

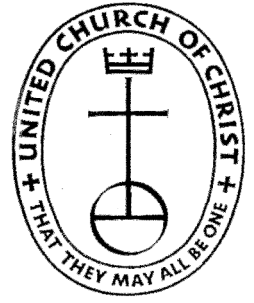
the Pilgrim Visitor

Congregational United Church of Christ

300 Maiden St. Mineral Point, WI 53565 * (608) 987-2025

www.mpucc.com

January 2010



From the Pastor:

From the Pastor:

The season of Christmas extends through January 6 (Epiphany), so I continue to wish you a Merry Christmas.

I'm writing this as another winter storm threatens to descend on wintry Wisconsin. I'm thinking through contingency plans for Christmas Eve services, and I'm joining many others who are thinking through how their Christmas plans might be changing. This storm will make a mess for many and be dangerous too, I'm sure. But I can't help but wonder if the storm will actually help some of us celebrate Christmas. Weather's one of the few tools God has left to slow us down. After that, the only ace God has left to play is a power outage – if God is really mad, God might smite a satellite or two out of orbit. That would really mess us up.

It's so hard to keep Christmas from becoming a few weeks of trying to squeeze everything in - every party, every gathering, every perfect gift idea, every detail for the meal or the cookies. Since my family has been traveling so much the last few months, I've realized that what I want for Christmas this year is simply to be home. I want to feast and rest and play – play some games, some ball, something in the snow. A walk or ski in the woods would be nice. I might encounter the Christ child there. I have before.

Christmas is God being born in our lives to start something. Maybe Christ is coming to start us on the road to more intentional living, more meaningful living. Maybe we start asking what we want out of one day of the month. We could get really crazy and ask what we want from one day out of every week. And practice it. If you filled that day with rest and leisure, relationship and joy, it would be Sabbath. Who knew something so radical could be so old and churchy?

A wise person reminded me that Christmas should be a day filled with meaning, a day that reflects and respects the love and grace of God. Christmas is not a day to attempt to cram everything in. I don't know if we will ever reach this Christmas ideal, but maybe we can try to bring the ideal Christmas day into a few of our days in 2010. The Christ child may just start something we don't want stopped.

Merry Christmas and New Year's blessings.
Pastor Todd

Usher/greeter schedule

January					
3	Linda Griffiths	Virginia Noble	Maxine Tibbits		
10	Greg Wilson	Kandy Keuler	Dick Josh		
17	Don Bennett	Bob Wenger	Diann Wenger		
24	Maxine Tibbits	Carol Wasley	Mary Sue Radtke		
31	Greg Doan	Jennifer Doan	Jessie Potterton		
February					
7	Dan Ivey	Bruce Ivey	Deb Ivey	Dick Ivey	
14	Sandy Weitzel	Marvin Hanson	Phyllis Hanson		
21	Nancy Schmit	Tom Schmit	Chris Heins		
28	Duane Fitzsimmons	Barb Fitzsimmons	Maxine Tibbits		

Lay Reader schedule

January

3	Holly Allen
10	Linda Griffiths
17	Virginia Noble
24	Deb Ivey
31	Greg Wilson
February	
7	Nancy Schmit
14	Phil Crawford
	Chuck Ten- nessen
21	
28	Chuck Steudel

Pasty Sale

The next pasty sale is Saturday, January 9. Workers are needed for the January pasty sale. Contact Karen (987-3835) or Deb (987-3597) and let them know if you can help.

Thank you,
Karen Tennesen and Deb Ivey; Pasty Sale Organizers

The next monthly UCC pasty sales will take place on:

February 13 March 13 April 10

If you have changes to your standing order, please contact Heather Dampf at the Church Office at 987-2025 or by email

mpucc@gmail.com

Christmas Program

Mission Trip to New Orleans, 2010

We will depart at 6:30am from the parking lot at the MP UCC church on Saturday, January 16 and will arrive at Little Farms UCC in River Ridge, LA on Sunday afternoon. (Saturday night will be spent at a hotel in W. Memphis, AR) We depart Little Farms Saturday morning, January 23, will again stay overnight in a hotel and return to Mineral Point on the afternoon of Sunday, January 24.



Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting December 2009

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting

Date: December 16, 2009

Members Present: Nancy Schmit, Todd Smith-Lippert, Fritz Aschliman , Karen Tennessen, Kandy Keuler, Greg Wilson, and Lisa Howard.

Also Present: Marla Martin

Absent: Jim Bennett

-Greg called the meeting to order.

-Todd gave the opening prayer.

