



MACON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER

208 Pearl Street ♦ Macon, Missouri 63552-1516 ♦ 660-385-2156 ♦ Web Site: www.maconumc.org
December 3, 2010 Monthly Newsletter

Our Mission --

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

Worship Services

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

Early

at 8:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary...is a simplified informal worship service for those who like to gather early on Sunday morning.

Contemporary

at 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room....is a contemporary service where praise songs are led by the Uplifters praise band and singers. Multimedia supports the entire service. Children's Church is available for children ages 4 through fourth grade during the sermon.

Traditional

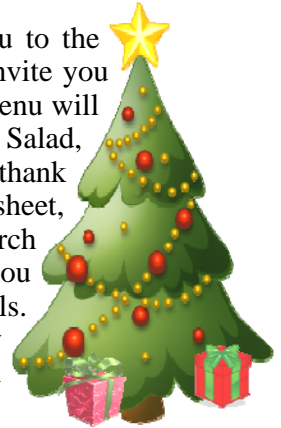
at 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary...is a full traditional service using hymns and liturgy.

Sunday School

**9:30 a.m. Cornerstone
Adult Sunday School Class
10:50 a.m. Sunday School
for all Ages**

Wednesday Evening Food & Fellowship

Pastor Julius and Carolyn would like to say thank you to the Macon UMC for your service to our God. We therefore invite you to a meal on Wednesday, December 8th at 5:30 p.m. Our menu will consist of: Pork Tenderloin, Hash Brown Casserole, Corn, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Drinks. We'll provide everything as a thank you to each of you. We do ask that you PLEASE sign the sheet, so we have an accurate count. You may also call the church office @ 385-2156 to sign up. We look forward to seeing you there. The children will be sharing their talents with the bells. Dawn will have a Holyland Gifts booth for everyone to buy their Christmas gifts. Everyone is invited to drop by and see the newly renovated offices!



Merry Christmas



GOD COMING DOWN *A Praise and Worship Christmas Cantata*

*by the Uplifters Praise Band
of the Macon United Methodist Church
& the First Christian Church Choir
of the Macon First Christian Church*

Musical Inspiration for the Christmas Season

Sunday, December 19th

2:00 p.m. - Macon First Christian Church
806 E. Briggs Drive

7:00 p.m. - Macon United Methodist Church
208 Pearl Street

(coffee and cookie reception following each concert)



Macon United Methodist Church Christmas Eve Worship Service

All Are Welcome - Please Join Us

Friday, December 24

5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Worship, Carols,

Candlelight and Communion

(fellowship and refreshments between services)

Pastor's Column

Christmas is a time of giving. I suppose that means Christmas is a time of shopping. Ever since the wise men from the east showed up at the stable carrying gold, frankincense, and myrrh, people have been exchanging gifts at Christmas. Of course, it's much more complicated today than it was for the wise men. For one thing, they didn't have to contend with shopping malls, black Friday, hundreds of shoppers going from store to store to store, desperately searching for a latest gift. The magi didn't have to worry about sizes, or colors, or return policies. There were no razor scooters in those days, electronics, and definitely no robot dogs. Just plain old gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Well, this year, just like every year, millions of people, both children and adults, will open millions of gifts. Some won't fit. Some will be the wrong color. Many will be returned or exchanged. But there's one gift that meets everyone's need, one gift that will never wear out, never break or need repairing. A gift that is appropriate for a small child, or a teenager, or an adult, or a senior adult. Boy or girl, man or woman, it makes no difference. The gift we all need, the most valuable gift of all, is that baby in the manger. The one that this whole season is about. On Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God gave us the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, so that through faith in Him we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NIV)

Pastor Julius

Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will be meeting Sunday, December 5th at 7:15 a.m. in the multi-purpose building for breakfast.

Advent Tea

The women and young ladies of our church are cordially invited to attend the twenty-ninth annual Advent Tea at the United Church of New Cambria on Sunday, December 5th at 2:00 p.m. The tables may be viewed in the fellowship hall anytime after 1:30 p.m.

Gift of Presence

The "Gift of Presence" Loss study will meet Monday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Serving Team Meeting

The Serving Team will meet Monday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center.

