



MACON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER

208 Pearl Street ♦ Macon, Missouri 63552-1516 ♦ 660-385-2156 ♦ Web Site: www.maconumc.org

November 30, 2011 Monthly Newsletter

*Our Mission --
The Mission of the Macon
United Methodist Church is
to share the love of Christ.*

WORSHIP SERVICES

*We offer two worship
opportunities on Sunday.
Each service has its own
special character.*

Traditional
at 8:45 a.m. in the
Sanctuary...is a full
traditional service using
hymns and liturgy.

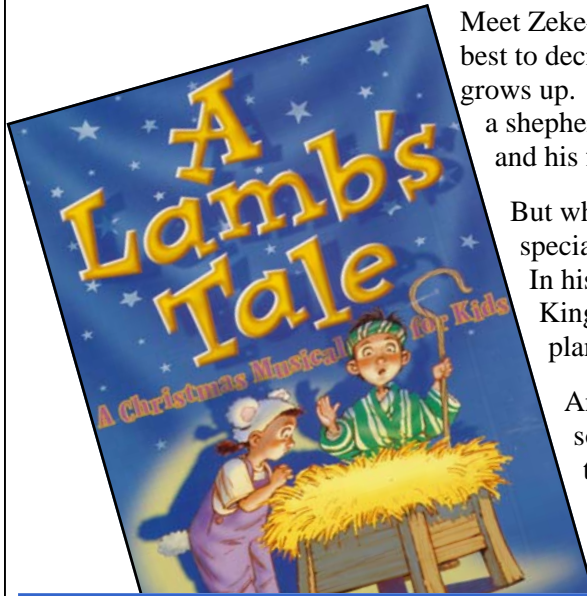
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 a.m. Elementary Music
in the Education Wing
9:45 - 10:35 a.m. Sunday
School for all Ages

Contemporary
at 10:45 a.m. in the
Multi-Purpose Room....is a
contemporary service where
praise songs are led by the Up
lifters praise band and singers.
Multimedia supports the
entire service. Children's
Church is available for
children ages 4 through third
grade during the sermon.

Evening Worship
at 6:00 p.m. in the
Sanctuary

*Every 5th Sunday
is a Unity Service
at 9:30 a.m.*

CAMPER'S FUNDRAISING MEAL & CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



Meet Zeke—a young Bethlehem boy trying his best to decide what he wants to be when he grows up. He seems sadly destined to be a shepherd just like his father, and his father's father, and.....

But what a change occurs when Zeke's special little lamb, Snowflake, gets lost. In his search, Zeke discovers a newborn King and the joy of fitting into God's plan for his life.

An imaginative script weaves together some charming new songs featuring a taste of jazz, Broadway show tunes, and a little 50's rock and roll. Most of all, it's fun and promises to deliver a lasting impression.

Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m.

in the Multi-Purpose Room

Musical immediately following meal.

*Menu: Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Green Beans,
Fruit Cocktail and Dessert*

The fundraising meal will be a free-will offering, which will help families with the out-of-pocket expenses for summer church camps!

**(PLEASE SIGNUP ON SUNDAY MORNING ATTENDANCE SHEET
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 385-2156.)**

ALL BOW DOWN

*A Praise and Worship
Christmas Concert presented by
the Uplifters Praise Band*



**Sunday, December 18
at 2:00 p.m.**

Multipurpose Building
*coffee and cookie reception
following the concert*

Sunday, December 18 Worship Services

Traditional Service - 8:45 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Contemporary Service - 10:45 a.m. (Multi-Purpose)
*with the Uplifters. Special Christmas Performances
by the Praise Dancers during both daytime services*
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

*We invite you and yours to celebrate
the birth of Jesus Christ with us*

Christmas Eve & Christmas Worship

Sat., December 24 - 5:00 p.m.
Worship, Carols, Candlelight
and Communion
in the Sanctuary

Sun., December 25 - 8:45 a.m.
Traditional Service
in the Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. Contemp. Service
*in the Multipurpose Building
with the Uplifters*

No Sunday Evening Service

Pastor's Column

Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving holiday began, and was continued, as a time to give thanks to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon our country and its individual citizens. Most presidents in their Thanksgiving Day proclamation clearly declare that the day is set aside to give thanks to God for the blessings He has given to us. One example of this is George Bush's Thanksgiving Day proclamation of 1990... "Now, therefore, I, George Bush, president of the United States of America, do hereby call upon the American people to observe Thursday, November 22, 1990, as a National Day of Thanksgiving and to gather together in homes and places of worship on that day of thanks to affirm by their prayers and their gratitude the many blessings God has bestowed upon us."

