



FIRST United Methodist CHURCH

UNION CITY, PA

Putting God First

42 E. High St. • Union City, PA 16438 • 814.438.2113
Web: www.ucfirstum.com • email: ucfirstum@verizon.net
Rev. Jim Parkinson, Pastor • jimparkinson@neo.rr.com
8:30 a.m. Contemporary • 10:45 a.m. Traditional
10:00 a.m. 5th Sunday Combined Worship

ADVENT 2011

IN THE CHURCH DURING ADVENT



*1st Sunday of
Advent*

*Sunday,
November 27th*

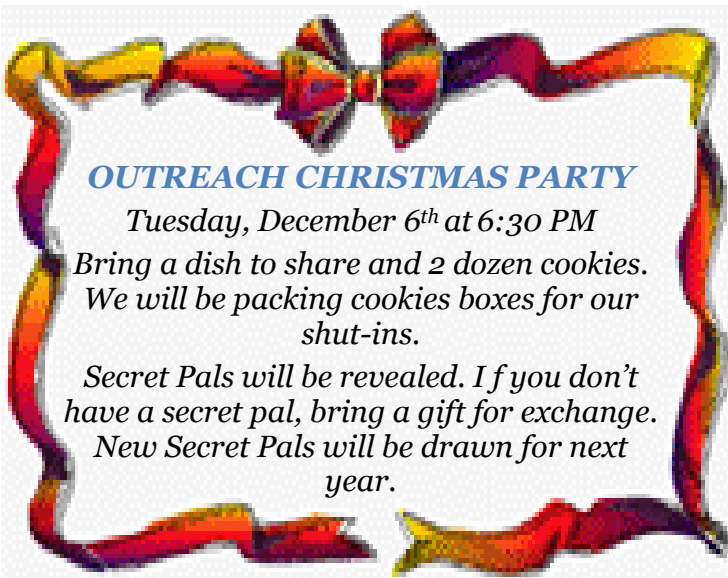
Angel Tree / Poinsettias /
Memory Tree Start

UM Student Day
(Special Offering will be
taken)

HANGING OF THE GREENS

After the 10:45 service

*Pizza will be provided for those that stay to help
decorate our church of the Christmas Holiday.*



OUTREACH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 PM

*Bring a dish to share and 2 dozen cookies.
We will be packing cookies boxes for our
shut-ins.*

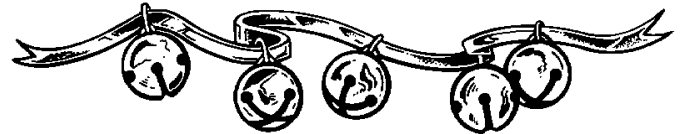
*Secret Pals will be revealed. If you don't
have a secret pal, bring a gift for exchange.
New Secret Pals will be drawn for next
year.*



Last Wednesday Manna for 2011

will be Wednesday, December 7th.

*Beef Vegetable Soup, Ham Salad Sandwich and
Dessert*



RINGING THE BELLS AT TOPS MARKETS

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

And

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

You can sign up for an hour or two in the
Gathering Area of the Church.

*Benefits Salvation Army Kettle Drive.
All monies collect stay in Union City*



Sunday, December 18th 7:00 PM

Featuring
Choir Cantata, children's program and singing of
Christmas Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Saturday,
December 24th
7:00 PM

We will be having a traditional Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.

Special music preludes will begin at 6:40 pm and the service will conclude no later than 8:15 pm.

Candlelight Service



The HandBell Choir *will not* be performing which means the Wesley Room will be available for overflow seating. We will be able to accommodate an additional 40-50 worshipers! We will also not be taking communion but will have communion instead on Christmas Morning. The Worship Committee is committed to keeping the service to within 60-75 minutes (excluding the 20 minutes of preludes).



