn't seen in 10 years.

12. Today, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe . He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share it."



*Prepare for Christmas in your heart and mind. Look forward to the arrival of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that Christ, the new born baby, brought for us at this special time of year.*

# GODLY HUMOR

### THE WATER PISTOL:

(This could go for Christmas presents too!)

WHEN MY THREE-YEAR-OLD SON OPENED THE BIRTHDAY GIFT FROM HIS GRANDMOTHER, HE DISCOVERED A WATER PISTOL...HE SQUEALED WITH DELIGHT AND HEADED FOR THE NEAREST SINK.

I WAS NOT SO PLEASED. I TURNED TO MOM AND SAID, "I'M SURPRISED AT YOU. DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW WE USED TO DRIVE YOU CRAZY WITH WATER GUNS?"

MOM SMILED AND THEN REPLIED...."I REMEMBER!!"

### FIRST TIME USHERS!:

A LITTLE BOY IN CHURCH FOR THE FIRST TIME WATCHED AS THE USHERS PASSED AROUND THE OFFERING PLATES.

WHEN THEY CAME NEAR HIS PEW, THE BOY SAID LOUDLY, "DON'T PAY FOR ME DADDY...I'M UNDER FIVE."

### The Meaning of '12 Days of Christmas'

There is one particular Christmas Carol that has always baffled me.

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.



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Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today.

Now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.

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### **December Calendar of Events**

- Wed, 2nd 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
- Sun, 6th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice/  
Confirmation  
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion  
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Sun, 8th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice/  
Confirmation  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Wed, 9th 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
- Sat, 12th 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Sun, 13th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice/  
Confirmation  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Wed, 16th 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
- Thu, 17th 7:00 p.m. Ad Board Meeting
- Sun, 20th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice/  
Confirmation  
10:00 a.m. Worship/children sing/3rd Sunday  
offering for Sienna Francis House  
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Wed, 23rd NO YOUTH GROUPS
- Tue, 24th 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 24th 25th Church office will be closed
- Wed, 25th NO YOUTH GROUPS
- Sun, 27th 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Koinonia



## Community Meal

### **A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP**

**Bring a friend  
Come join us for a light meal.**

**December 29**

**5:30—6:30 p.m.**

**Last Tuesday of the month**



*Getting to Know You*

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### Stories of United Methodists at Work

#### Child Care Center awarded Native American Sunday special offering

Pastor Audrey Westendorf Young, Chairperson for Mission Education of the Iowa Conference Board of Global Ministries has announced that Grace United Methodist Church in Sioux City has been awarded over \$39,000. Grace UMC houses the Native American Child Care Center. The Native American Sunday collection is received each year as one of the six denominational special offerings. Half the offering has been sent to the GBGM with the other half remaining in Iowa. Here are pictures from the grateful recipients who are now able to serve more Native American children.



According to Beach Husk, director of the Native American Child Care Center,

"The funds have been put to good use helping to purchase a much needed third van. Most children at the center begin and end each day with a van ride. The last few years we have only been able to provide two vans, but with your help this year we are able to provide a third van for the transportation needs of the children not receiving this service." "Because of this," she added, "we have been able to increase our enrollment count and have reached our license capacity! Being able to provide this service the children form close relationships with the Teacher on the van and other children."

An invitation is extended to come to Sioux City to visit the center. "The children love to have visitors," Husk said. "They are glad to show you what they do in their school day." - See more at:

<http://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/2369868#sthash.RhpluNGn.dpuf>

### Wednesday's Kids

Wednesday's Kids is a bimonthly outreach of the United Congregational Methodist Church to the children of Lewis, Iowa. Their ministry was supported in part with a Matthew 25 grant from the Southwest District, which is funded with apportionment gifts from the United Methodist churches of Iowa.

The mission of the United Congregational Methodist Church is "to bring people to a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and to equip them in the Holy Spirit for a life of love and service to God and humanity."

Wednesday's Kids accomplishes this purpose through their activities during the school year on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

The congregation was created when the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church in Lewis joined together in the 1960s. They continue to have an impact on the lives of families in their community as they have for more than a century.

The Congregational strand of the church is highlighted in the history of the City of Lewis:

*The Rev. George Hitchcock, Congregational minister, built his red sandstone house in 1856 on a hill about 1 mile west of Lewis. Now designated a national landmark, Hitchcock House had a secret room in the basement used by the Underground Railroad. It has become a widely known tourist destination.*



**December Trivia with Hints**

1. Who suggested that stones could be turned to bread? (Luke 4)
2. Who used a stone for a pillow? (Genesis 28)
3. What enemies of Joshua were pelted by stones from the Lord? (Joshua)
4. In what humiliating way was Abimelech murdered? (Judges 9)
5. Who had a vision of an angel casting an enormous stone into the sea? (Revelation 2)
6. Who erected a large pillar of stone and called it Ebenezer? (1 Samuel 7)
7. What shepherd boy went into battle with a bag of stones? (1 Samuel 17)
8. Who built an altar of stone that was consumed by fire from heaven? (1 Kings 18)
9. What patriarch and his father-in-law heaped up stones as a sign of their covenant together? (Genesis 31)
10. Who sat on a stone while the Amalekites fought the Israelites? (Exodus 17)

From *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia* by J. Stephen Lang  
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**November Trivia Answers**

1. Who came to Peter late at night and released him from prison? (Acts 12: 6-17) *An angel*
2. Who had a late night visit from an angel, who assured him that he would be safe aboard a storm-tossed ship? (Acts 27: 23-24) *Paul*
3. Who led some officers of the chief priests to a late night call on Jesus? (John 18: 3, 12) *Judas*
4. What Pharisee came to Jesus late at night? (John 3: 1-2) *Nicodemus*
5. Who met a man who engaged in an all-night wrestling match? (Genesis 32: 22-31) *Jacob*
6. Who came through Egypt on a late-night visit to almost every household? (Genesis 32: 22-31) *The angel of death*
7. Where did shepherds receive angels as late visitors? (Luke 2: 8-16) *Near Bethlehem*
8. Who took Saul's spear after sneaking into his camp late one night? (1 Samuel 26: 7-12) *David and Abishai*
9. Who visited a medium at night? (1 Samuel 28: 8) *Saul*
10. Who attached a Midianite camp late at night? (Judges 7: 19) *Gideon and his men*



"What a morning! The angels were devils and the wisemen were wise guys."



"Guess who got voted to be a sheep in the Sunday school program for the fifth year in a row?!"



"Because they didn't have e-mail then. That's why God sent an angel to proclaim the baby's birth."

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### THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS

#### Stain Glass Windows

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Life portrayed in five panels

Nativity – manger with Chi Rho the oldest monogram used in reference to Christ. The word "Christ" spelled in ancient Greek capital letters took the form XPICTOC. The whole word is represented by the first two letters XP.

Scripture Luke 2:7



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