I would like to issue a Pastoral Call to all to give thanks to God for the blessings you have enjoyed in 2011. Then consider what or how you might commit to God as a vow of Thankfulness.

Pastor Julius

Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will be meeting Sunday, December 4th at 7:15 a.m. in the multi-purpose building for breakfast.

"Hanging of the Greens"

The "Hanging of the Greens" Service will be held Sunday, December 4th at the 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are needed to make our sanctuary more lovely for the Christmas season. They can be placed in memory of or in honor of someone. Orders may be placed by calling the church office at 385-2156 or by completing the poinsettia card inserted in your bulletin and include your payment.

Cookie Donations Needed

Cookie donations are needed for the Uplifters Christmas Concert on December 18th. Please indicate on the Sunday morning attendance sheet how many you can donate.

Advent Tea Invitation

The women and young ladies of our church are cordially invited to attend the thirtieth annual Advent Tea at the United Church of New Cambria on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m. The tables may be viewed in the fellowship hall anytime after 1:30 p.m. May the peace and joy of this holy season be with you, now and always.

Gift of Presence

The "Gift of Presence" Support Group will meet Monday, December 5th and Monday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Praise Dance Ministry

The Praise Dancers will be ministering Sunday, December 18th at both the 8:45 a.m. and the 10:45 a.m. services.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Stacy Cason | 19 Shay DeLarm Jr., Justin Kelly and Valerie Schmidt |
| 2 Hadley Grimm and Ryan Mathes | 20 Jon Butner |
| 5 Linda Miller and Rick & Karma Tucker Anniv. | 21 Ben Coleman and Jon & JoVaughn Kelly Anniv. |
| 7 Gideon Kauffman and Bobbi Lucas | 22 Becky DeSpain, Abriella Ingles, Bobby Truitt, Callie Webster and Ben & Nancy Coleman Anniv. |
| 8 Loni Truitt and Kari Truitt | 23 Katie Hackman |
| 9 Scott Schnell | 24 Alan Schlanker and Bucky & Patty Dunn Anniv. |
| 11 Jenny Gabriel, Brenda Ronchetto and Rachael Tucker | 26 Stephanie Huntsman and Jacob Nelson |
| 12 Roscoe Rucker Jr., Grace Smith and Evelyn Wellborn | 28 Jacob Bettes |
| 14 Dan Bramer | 29 Luella Brown |
| 15 Todd Dunn and Allen Murphy | 30 Sarah Middleton |
| 16 Jennifer Dixon, Leslie Muncy and Roscoe & Michelle Rucker Anniv. | 31 Bill Clapper, Cecelia Rucker and Dale & JoAnn Dille Anniv. |
| 17 Trever Peyton | |
| 18 Allison Simons and Kaden Truitt | |

Children & Youth Team Meeting

The Children & Youth Team will meet Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Uplifters Christmas Concert

The Uplifters will present a Christmas Concert titled "We Bow Down" on Sunday, December 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Building. A reception immediately following the concert. Everyone is invited!

Commodities Distribution

Commodities Distribution will be held Tuesday, December 20th from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers needed!

Ad Council Meeting

Ad Council will meet Wednesday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Christmas Eve Service

A Candlelight, Communion Worship Service will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Day Sunday Service Schedule

8:45 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. Worship in the Multi-Purpose Room

(There will be Children's Church during the 10:45 a.m. Service)

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

NO YOUTH GROUP

NO 6:00 p.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd to observe the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

Festival of Sharing Update

Friends, Thank you for your help in making this another successful year for Festival of Sharing. Over \$600,000 in kits/packs were distributed in Missouri and around the world. 37,500 pounds of rice and 20,000 pounds of beans were given to agencies around Missouri. That's the good news, unfortunately due to increased demand and higher prices there are shortfalls. The beans/rice fund is \$8500 in the red and there were not enough Family Food Packs to meet demand. As you wrap up your giving for 2011 consider a gift to FOS's beans/rice fund and as you prepare for next year's in-gathering consider an emphasis on Family Food Packs. Yours in Christ, John Akins

Project Patricia

Having adequate period protection is something women in America rarely have to think about. We recognize that many girls and women in less fortunate countries have nothing to use during "that time of the month." Often times, school-age girls are confined to their beds for that week, missing so much school they are either unable to graduate, or eventually drop out of school. We find it tragic that something God created to be beautiful could be so hopelessly embarrassing for some.