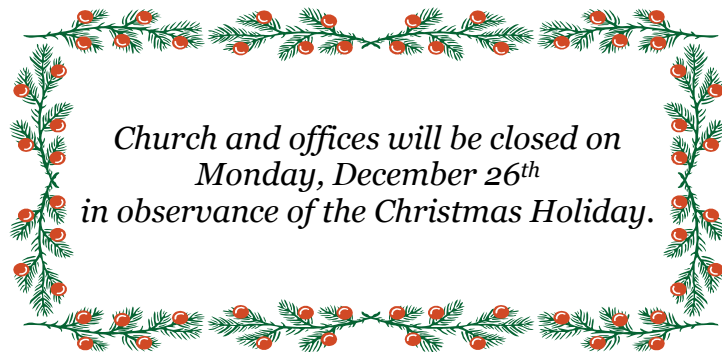
Christmas Day
Worship Service

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25th
10:45 AM

ONE SERVICE ONLY
No Contemporary Service or
Sunday School

Join us on Christmas Day as we have a service of
Carols and Readings with Communion.



Church and offices will be closed on
Monday, December 26th
in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit notices and articles for the MID-WINTER newsletter (January to the beginning of Lent) to Loretta Blakeslee or Charlene Shreve (cmarieshreve@yahoo.com) no later than **January 2nd, 2012**. **This newsletter will cover Mid-January to February 22nd. Please plan accordingly.**

If there is a topic or issue that you would like to see addressed in the newsletter please let us know. Also we would appreciate any photographs of church events that could be used in our Newsletter.



UNDECORATING THE CHURCH

Sunday, January 8th, 2012

Pizza will be provided for those that stay to help take down the decorations.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering area as the time gets closer.



Church Leadership

At Wesley Woods

Saturday, January 14th from 9 AM – 2 PM

Lunch will be served.

All those serving on Church Council for 2012 are strongly urged to attend.



will resume
January 18th,
2012

Merry
Christmas
and Happy
New Year!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

Encourage one another and build up each other
1 Thessalonians 5:11

We want to thank our church family for all the support of giving, to help reach out to our community and missions.

Blue envelope money given in November:

- \$50 to Imagine No Malaria
- \$200 to Yvonne Eastman to purchase boys socks, sweats and any other needs the elementary school nurse may need for students.

THANK YOU:

To the church family for collecting food for the Thanksgiving Baskets for the needy families in our area. 23 families were helped this past year.

ONGOING PROJECT:

Collecting comfort kit items (hotel size samples for the U.M. Erie Alliance Project Hope out at Emmaus Soup Kitchen. Examples: shampoo, soap, shaving cream, hand sanitizer, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, washcloths.

DECEMBER OUTREACH PROJECT:

- Angel Tree

Our next outreach meeting will be our Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 PM in the Wesley Room. Bring a dish to share. We will be revealing Secret Pals and drawing for next year. Please bring 2 dozen cookies to pack boxes for our shut-ins.



Words of Thanks

For a special Christian friend from the First United Methodist Church for remembering me at Halloween time with such a delightful bag of goodies, plus many neat useful items – my heartfelt thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Love and God Bless, Myrtle Sill



Paint the Town Update!

As we all know by now, "Paint the Town" had to be postponed due to inclement weather. It has been rescheduled to May 16, 17, and 18. For those of you who were intending to help, thank you. We are hoping that by next spring, not only will the weather improve and more donations roll in, but also that many more volunteers will be available. Please mark the dates on your next year's calendar and help us be 'salt and light' to our community through this project.

PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

7+6 strength	9+1 shepherd	30-5 the	7+5 ends	50-26 live
21-10 will	27-24 reach	10+7 flock	90-20 stand	15+4 securely
35-34 low	17-3 greatness	10-3 earth	10+5 will	5+1 will

"He _____ and _____ his _____
15 20 10 17

in the _____ of the _____ ... And they _____
13 4 11 24

_____, for then _____
18 16 14 8

_____ to the _____ of _____."
3 12 20 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



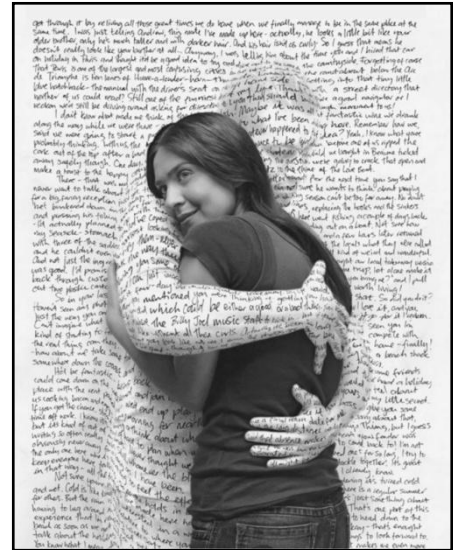
A Note from Pastor Jim

Rev. Jim Parkinson — jimparkinson@neo.rr.com
814•438•2113 (office) — 814•438•2816 (home) — 814•449•4421 (Verizon cell)



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I spend a lot of time looking for just the right pictures to help illustrate my sermons. Over the years, I've become the master at using Google's Image Search. A few weeks ago, I ran across one of those digitally manufactured images that's absolutely brilliant. The picture shows a young woman hugging and being hugged by the page of a book. This image adds a whole new meaning to the idea of being a "book lover."



As Christians, that's what we are; we're lovers of a book, the Bible, the "Word of God." But God's words aren't solely inked letters on a page, they're words that have actually taken on flesh and bones and come alive in the person of Jesus Christ. In John's Gospel, the beloved disciple tells us, "*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14, NIV). It's in the person of Jesus Christ that God steps out of the pages of a book and comes and gives each of us a hug.

This Advent season, I invite each of you to allow the Word of God to come alive anew in your lives. Spend some time curled up with a good book, the Bible, and allow God's Spirit to make the pages of that book come alive afresh to you.

*O let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.**

My prayer is that Jesus will reach out from those scared pages and give you a hug.

Embraced by and Embracing God's Word,

Pastor Jim

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up."
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

* *Sprint Song*, John Wimber, 1979



Wow! Advent is here, the birth of Jesus our Savior.

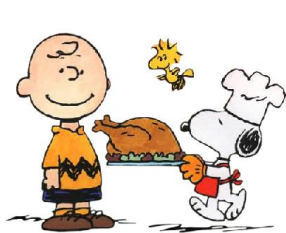
Merry Christmas everyone!

Have you learned anything about this time of

Happy Birthday Jesus

year? Like cutting back on the stress, buying less, baking less or using short cuts to cook good meals, and the list could go on and on for all of us. Like any birthday, Jesus would like us to enjoy his and remain faithful to the life he led and traveled and the road he walked. If you aren't sure of that in your life, attend a class at 1st church and learn a lesson or two from the greatest teacher of all. (Ok Mrs. Mouse, the kids and I are ready, we have our Bibles in our little hands and are going to that class you mentioned where we can eat first and study later! Yes sir, I mean Ma'am, we are headed out the door and yes, we will leave the toys behind us and listen up to the preacher man! HE HE!)

Christmas, who can think of that when we haven't gotten to Thanksgiving Turkey dinner yet? (At least not while I'm writing all this)



I must say the Harvest Dinner at the church was really delicious. I ate and ate and ate! Thanks Mrs. Preacher for taking over coordinating all this for us. No complaints from the Peanut section or rather the mice section

(He He!)

Things are changing all over the world and in our little corner of it, like it or not, we are asked to adjust. (Yep, Mrs. Mouse there you go again reminding me to listen up and do what you say. Can't you see I'm searching for the right words to come to my pea-picking brain so everyone will know what a good season we are in and well you know...don't you?? Oh boy, now I am confused, see what you did to me by speaking to me like that?? Lets agree to disagree and be done with having to agree on everything, OK? Hey everyone does any of that make sense to you?)

