



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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December 2015 – January 2016

“Reflections”

How many days is it until Christmas? O Holy Night, there's so much to do! By the time you read this newsletter, Advent will be here and the rush to Christmas will be bombarding us from every side. When will my Christmas cards get done? Did I remember to call the person I really “could do without but have to ask” about the party? Does Frank know about the change in plans about the trek to Grandma's house?

I hope that LL Bean sweater arrives in time. Does Margaret like red? What about Daniel? Will I have enough food for everyone? Can you help me find that “potato thing” recipe that everybody liked last year? Will the plane be on time? What if it snows and nobody can get here? Now...where did I put the Christmas decorations that I got on sale last year? Cyber Monday? Really?

Does this sound familiar? It's so easy to get caught up in the frenetic pace of the season, isn't it? There are so many things to do: organize events, schedules to coordinate, menus to plan, shopping to do, parties to attend, and all of the traditional expectations we hold up to each other at the church. By the time we get to “It's A Wonderful Life,” we've worked our way into downright scrooge-like “I can hardly wait until this is over” territory!

Well I wish I had an easy answer for you about how to get everything done on time, make everyone happy and still enjoy yourself, but I don't. I'm fresh out of easy answers. I do have a suggestion for you that may help. Give it a try and start on November 29th, the first day of Advent. This is an original “Rev Bev” Advent Adventure for 2015. Tell me if it works or if it could be a brand new tradition for you!

If you have an extra stocking or even an old comfy sock you can't wear out in public anymore, put it in a place that you'll see every day. At the end of the day, write down a good thing that happened to you on a strip of Christmas wrapping paper, fold it over, and put it in your stocking. Then, on Christmas Eve, pull out the slips and read each blessing, each serendipity moment that caught you by surprise. So, dig out your wrapping paper and get your slips ready to go. This will be your personal stocking stuffer Christmas Eve present from God!

Advent is a season of waiting and while we're waiting for Christmas to come in all of its busyness and imperfections, God is waiting for us to open the blessings of our days and share the best parts of our lives with a world that needs a whole lot of hope, joy, love and peace. Merry Christmas!

And on earth...peace...

Rev Bev & Dudley

■ Upcoming Events

November 29 – First Sunday in Advent & Hanging of the Greens

December 6 – Second Sunday in Advent

December 13 – Third Sunday in Advent

December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21 – First Day of Winter

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 7:30



The Consistory Officers

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Diana Voelkel

Kineta Rotan

Larry Dunham

Karl Briers

Ministers

All Members

Ministers of Music

Les Luco

Marjay Cantwor

Nevin Okumfor

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Ianuzzi

Custodian

Lori Hamilton

December Birthdays

06 – Nathan Oliver

07 – Sarah Garner

09 – Roberta Davies

10 – Pearl Hahn

12 – Rev Bev

16 – John Walsh

19 – Rudy Berg

19 – David Schatz

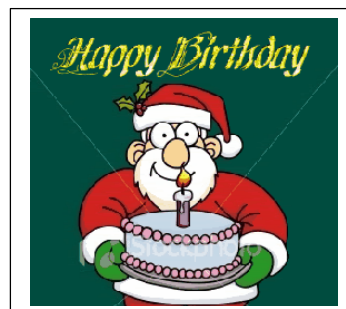
23 – Lisa Ianuzzi

24 – Elizabeth McCoy

25 – Sandi Young

26 – Sue DiPaula

30 – Cindy Garner



January Birthdays

03 – Garnet Avery-Babel

10 – Jane Evans

11 – Jay Walton

13 – Greg Hendrix

17 – Barbara Garner

21 – Amy Gates

22 – Edna Bullen

26 – Joyce Stanton

28 – Pedro Barbosa

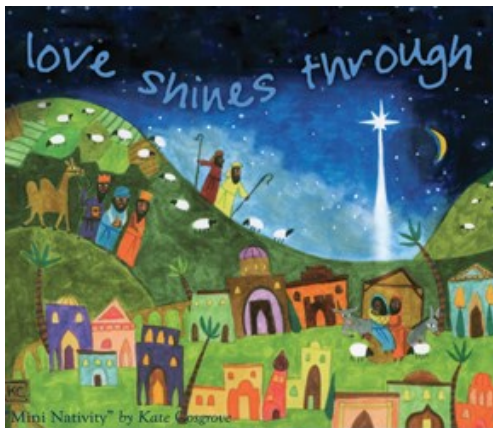
29 – Audrine Austin

29 – Nora Steinbergs

Remember the Joy of Giving



These are some local charities that Immanuel supports. The CEFM Network is now Catonsville Emergency Assistance but is still located at 25 Bloomsbury Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228. This is where the food that we collect is sent. The Lazarus Caucus is one of our possible service projects. Their address is Lazarus Caucus, PO Box 21274, Catonsville, MD 21228. And of course, Earl's Place has been our special charity. You can donate by making a check payable to United Ministries and mail to 1400 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231. For those viewing this electronically, the logos are hyperlinked to the web sites.



THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund is the December special offering. You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees.

Responding to Refugee Emergencies Worldwide

While we have local needs, this year the needs of the many refugees throughout the world seem greater than most years. The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. For online giving click on [OGHS](#), or if you prefer to donate by mail, make checks to OGHS and mail to: United Church of Christ OGHS c/o Financial Services office, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.



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Lectionary Readings

(Day-Date; First Reading & Psalm; Alternate First Reading & Psalm; Second Reading; Gospel)

Note: There is no alternate first reading during advent)

First Sunday of Advent - November 29, 2015

Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday of Advent - December 6, 2015

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2015

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20, 2015

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Nativity of the Lord - December 24 & 25, 2015, Christmas Eve & Day

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

First Sunday after Christmas Day - December 27, 2015

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Jill Kramer (ankle) & Tim Kramer (mild heart attack).



PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Lisa Ianuzzi's friend Dian Hane (moving); Kim Turner (health); Tyleshia Monroe's extended family; Cathy DiPaula (back surgery); Leslie Dunham's mother, Ann Connington (broken hip)

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Baltimore; Safety for Law Enforcement Personnel; European volunteers helping Refugees; All facing increasing violence and terrorism; South Korea, Afghanistan; Iraq; Syria.