Project Patricia sews cloth washable, reusable maxi pads for women and girls of menstruating age in African countries. Each woman and girl receives a kit containing five pads and a waterproof storage bag. Project Patricia works with individual missionaries and mission groups to carry and distribute the kits. Project Patricia also partners with Hands on Africa to distribute kits.

How is the Gospel shared through Project Patricia? Meeting the physical needs of women and girls in Africa opens a door for meeting their spiritual needs. Each kit contains a bookmark in an African dialect or in English, setting forth the Gospel in a clear and concise manner. Distributing kits opens doors for missionaries to share the Gospel. Distributing cloth pads also provides a platform to teach women and girls about personal hygiene and God's plan for sexual purity.

Material donations: Gently used towels and/or sheets, and fabric remnants of cotton or flannel. Monetary donations are tax-deductible, made payable "The Master's Community Church" and sent to 2548 S. 42nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66106. Please put "Project Patricia" on the memo line. For more information, please e-mail projectpatricia@yahoo.com. Serving Saturday on September 10th, 807 pads were made and another 875 were made by the Serving Saturday crew at home. Website address: projectpatricia.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pauline Baird (*lymphoma*)

Kaitlyn Behan (*Dorothy Krue's granddaughter, stomach problems*)

Dr. Albin Covington (*relative of Sue Wynne, hip replacement surgery*)

Lewis (Bud) Grahm (*Sarah Grinder's brother, health issues*)

Dale Hartman (*in hospital with serious injuries from a truck wreck*)

Nation of Israel

Those in Joplin, MO

Dorothy Krue (*health issues*)

Law Enforcement

Hubert Moehle (*home recovering from surgery*)

All our Military

Those in Prison

Velma Vivian (*Kathy Vivian's mother-in-law, inoperable heart condition*)

Evelyn Wellborn (*in Boone Hospital with health issues*)

Women of Faith



Women of Faith is an interdenominational faith based women's organization encouraging women of all ages and stages in life to grow in faith and spiritual maturity through a relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of God's love and grace.

The theme of this year's conferences was OVER THE TOP, and 24 ladies from Macon traveled to Kansas City, MO earlier this month to share, along with 6,000 other ladies, the experience of attending a Women of Faith conference. We were blessed with the music of Sandi Patty, Amy Grant, and others; inspired by personal stories from Patsy Clairmont, Brenda Warner (Kurt Warner's wife), Lisa Whelchel (Blair of TV's Fact of Life series), and others of how God had intervened in their lives to bring healing, wholeness, and a deeper level of faith and commitment. We also enjoyed the wit and wisdom of author, Andy Andrews.

Besides the joys of the conference, the bond of love and friendship among the 24 who attended from our church grew stronger as they worshiped, fellowshiped, road the bus, and shared in a pajama party together.

The theme of next year's Women of Faith conferences is CELEBRATE 2012. If you register early (December 31, 2011), you will be entered in a drawing for a free Celebrate 2012 ticket, as well as other drawings for prizes. For details on how to register early to be a part of the early bird incentive program, talk to Carolyn Ketsenburg.

Join us as we share in the Women of Faith conference November 2nd - 3rd, 2012 in Kansas City, MO and discover the joys hiding in plain sight, even in the midst of challenges. Right here, right now, there are reasons to CELEBRATE.

Sunday Evening Service

Our new Evening Worship service got off to a great start November 6th, with about 38 present. The average for November is about 30. This is a relaxed service with music and an interactive message, typically using the Scripture used in the Morning Services. It is a fast paced time that's over before you know it. So if you miss Sunday Morning, or just want something a little different give Sunday Evening at 6:00 PM a try. The service is still in flux, so we'll see what God has planned. Come join us!

NOTES OF SHARING

A big thank you to Pastor Julius and all my church family for your prayers, cards, concern during the time I was in the hospital, then getting healthy enough to have my surgery and during my recovery. I finally had my gall bladder surgery on Friday, November 18th and doing great! God bless each of you.
Sharon Hackman

Rev. Julius Ketsenburg and friends from the church people,

I want to thank all of you for all your thoughts and prayers for Linda and me. It is much appreciated. Thank you again.
P.S. I am getting better by the day.
Carolyn Smith

Thank you to each and every one for the prayers offered in my behalf. It means a lot to know others are thinking of you. The surgery was a surprise, but I think it all went well. Feel a bit better each day. Hope to improve a little every day. Thanks so much for your concern.
Ruth Murphy

Thank you so much for all your prayers. It is greatly appreciated. Jacob James is the greatest blessing from God.

