



WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 6:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY This is a service that has various solos, ensembles and singing of Christmas carols; with the service closing in candlelight. There will be a special appearance by the Aldersgate Praise Team. The offering of canned goods (easy open pop-top cans are preferred) such as; green beans, sweet potatoes, hearty soups, beanie weanies, Vienna sausages, cheese crackers, protein bars, granola bars, ravioli, and Spaghetti O's, wrapped in white paper or monetary offerings in white envelopes are presented at the altar during this service. The items collected will be used for Christmas day dinner, and also to help stock the pantry at Edwards Street. In addition to food, donations of white socks, sweat shirts for adults and children, men's underwear, and men's jeans are much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"A NIGHT OF REJOICING" DECEMBER 22ND AT 11:00AM IN THE SANCTUARY Through music, narration, and scripture, "A Night of Rejoicing" follows the age-old journey from the time when God's people rejoiced in the hope as they heard the prophets foretell the coming of the Messiah. It is our prayer that this cantata presented by the Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will fill our hearts with the love that entered our world on that first, glorious Christmas night! A special thank you to the Jane Reid Family for the gift of the chamber orchestra.

CANDELIGHT COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT COMMUNION December 24th at 3:00pm and 5:00pm in the Sanctuary (Note that both services will be 30-40 minutes long with identical worship order.) There will be special music at both services.

12TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 25TH, FROM 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL This event is for any and all in our community who are hungry, alone, and/or have a heart to serve. Serving opportunities on the 25th include greeting guests, assisting in the kitchen, serving food, bussing tables, leading singing, visiting with our guests and cleaning up. If you are planning to serve at the dinner, it is important that you sign up to do so. This will enable us to accommodate as many as possible. Sign up sheets will be available before and after worship. Or, you may call the church office by Monday, Dec. 16th. Likewise, if you have invited family and friends, please let us know. We want to be sure to have enough food.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th through Friday, December 27th.

POINSETTIA BOOKLETS

Extra copies are available in the brochure racks at the entrances to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

*We Express Christian
Sympathy to...*

**the family and friends of
JOY FROST GARRAWAY**

who passed away on December 5, 2013
Greg (son) & Amy Garraway,
Greer Garraway (grandaughter)

and...

**the family and friends of
NANCY HANSEN**

who passed away on December 4, 2013
Randall & Catherine (daughter)
Strange, and Asher, Jillian, English &
Chancellor Strange (grandchildren)

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

White Christmas

December 15th @ 6:00pm

Christmas Cantata

December 22nd @ 11:00am

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Communion

3:00 & 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Day Dinner

11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER HUNGER OFFERING

Edwards Street Food Pantry

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 Relaxed Sanctuary Worship
9:00 Contemporary Worship with
Holy Communion (The Fellowship)
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Traditional Sanctuary Worship

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OFFERINGS

Adult Classes will NOT meet. Our Regular Wednesday night activities will resume on January 8, 2014, with a chili pot luck supper to benefit the backpack ministry of Aldersgate. More details coming soon.

The Chancel Choir will meet at 7:00pm

CHILDREN MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

OUR CHILDREN'S CHURCH GIFTS will be offered to purchase new school supplies for our Aldersgate friends, to head back to school, January 2014.

You are cordially invited to **A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JESUS!**

When: Sunday, December 22nd during the Sunday School hour

What to Bring: We will be collecting items for children who will be spending the holidays in our local hospitals. Some suggestions are: warm and fuzzy socks, blankets, stuffed animals, activity books with crayons/markers, and puzzles. Children may bring their items any time from now through December 22nd and place in the bins wrapped in Christmas paper located in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Make plans to attend the Tacky Christmas Party, Sunday December 22nd, 5 pm at the Moore's. Come dressed in your tackiest Christmas garb. \$10 limit for 'stingy Santa gift'.

A REFLECTION STORY: WHITE CHRISTMAS

Nearly seven years ago, my family joined Main St. UMC, and the White Christmas service has become a favorite one for us. This meaningful service brings our church together to enjoy the sights, sounds, and spirit of the season in its truest sense.

The sanctuary is decked out in seasonal splendor. The Chrismon Tree silently yet beautifully tells the story of God's love and sacrifice for us. Evergreen garlands remind us of eternal life. Circular wreaths show God's love has no end, while red ribbons and poinsettias remind us that Christ was truly born to die. The Advent wreath symbolizes Mary's commitment to God and the story of Christ's humble birth.

Music fills the air as we sing hymns and enjoy the gifts of some very talented church members praising God in this season of joy. Finally, in the spirit of giving, members lay gifts of food and funds wrapped in white paper at the altar to represent our call to reach out to others.

Our White Christmas service offers everyone a time to reflect on the meaning of this holy season. This year, my children and I will again light our candles and raise them to God in thanks for His amazing blessings. I hope you will share with us in the glow of Jesus' miraculous birth. Merry Christmas!

Maurine Philpot

****We are still receiving 2014 Estimate of Giving Cards****



Our Purpose is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

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