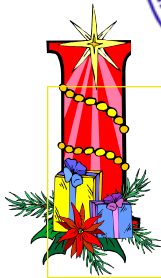




Community United Church of Christ

Newsletter December 2011



Rev. Cathy Hinman's contact information: church 715/748-3391; home 715/748-3528
 Office hours-Tuesdays 10-1 Wednesdays 1-4 Thursdays 10-1
 Her days off are Friday and Saturday except for emergencies or other pastoral events.
www.uccmedford.org pastor@uccmedford.org medforducc@tds.net
 on Facebook—"Community United Church of Christ, Medford"

Fa, la, la, la laaa, la, la, la!!!! Have you started to listen to Christmas music yet? Our Medford radio station is playing the occasional "Let it snow" and "Away in a Manger" and depending what I'm doing, I either grimace or sing along. When I was in Seminary, my worship professor stated very clearly—"Do not sing Christmas hymns during Advent! Christmas hymns are to be sung during the 12 days of Christmas (Christmas Eve til Epiphany on January 6)." The problem with this grand proclamation is that (a) the world starts singing Christmas songs before Thanksgiving and probably because of that, (b) no one wants to sing Christmas hymns into January!!

The reason for my professor's grand proclamation is that in the church, Advent is a separate season from Christmas. Advent is for preparing for the return of the Messiah (at the end of time) and the coming of the Christ child on Christmas Eve. The color for Advent is blue—for Mary's purity; for the night sky in which the angels appeared to the shepherds and the star which the Wisemen followed. Advent is a time of contemplation, a time to reconnect our story to God's story as Emmanuel (God with us) comes once again and for all time, to be with us AND to remember why God came among us—because God loves us so very much that God's only Son lived as a human to understand what it was/is really like to be a person.

So what does this have to do with Christmas hymns? Well, the Advent hymns tend to be 'chant-like' as they were written in the early middle ages when Monks were proclaiming their love and devotion to God and Jesus in simple, easy to remember and sing tunes. (well, easy for them!) The Christmas hymns, or carols as the world calls them, are a little more upbeat, brighter, happier songs proclaiming the birth and the joy to the world!!

Though, I enjoy singing the Advent and Christmas hymns as we tell the story of Jesus' birth, my favorite way to sing them is without organ or piano, bundled up and (outside) freezing or (inside) sweating, with other people who like to sing them for the sake of singing them, for other people who are just delighted to have some standing on their porch or in their living room singing these songs which we have all known since before our birth!! Familiar hymns, carols, even songs on the radio serve to remind us of another time, a cherished memory, a loved one, and even, how much we are loved by another especially loved by God.

As you go through your preparations for your holiday season, take a moment to recall a special memory, say a prayer for a loved one far away or even one who is celebrating Christmas this year with our Lord in heaven; sing a carol with us on December 11 at 2 pm, in private or even in the grocery store as you shop; dare to allow God to enter your heart and your life—to wrap loving arms

around you and remind you that Jesus' birth is for you!

With Christ's love,
 Pastor Cathy

Come Caroling on Sunday,
 December 11, 2 pm!! Let's share
 some Christmas cheer and joy to
 the world!!!



Merry Christmas from the Hinmans
 Left to right—Liz, Roger, Cathy and Richard

Candlelight Guild

Our busiest month is now over! We can look back and see the events were fun and successful!

Thank you to all who helped and came to the Soup Supper. We had the best tasting soup ever! It was a success.

The Pre Holiday Fair once again brought many goodies and crafts. A big thank you to everyone for making this event successful.

The Bucket Raffle proved to be a fun event and helped raise money for future needs of the church.

Red Sock donations for the purchase of items for The Taylor County Giving Tree will be accepted until December 1st.

The Mitten Tree is collecting mittens, hats, etc., for those in need.

We will not have a December meeting. The trimming of the tree will be December 1, 1:30.

For the C.G. Dawn B.



Men's Group

Many thanks to all who purchased products from our Fair Trade Table at the Pre-Holiday Fair and on Sunday mornings. The coffee sales are off to a great start. The Men's Group will meet in December to plan our 2012 mission and elect our 2012 officers. Many thanks to all who have supported our missions and endeavors for 2011. We wish you all the best that this Holiday Season has to offer each of us.



Back Bay Mission

We are still hoping for a few more members to sign up for our Mission Trip in early 2013. We will be traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi to assist residents of the New Orleans area who are in the final stages of clean-up from Hurricane Katrina. We can take up to 15 in a group and we can take 2 groups the same week if there is enough interest. Help us complete this mission began over 4 years ago. We are receiving interest from other churches, so don't hesitate if you are interested. Sign up!

For the Men, Scott K.

Come one and all to the Children's Christmas Program
December 11 at 9 AM
The Nativity. The Birth of Jesus



We would like to invite you to bring all or part of your nativity set to the service on December 11, to be on display for all to see during fellowship that day.