God Bless, Jeff, Tammy & Jacob Osborn, Pleasant Hill, MO

THANK YOU from the Serving Team to EVERYONE who helped with the Rummage Sale (donations, too) and too all the "Gardening Angels" who helped with the Loch Haven Special Care Garden. Your help is very much appreciated. "...and I will show you my faith by what I do." (James 2:18)

Kid stuff

By Rhonda Linsley

Rhonda's Ministry Vision and Mission Statement

From the LLD class that several of us participated in and from the promptings of Pastor Julius, I have implemented the following vision and mission statement for the children's ministry.

Ministry Vision

To be the best Director of Children's Ministry that I can be and to live a life that reflects my love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ministry Mission Statement

To teach the children to love God, love others and share that love to the world. To teach the children to memorize scripture that will affect the way they live their lives.

Sunday School Classroom Change

The 1st- 2nd Grade and 3rd - 5th Grade classes have switched classrooms to give our 1st and 2nd graders more room.

Sunday School Teachers for the Winter Quarter

The fall quarter will end November 27. The next quarter will be December 4 - February 26. We have teachers assigned for the winter quarter in each of our classrooms. Join me in thanking those who have so eagerly stepped forward to provide this service to our church.

Agnes 4 & 5 – Kindergarten – Matt Kauffman

Grades 1st-2nd – Judy Headley & Rhonda Linsley

Grades 3rd-5th – Shane & Jacque Truitt

K-5 Alive



The kids from our Wednesday After-school program are having a wonderful time with our Fitness Camp curriculum. We have averaged 21 children for the first six weeks of the program. These kids have done a wonderful job in memorizing their first Bible verse from *1 Corinthians 10:31*. We are now working on the second one from *1 Corinthians 3:16*. Per my ministry mission statement for the Children's programs, I'm working hard to implement memory versus for each of our programs. I do welcome insight from those much wiser than myself for memorization techniques or tools.

- "Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (*1 Corinthians 10:31*)
- "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (*1 Corinthians 3:16*)
- "When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this

kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

- "Be very careful then how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." (*Ephesians 5:15-17*)
- "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (*James 4:7*)

We had our first monthly mission for the Food Pantry on November 9. We double bagged plastic bags, folded them and filled two laundry baskets. The Food Pantry uses these for the hundreds of people that visit the food pantry each month. The K-5 Alive children will try to do this one Wednesday each month during the seven-month program. We will do this at the church rather than going down to the food pantry, as we need table space to do this. **If anyone would like to help collect plastic bags for this mission project, please leave your bags at Rhonda's office door.** She has a large box in her office for the collection.



Hanging of the Greens

The Advent Season program where we decorate the sanctuary has been set for December 4 in the 8:45 worship service for children in Preschool through high school. Our readers for this program are Kaitlyn Baker, Rheeann Linsley, McKenna Nelson and CeCe Rucker. In the 10:45 service, the children will sing “Silent Night” while they hang decorations on the multi-purpose room Christmas tree. We will do this immediately following Children’s Sermon.

Christmas Musical “A Lamb’s Tale”

The elementary and middle school kids will put on a Christmas musical Wednesday, Dec. 14. The evening will start off with a campers fundraising meal at 5:30, followed by the 40-minute musical. The menu will be meatloaf, baked potato, green beans, fruit cocktail and desserts. We are asking for volunteers to sign up to bring a dessert of their choice on the attendance clip boards Dec. 4 and 11. We also will be asking church members to let us know how many from their families will be in attendance for this meal through the Sunday morning attendance clip boards on Dec 4 and 11. The fundraising meal will be a free-will offering, which will help families with the out-of-pocket expenses for summer church camps.

Rhonda Smith is directing the musical, with the help of K-5 Alive Staff and Volunteers.