We've had our first snow so now we need no more. Just a reminder to speak your peace about it in your prayers. (Doesn't the good Lord control those things? Guess I will have to ask the Science Teacher about all that.) (He He that shows you all I know about who controls what.)

I have the new dollies for Susie wrapped and the trucks for Johnny (just want you all to know they are big ones so he can't carry them to school anymore to get into trouble with the teachers. Chitter Chitter! Even Suzie's dollies are really big this



year, about her size. He He. There is a method to my madness.) I said to the Mrs. that's the way it's going to be to control some of the problems at school.

La La La La, Is any of our group going Christmas caroling this year? Been years since we've done that from our church but it's a nice way to spread Christmas cheer to shut ins just saying to ya all!!!! Ok, Mrs. Mouse I'm on my way to choir practice. (Sheesh, she thinks I need practice and more practice. Really, I thought all I needed to do was eat cheese!! HA HA). Our Choir is growing and sounds wonderful!!! Thanks for your faithfulness everyone!

Hanging of the greens will be on November 27th. All come out to help because all are welcome. We need all hands, feet and able body people. (A warning us mice will be there as there is cheese on the pizza lunch they are serving so I know we all need to fill our little tummies before we start that huge project. Chitter Chitter!)



I was in the Youth Sunday School class for a few mornings this October. They have the hugest class ever! Such a sight to see. Maybe it's the donuts each morning, or maybe it's Ms. Lisa's lessons but whatever it's nice to see you all there. Wow! You are all going to a movie and shopping at the Mall in Erie in December and than the next week have your annual Christmas Party. You are a busy group. A busy group is a good group. Just don't forget to "Praise your Lord and Savior".



This year is fast coming to a close. I hope and pray the things each of us have learned this year will help carry us into the New Year. We survived another change of our clocks turning the back, we will survive the New Year 2012!!!

I just want to say "thank you" to my faithful readers and thanks to the good cooks and for the crumbs off your table to help keep my family fed.

I would like to leave you with this thought from the Bible in Proverbs 17:17

"A friend loves you all the time."

I hope you all had the happiest of Thanksgiving, the merriest of Christmas and I wish you the very best for the New Year 2012.

Till we meet again,
Mr Mouse XXOO



L80/ZEO/CREW 678 Youth News



L80 and CREW 678 Christmas Shopping Trip December 4th – 1:00 pm

Youth in **grades 6-12** are invited to our annual Millcreek Mall shopping and movie day. Come shop for your family members and then relax at the movies. You must bring your own spending money and **YOU MUST** sign up ahead of time to assure a seat is available for you. **We cover the cost of the movie BUT you are responsible for cost of any and all food you may want to consume.**

L80 Christmas Party December 11th 4:30-7:30pm



We will be celebrating Jesus' birthday, as well as having a gift exchange of our own. Bring a gift appropriate for either a boy or girl (\$10 or less).

YOUTH DROP-IN TUESDAYS

For grades 6-12, the youth area is open to you on Tuesdays after school from **2:30 to 5:00 pm**.

No drop in TUESDAY, December 20, 27 and January 3.



Senior High Youth (9th-12th)
Wednesday nights – 5:30-7:30.


There will be no ZEO, December 14 thru January 11. We'll resume January 18.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

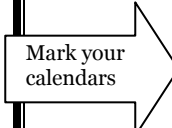
The Youth Leadership team will be meeting from Wednesday, Dec. 28 to Thursday, Dec. 29 for planning and development. Place to be determined.

L80 SUNDAYS

January 22
4:30-7:00 pm



February 5
4:30-7:00 pm



Jan. 6-8, 2012 Conference Youth Retreat featuring Speaker Justin Lookadoo.

This is open for ALL youth in grades 9-12 (sr. high only). If interested, sign up NOW. *A deposit of \$50 is required to hold the registration.* **YOU MUST BE SIGNED UP BY SUNDAY, DEC. 11.** Adults are needed as chaperones. Please contact Lisa for more information.