Financial Report

Marla presented the financial report. Income for the month of November was \$12,206.27. November expenses were \$8,304.11. Kandy made the motion to accept the financial report. Fritz seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Bills Payable

The Bills payable report shows \$5,520.82. Nancy made the motion to pay the bills. Lisa seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

November Council Minutes

The November council minutes were reviewed. Kandy moved to accept the minutes. Fritz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

- Todd shared he participated in two Ecumenical services. The first service was the Thanksgiving service held in our church. The second was the Lessons and Carols service at Trinity Episcopal Church. Todd mentioned the Lessons and Carols service was a particularly moving service.
- Nancy made the motion to welcome Alex and Angela Hendricks as new members. Kandy seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Alex and Angela joined the church officially on Sunday, December 13th. Welcome!
- Jessie Potterton had a baby boy, Carver, on Sunday, December 13th. Congratulations!
- Evey Ivey is now at the MP Care Center.
- Maxine Tibbits broke her arm and had surgery.
- Chad Whitford and Amy Schrader have requested to be married at the church on October 23, 2010.
- The Memorial Service for Mark Gates may be held at the church on January 16th. The service may be held in Madison.
- Christmas Eve service times are; MP at 6:00pm, Plymouth at 7:30pm.
- Todd will be on vacation December 28 through January 3. Alan Green will be preaching on the 3rd.

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting (con't)

Building and Grounds – reported by Fritz Aschliman

Matt McKeon will be doing our snow removal and will be paid \$20 for each time it snows. Alex Hendricks and Mark Mitchell cleaned out the eaves trough on the west side of the building.

There is an issue with the center light in the sanctuary. The wattage being used is too high. This will be looked at after Christmas.

Mission Partnership – reported by Greg Wilson

Did not meet. The committee has been focusing on the giving tree, food drive etc.

Chuck Steudel wrote a letter requesting a donation for gas for the New Orleans mission trip in January. The mission committee will follow up with Chuck.

Worship Committee – reported by Nancy Schmit

Did not meet.

Christian Education reported by Karen Tennessen

The Christmas program rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 19th at 10:00am.

Families were asked to bring a plate of cookies to share.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 27. Sunday School will be held on Sunday, January 3rd.

Finance reported by Nancy Schmit

The annual budget was presented to the council. Kandy made the motion to forward the budget to the annual meeting. Fritz seconded the motion with all approving.

Membership/Fellowship reported by Greg Wilson

Did not meet.

Youth Group reported by Karen Tennessen

763 pasties were sold at the youth pasty sale. 2k was made in profit for the youth.

Plans are under way for the trip to Denver in mid June.

Other

Ellen White has stepped down as Church Register. We will be voting on her replacement at the annual meeting. Thank you Ellen for your many years of service!

Attention Committee Chairs – your reports for the annual meeting need to be turned into Heather by January 12th!!

Next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6th.

Kandy made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Fritz seconding the motion.

Respectively Submitted by Lisa Howard

Mission & Partnership Notes

THANK YOU to everyone who made our Advent season

Alternative giving a success.

--For two local Iowa County families that received Christmas gifts; and the many household items for cleaning and personal care.

--For supporting the Two Hands Worldshop and Equal Exchange fair trade items and products.

--For donations to make our community Holiday food packages possible.

--For support of the global outreach that Church World Service provides

--For helping match a contribution to the Community Connections Free Clinic, our Iowa County based free health provider. It is not too late to make a donation, please note your donation and forward to Marla Martin By 01/15/10.

THANK YOU for your support this past year of our projects, and for our Five for Five Special offerings, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join the Mission / Partnership Committee, please contact Dick Josh if you have any questions or might want to help out.

Visiting Card List

Mae Kinsman
Sienna Crest Asst Living
210 Copper St
Mineral Point, WI 53565
987-7456
Merton & Alice Baker

975 N 5th Ave #107
St Charles, IL 60174
(630) 524-5248

Bob & Evelyn Ivey
730 Center St
Mineral Point, WI 53565
987-2116

Marge Johnson
Mineral Point Care Center
109 N Iowa St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Prayers Requested

Patty Johnston's son, Jerry, is going through stem cell treatment. Prayers and cards are welcome. There is also a caring bridge link: www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerryjohnston/journal

Stanford Hospital
300 Pasteur Drive
Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Unit
Jerry Johnston, Rm # E123
Stanford, CA 94305

Food Pantry:

Specific needs include boxed desserts, peanut butter, beans, canned tuna, canned chicken

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday school 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Childcare provided					1	2
3	4	5	6 Council 7pm	7	8	9 Pasty Sale
10	11	12 Annual Re- ports due	13 Finance/MP 6:00pm	14 Yoke Council @ Plymouth 7pm	15	16 Mission Trip to New Or- leans leaves
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Mission Trip returns Annual mtg Following worship 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Ushers & greeters

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10 Greg Wilson	Kandy Keuler	Dick Josh
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Lay Readers

3 Holly Allen
10 Linda Griffiths
17 Virginia Noble
24 Deb Ivey
31 Greg Wilson

You are welcome here

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Website: www.mpucc.com

Congregational
United Church of Christ
300 Maiden St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565



CUCC- MP Staff

*February Newsletter deadline
Wednesday, January 20*

Pastor

Rev. Todd Smith Lippert
office 987-2025
home 935-0001
Email tslippert@mhtc.net

Office Administrator

Heather Dampf
Office 987-2025
Email mpucc@gmail.com

Maintenance

Don Huxtable

Council Chair

Greg Wilson

*Annual Reports
are due by Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

*Please submit reports to Heather via
email (mpucchrist@gmail.com) or to
the church office.*

Our mission at the Congregational United Church of Christ is to celebrate God's love. As disciples of Jesus Christ we celebrate that love by responding to the needs of our congregation, community and the world through worship, education, fellowship, and service to all.