Remaining practices are scheduled for everyone as follows, with the exception of Dec. 4:

- Wed., Nov. 30, 4-5 pm. (during K-5 Alive)
- Sun., Dec. 4 (**just the speaking parts**), 3:45-4:45 pm.
- Wed., Dec. 7, 4-5 pm. (during K-5 Alive)
- Sun., Dec. 11 (dress rehearsal for everyone), 2:45-4:30 pm.
- Wed., Dec. 14, 4-5:30 pm. (during K-5 Alive)

The children with speaking parts are: Allyson Bramer, Audree & Gracee Butner, Cheynne & Paige Morrison, Evie & Jacob Nelson, Garrett Olson, Kattie & Trever Peyton and Rayce Truitt.

1st Quarter Attendance Awards

Sunday School attendance awards for the months of September, October and November will be presented during the 10:45 service, December 11. The students receiving awards are: Lindsay Burdin, Joe and Stella Burks, Lauren Burdin, Sofia Burks, Audree, Gracee, Levi and Will Butner, Elise Nelson, Kaden Truitt, Emilee Butner, Evie and Jacob Nelson, Rayce Truitt, Allyson Bramer, Seth Butner and McKenna Nelson.

Important Dates to Remember in Children’s Ministry:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Dec 4 | Hanging of the Greens Program in 8:45 service and hanging of the ornaments on the Christmas tree in the 10:45 service. |
| Dec 14 | 5:30 Campers Fundraising meal, followed by “A Lamb’s Tale” Christmas Musical. |
| Dec 18 | Praise Dancers in both 8:45 and 10:45 services. |



M.U.M.Y. CONNECTION

By Karen Butner



Youth Service Project

The Youth baked 6 dozen chocolate chip cookies to donate to the Fuller family in Macon's Adoption Fundraiser. The Fullers are adopting a 4 year old boy from the Congo in Africa and are raising funds for their agency fees and travel expenses. This is a very real, hands on way for our youth to carry out the command in James 1:27 "Pure and undefiled religion is this, to care for orphans and widows in their distress...." We ask that you keep the Fuller family in your prayers as they continue their journey to bring one of God's treasures home to their forever family.

Dare 2 Share Game Day!

Dare 2 Share is a two day evangelism training for youth in St. Louis MO.

- Friday March 16 & Saturday March 17, 2012
(We will leave right after school on Friday & return late Saturday)
- **Early bird registration dead line is SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th!!!**
- Early bird registration fee is \$10 with the remainder due by February 1st. Event tickets are \$44 each. The Children & Youth Team are allowing each student who registers by the early bird deadline to earn points toward their event ticket. Each discipleship class (Sunday School, Youth Group or Bible Study) or church service project they participate in can earn them a point. With regular attendance & service project volunteering, each student could earn their trip for as little as the \$10 early bird registration!!
- Cost for the event after the early bird registration deadline increases to \$69 per person. The Dare 2 Share event early bird registration price is \$44, but the fee raises to \$69 as the event gets closer.

Christmas Dinner with the Grant's

The youth are invited to eat at China Garden on Sunday, December 11th. Please meet at the church at 4:45 p.m. We will eat at China Garden & return by 6:00 p.m. for parents to pick-up.

"Thanksgiving Pie"

(Elsie Atkinson)

2 c. of counting your blessings: Thank God
1 1/2 c. of correcting your mistakes, good or bad
1 1/2 c. of forgiveness
1/3 c. laughter
1 c. saying one kind word of others, little or big

2 1/2 c. prayer each day
5 c. of God's word, teach daily
5 1/2 c. service for God, church, country
2 tsp. of smiles for seasoning
1/3 tsp. of a tear

Attendance and Offering Summary

Weekly Average for Sept.	2010	2011	Year To Date Average	2010	2011
Worship Attendance	200	222	Worship Attendance	199	196
Sunday School	70	72	Sunday School	57	69
Offering	\$5,915.59	\$5,566.99	Offering	\$5,312.47	\$5,376.29



Congratulations!

Evan Peter Burdin was baptized Sunday, November 27th. Evan is the son of Scott & Julie Burdin.

Emergency Food Pantry Items Needed!

The Emergency Food Pantry is in need of Cereal, spaghetti & spaghetti sauce, sugar, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste and lotions. Monetary donations are also being taken to help with the processing fee for donated meat and to help purchase food that is needed for the pantry.

Macon UMC Staff: Julius Ketsenburg, Pastor; Dawn Masten, Administrative Assistant; Rhonda Linsley, Director of Children's Ministries; Karen Butner, Director of Youth Ministries; Beth Dixon, Organist; Annie Faught, Toddler Room Attendant Jeani Hall, Nursery.

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
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Macon, MO

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208 Pearl Street
Macon, MO 63552-1516
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