



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Reflections”

November 2017

As the holiday season quickly approaches, we have a new Global Missions Project! I found a request from one of our missionaries, Jeffrey Mensendick, on our UCC Global Ministries tab at the national website. He was looking for churches to participate in a special Christmas ministry during the first week of December. We're going to send Christmas cards to two of our churches in Japan: Koriyama Church founded in 1894 and Nakoso Church in 1958!

Both of these congregations are located in the Fukushima Prefecture. Their members are carrying heavy burdens: living in places that are already creating high thyroid cancer rates of children continuously exposed to the radiation left by the disaster over six years ago; the high stress rates affecting the relationships of church members; finding ways to live out their witness in nuclear shadows.

What Christmas message can we, the members of Immanuel UCC, share with our sister churches? It's a real challenge that we can't take lightly, and that's why this project can speak to us as well. It's easy for us to take so much for granted: the deep fellowship we share, a place of worship we love and feel safe in, and the ability to reach beyond our own walls when God leads us in new directions.

These two churches remind me of Paul's letters to the fledgling churches stretched across the New Testament. Each began as a very small group meeting in homes and served the vulnerable in their communities. They helped the poor, cared for the sick, and created new extended families throughout their fellowships. Does that sound like Immanuel to you? We, like Paul, can encourage our sisters and brothers during this Advent Season. Your cards will beam loving kindness and link our hearts and spirits into our global fellowship!

So, let's make some cards and let our global neighbors know that we care about them and that they matter to us! I'm still hunting for someone who can write in Japanese, but you "crafty" people can make some beautiful, unique Christmas cards that can speak love, hope, joy and peace without words. We can even send them a picture of us with some Advent joy!

I'm inviting our Nerd Herders to join us – they're a very artistic group of kids of who love doing things for other people! We need to schedule a card making party, put the cards in two boxes and then have some fun with international shipping! You can get a head start now! I just received the instructions last Friday, or we would've already begun. Happy Thanksgiving and get ready to decorate!

Rev Bev



Ron Morgan

"The sermon was easy. Now I have to come up with something to Tweet, blog and podcast about."

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"Pastor, the church board would like YOU to handle the message board, not the finance committee."

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Poinsettia Decoration



Once again we will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas holidays. The flowers may be given in honor of someone, or in memory of someone, and there will be an insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin designating for whom and by whom the flowers are given. They are **\$14.00 per plant**. If you are interested in taking part in this, please complete and leave this form, along with your payment, on the offering plate or turn in to the office **by December 3rd** so we can place the order in time. Thank you for participating!

Your Name: _____

Number of plants: Red: _____ White: _____ Pink: _____

How they should be listed: _____

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET RETURNS

Help others close to home or around the globe this Christmas by doing some of your shopping at church. The Service Committee will again sponsor an Alternative Christmas Market during Advent. We will offer tangible and intangible gifts on three Sundays: November 26th, December 3rd and 10th. There will be items produced by international artisans and ways to give thoughtful gifts in honor of your family or friends. These gifts will go to persons and families who are overlooked by the large retail stores, while keeping Christmas simpler and hopefully more meaningful for us.

We will again have fair trade items from SERRV International – a nonprofit alternative trade and development organization. This program helps the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner.

We will also “sell” gifts of clean water, seeds, school supplies, tools, etc. through monetary donations that you make to Church World Service. You will be giving these gifts in honor of family or friends who will appreciate the generosity of your purchases. Cards with descriptions of how their gift will give to others around the world will be available to send to the persons you are honoring. There will also be an opportunity to support local organizations such as Earl’s Place.

This year add meaning to your gift giving, with a gift of love and hope for those in your family and others around the world.

Leslie Dunham

November Birthdays

06 – Leslie Dunham

12 – Jill Boyd

17 – Seth Kramer

19 – Isaac Oliver

21 – Nancy Taylor



Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 23

Alternative Christmas Market – Sundays: November 26, December 3, and December 10

Move Putz Material to Sanctuary – Friday, December 1

Decorate the Church – Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 am

Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, December 3, First Sunday in Advent

Neutral Pulpit – Sunday, December 3

Last Day for Poinsettia Orders – Sunday, December 3

Concert: New Wave Singers – Saturday, December 9 at 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service – Sunday, December 24 at 7:30



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Lectionary Readings

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

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – November 5, 2017

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – November 12, 2017

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – November 19, 2017

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Thanksgiving Day – November 23, 2017

Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – November 26, 2017

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer Concerns

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR HOME-BOUND MEMBERS:

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Richard Canter—recovering from surgery. Please add any concerns in a note to the office.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Sue and Steve DiPaula's extended family; Central Atlantic Conference; residents and staff of Earl's Place. Please add any concerns in a note to the office.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR REGION:

Dreamers facing uncertain futures and all undocumented residents; Baltimore gun violence; refugee families in Baltimore County; scientists; safety of law enforcement and first responders.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Nigeria suicide bombing victims; Tehama County, California shooting victims and their families; Iraq and Iran earthquake victims; Sutherland Springs, Texas, First Baptist Church shooting victims and their families; Las Vegas shooting victims and their families; Mexico, Puerto Rico and the rest of the Caribbean, Florida, and Southeast Texas; Red Cross volunteers; prayers for our country; terrorism; refugees across the world; families fearful of deportation; all U.S. military deployed and stateside.