Staff/Parish Committee Meeting

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet Wednesday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.

Ad Council

Ad Council will meet Wednesday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cornerstone Conference Room.

Commodities Distribution

Commodities Distribution will be held Tuesday, December 21st from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers needed!

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Stacy Cason | 19 Justin Kelly, Tanner Riddles and Valerie Schmidt |
| 2 Hadley Grimm and Ryan Mathes | 20 Kerry Bruno and Jon Butner |
| 5 Linda Miller and Rick & Karma Tucker Anniv. | 21 Ben Coleman and Jon & JoVaughn Kelly Anniv. |
| 7 Bobbi Lucas | 22 Becky DeSpain, Mark Mendenhall,
Bobby Truitt, Callie Webster and
Ben & Nancy Coleman Anniv. |
| 8 Loni Truitt, Kari Truitt | 23 Katie Hackman |
| 9 Scott Schnell | 24 Alan Schlanker and Hugh & Patty Dunn, Jr. Anniv. |
| 11 Jenny Gabriel, Brenda Ronchetto and Rachael Tucker | 25 Chase Marshall |
| 12 Roscoe Rucker, Grace Smith,
John Sutton and Evelyn Wellborn | 26 Stephanie Huntsman and Jacob Nelson |
| 14 Dan Bramer | 28 Jacob Bettes and Kathy Slover |
| 15 Todd Dunn & Allen Murphy | 29 Luella Brown and Megan Johnston |
| 16 Jennifer Dixon, Leslie Muncy and
Roscoe & Michelle Rucker Anniv. | 30 Mara Hamilton, Sara Middleton and Carol Sutton |
| 17 Trever Peyton | 31 Bill Clapper, Cece Rucker, Sherry Wiggans
and Dale & JoAnn Dille Anniv. |
| 18 Ronald Perkins, Allison Simons and Kaden Truitt | |

Soup & Sandwich Meal

A Soup and Sandwich Meal, prepared by Alan Spencer, will be held Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 12:00 noon in the Multi-Purpose Room. A brief program by the state president of PAUMCS, Barbara Buck, will be given immediately following the meal. Free will donation. Funds to be used for a PAUMCS Conference that Dawn will attend to better equip her for her duties.

Thanksgiving Meal Was a Delight

There was a good turn-out for our Wednesday Thanksgiving meal on November 10. The Nelson children shared their vocal talents and Kattie Peyton read a beautiful prayer. Those present to celebrate their November birthdays were: Sandy Sunderland, Kathy Vivian, Tammie Peyton, Jamie Kauffman, Peg Dunn, Lindsay & Lauren Burdin and Zachary Faught.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Gayle Barton (*friend of Dawn Masten, in Rusk crippled from waist down due to cancer*)

Father of Sandy Coons (*inoperable cancer*)

Dale Dille (*in Boone Hospital for tests*)

Dan Kealey (*health issues*)

Military separated from their families

Law Enforcement

Larry Lloyd (*foot surgery*)

Nancy Miller (*home recuperating*)

Roy Myers (*JoVaughn Kelly's uncle, health issues*)

Those in Prison

Jo Schnell (*LBD*), Scott Schnell (*caregiver*)

Janina Snell (*Megan Pollard's mother, cancer*)

Linda Tuttle (*friend of Brenda Cole, health issues*)

Evelyn Wellborn (*struggling with Bell's Palsy*)

Sherry Wiggins (*heart by-pass surgery*)

NOTES OF SHARING

I just wanted to thank you again for the opportunity to have a CMU Day at Macon UMC! President Inman, David Inman, Lacey Eaton and I enjoyed our experience with your congregation on Sunday very much. We enjoyed meeting your folks and participating in and leading worship. Your folks were friendly and hospitable toward us and made sure that we found our way around the church, which is quite lovely. I especially appreciated the help of your administrative assistant, Dawn Masten, this past couple of weeks, and also appreciated Roscoe Rucker's leadership and hospitality.