- **CREW 678 LOCK-IN**
 - **ZEO LOCK-IN**
- Dates to be set around construction.



Mid-Winter Adult Dinner fundraiser
Saturday
February 11, 2012



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

- 1 Debbie Brumagin
- 3 Ron Jones
- 4 Jocelyn Kirik
- 5 Montana Brumagin
- 6 Hubie Blystone
John Wolf
- 7 Jessica Kent
- 10 Carol Eaton
- 11 Larry Obert
- 12 Ted Knauff
Sharon Gross
- 14 Karmyn Blystone
- 15 Jane Hamilton
Damian Menendez
- 16 Sally Jones
Linda Gilson
Drew Brown
- 17 Samantha Hawley
Evan Brown
- 18 William Coe Jr.
Kayla Sanden
Zachary Leyda
- 19 Terry Woods
- 22 Dylan Blystone
- 23 James Parkinson
Ashley Kent
- 24 Bobbie Eastman
- 27 Mark Hummel
- 28 Joyce Barteldt
- 29 Erin Gross
Gavin Mangel
- 30 Ruth Grant
Marilyn Spencer
- 31 Susan Nye

December Anniversaries

- 13 Steven and Meg Gross
- 27 Joe and Ashley Frisina

January Birthdays

- 1 Bill Niggel
- 2 Alex Michel
- 5 Debbie Alexander
- 6 Yvonne Eastman
- 8 Georgia Guriel
Nathan Fielding
Jordan Reib
- 9 Daryl Blystone
- 10 Verna McCracken
- 11 Jasmin Humes
Jarod Geertson
- 14 Gary Behan
- 15 Lewis Vanderhoff
Carol Fielding
- 16 Judi Mangel
- 17 Nancie Humes
Judy Harouff
- 18 Gaylynn Neal
Emylee Zielinski
- 22 Asenath Wright
- 23 Jeanette Mitchell
Leonard Emberg Jr.
- 24 Clif Miller
Nancy Brumagin
Aria Hanlin (1st!)
- 25 Darlene Emberg
Dorothy Fairchild
- 27 Matthew Hamilton
Haleigh Kafferlin
Navaeh Miller
- 28 Faith Nichols
- 31 Myrle Sill
Justin Harouff

January Anniversaries

- 12 Daryl and Michelle Blystone
- 14 Tom and Kim Dawson
- 20 Ron and Sally Jones
- 24 Terry and Jan Shaughnessy
Mark and Lori Kafferlin

2011 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- November 27th** *First Sunday of Advent*
Angel Tree Begins
Poinsettias, Memory Tree and Christmas Greetings begin
12:00 PM • Hanging of the Greens
- December 4th** *Second Sunday of Advent*
1:00 PM • L80 Shopping and a Movie
- December 6th**
6:30 PM • Outreach Christmas Party- bring a dish to share, bring 2 dozen cookies to pack boxes for shut-ins. Secret pals will be revealed and new ones drawn for next year.
- December 9th and 10th**
Ringing the Bells for the Salvation Army at Tops in Union City
- December 11th** *Third Sunday of Advent*
4:30 PM • L80 Christmas Party
- December 18th** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
Angel Tree Gifts Due
7:00 PM • Christmas Program featuring Choir Cantata, children's program and singing of Christmas Carols
- December 24th** *Christmas Eve*
7:00 PM • A Traditional Christmas Eve Candle Light Service. Special music preludes will begin at 6:40 PM and the service will conclude no later than 8:15 PM. Overflow seating will be available in the Wesley Room...More seating and shorter service! *No Handbell Choir or communion*
- December 25th** *Christmas Day*
10:45 AM • Christmas Day Worship consisting of a Service of Carols and Reading with communion. *No 8:30 worship or Sunday School.*

Presorted
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