Michael D. Pope, Central Methodist University

Kidstuff

By Rhonda Linsley

Hanging of the Greens Program

November 21st, the preschool through high school children adorned our Multi-Purpose Room and the Sanctuary with decorations and greenery for the Christmas season. During the children's sermon in the 9:30 service, the children proceeded through the aisles and hung decorations on the tree while singing "Silent Night" with the congregation. In the 10:50 service, we did our annual Hanging of the Greens program where we started with a delightful procession of ornaments placed on the sanctuary tree. Then the youth kids read about the beauty of the Christmas Season. As they explained what each symbol represents, the elementary children carried in the greenery, dove, holly, mistletoe, star, poinsettia plants and gifts. As the youth read the Biblical Christmas story, others brought the story to life by carrying in the nativity figures and placed them on the altar.

I thank everyone involved for their commitment to this special program. If you have not stepped foot in the sanctuary in awhile....now is the time to pay it a visit. It is breathtaking with its glistening and colors aglow.

As we all prepare for the Christmas season, may we find joy and blessings galore. Remember the reason for the season and allow God to SHINE through the hustle and bustle we seem to put upon ourselves.



Children's Specials for Dec.

The children will be singing, ringing and dancing throughout the month of December. Please note the dates and times, and feel free to sing with your children as they practice these joyful Hymns.

Dec. 5 – "Away In A Manger" – 9:30 and 10:50 services [Sit with your families in the 9:30 service and we'll call you to the stage. For the 10:50 service, meet in the 3rd-5th Grade SS Classroom at 10:40 and we'll enter the sanctuary as a group.]

Dec. 8 – Children's Bell Choir at the Wednesday Evening Meal. [Children will meet in the Pre-school SS Classroom at 5:15 p.m.]

Dec. 12 – "Silent Night" – 8:15 and 10:50 services [Meet in the 3rd-5th Grade SS Classroom at 8:45 and again at 10:40 and we'll enter the sanctuary as a group.]

Dec. 19 – Praise Dancers will dance at both the 9:30 and 10:50 services, under the leadership of Megan Pollard.

K-5 Alive to Visit Nursing Homes

December 8th and 15th, the children from our Wednesday after-school program will visit Loch Haven and Macon Health Care. They will sing some Christmas carols in the dining hall and hang decorations on the doors throughout the buildings. We will be loading the Camp Jo-Ota bus promptly at 3:45 both Wednesday to head to the nursing homes, so all children must arrive to the church on time. The songs we will be singing are "Away In A Manger" (Verses 1 & 2), "Silent Night" (Verses 1 & 2), "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Verse 1 with chorus twice), and "Joy To The World" (Verses 1-4).



M.U.M.Y. CONNECTION

By Karen Butner

*Merry Christmas to all Macon UMC Youth & your families!
I know this time can get busy & hectic for families, but pray
you will feel the joy & peace of this very special season.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, Dec. 4th Bell Ringing for Macon Co. Ministries- 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
J.P.'s Tux & Tees downtown- meet there, parents pick up there!

Sunday, Dec. 5th Skating Party at Macon Skate Center- meet/pick up there!
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (this will be in place of our
regular Youth Group)
For all Youth 6th to 12th grade
Cost is free with a canned food donation for the Macon Food Pantry
Youth are encouraged to invite their friends!!

Christmas Caroling 3:45 to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday December 8th at Loch Haven
Wednesday December 15th at Macon Health Care
Meet at the church and we will be taking the Camp Jo Ota bus.
We will load promptly at 3:45 p.m., so don't be late!!

Sunday Dec. 12th Youth Group- 4:30 PM to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Dec. 19th Christmas Cantata- 7:00 PM in the Multi Purpose Room
There will be no Youth Group on the following Sundays: Dec. 19th, Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd!



Attendance and Offering Summary

Weekly Average for November 2009	2010	Year To Date Average	2009	2010
Worship Attendance	<u>216.20</u>	Worship Attendance	<u>203.48</u>	<u>199.56</u>
Sunday School	<u>62.80</u>	Sunday School	<u>61.30</u>	<u>56.80</u>
Offering	<u>\$4,847.86</u>	Offering	<u>\$4,361.19</u>	<u>\$5,312.47</u>

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; Kari Truitt, Nursery Attendant; Annie Faught, Toddler Room Attendant.

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 23
Macon, MO