Christian Education

Stewardship

There are many opportunities to share some of yourself this holiday season. The Salvation Army is ringing at Walmart, Kmart and County Market. Sign up to ring at the store of your choice. Our last Mission offering will be The Christmas Fund which subsidizes low income and retired pastors and will be collected on Sunday, December 18th.



There will be many requests of our food pantries, churches and community support groups. Thank you for your continued support to those who are in need.

Membership

Our committee met and made several suggestions to the Council designed to help our church keep track of all members.

Submitted by, Scott K.

Life is like a suitcase—
so much depends on what you
put into it and how you
prepare for the trip



The first and best Barn we know,
cradled The Light of the World.



Jesus is Better than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited

JESUS stands at your door and knocks.. and then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"

JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly

JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree

JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.

We need to put Christ back in Christmas.

Jesus is still the reason for the season.



Scrip cards are here!



Subway Kmart

Happy Joes

Kwik Trip

Walmart

Holiday Gas Station



We can order from many more merchants. There is a list of merchants on the table by the office. Just let me know what you would like and they will be included in the next order. Scrip cards make GREAT Christmas Gifts. I plan on placing the next order on Dec. 12. Diann

Classic Car Wash

and many more



We will be going Caroling on Sunday, December 11 at 2 pm!! Singing voices are not required—a song in one's heart is!!!

A Note from Ursula Scharrschmidt (Please accept my apology from Pastor Cathy)

(this memory was unfortunately missed during printing of the original 110 anniversary memory booklet.)

One of my favorite memories of this church is when I was a teenager (the 30's), I was then in the Methodist church, but the youth in the 2 churches got together often - Rev. Kalwitz was then the Pastor and we had lots of youth in both churches and it was a wonderful social life. Both Pastors had a way with youth and drew them in. I have been a member here since February 1969, as has Bill.

More memory booklets and window booklets are available on the table by the office.



Everyone needs a disclaimer so this is ours. The information contained in this newsletter is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Please remember that things DO change and the church bulletins are the most up-to-date source of accurate times and events. If in doubt, PLEASE call ahead. I receive several articles for publication in the newsletter. I print these articles as they are written by the person submitting them. Sometimes, I edit them, but I do not change the content. Please tell me if you have any additions, corrections, comments or complaints, or send an email to medforducc@tds.net. (Diann)

December Birthday Blessings to:

**Mike N
Jack P
Virginia J**

**Deb F
Jared W
Angelica R**



"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



**Happy Anniversary
Ervin & Laura**



**Wear your jammies on Christmas
Morning for worship at 9 am!!!**

Lite A Lite Dinner sponsored by the Taylor County Tavern League is scheduled for Sunday December 11th at 12:00 PM. Located at the Medford Area Senior High School. This is a free dinner which offers pick up and delivery to home bound seniors.

Contact The Lounge Around 715-748-3135 or the Turtle Club 715-785-7766.



Keep in your prayers...

Prayer list – Rose, Pat, Durinda, Connie, Cylinda, Ron L, Betty R, Lester C, Harriet K, Esther R, Sherri, Dean, people affected by natural and human-made disasters; relief workers around the world; those anticipating medical tests and results; those travelling; those serving our country in the armed forces here and abroad; leaders of our nation and the world; the community of Medford.



Wear your jammies on Christmas morning for worship at 9 am

Worship Notes



Hugo DeJong passed away November 28 around noon in the presence of his daughter, Kay. As a retired school teacher and all around gentleman, Hugo will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him. Hugo turned 89 in October. He joins his wife, Marge, in life everlasting. We will be hosting the memorial service of Hugo DeJong on Saturday, December 10 at 11, followed by a luncheon in the fellowship hall.

Ushers for November

- December 4- Council
- December 11-
- December 18 -
- December 24 -
- December 25-

Peace United Church of Christ in Dorchester is having a Blue Christmas Service December 18, 2011 at 7:30 In Dorchester



Fellowship Hour for the month of December is hosted by Candlelight Guild

The December bulletins are given by Brian & Vickie Jentsch and family in memory of loved ones.



Medford UCC is accessible from the front doors with a chair lift to the sanctuary and ramp into fellowship hall. Hearing assistance devices are also available.



Community United Church of Christ. Medford, WI

Church Council Minutes, October 05, 2011

Members Present: Susan M, Gloria C, Diann A, Amber R, Scott K, Jeff H, Susie N and Pastor Cathy.

Members Absent: Doug B, Virginia J

Guests: Sharon P Denny M and Pat S

The meeting was called to order by Council President Jeff at 6:06 pm

A prayer for guidance was offered by Pastor Cathy H.

Meeting Minutes: Reviewed Sept 05, 2011 minutes;

Motion: to accept Sept minutes with no changes noted (Scott, Diann) **Carried**

Treasurer's Report: Given by Amber. A six month CD up for renewal Oct 11th

Motion: to approve Treasurer's report as given (Gloria, Susie) **Carried**

If you have something that you would like to place on the agenda for the annual meeting, please, bring it to council before the January Council Meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cathy presented her report for September (included in records).

She requested a change in her vacation days from Monday, 10-9, 2011 thru Friday, 10-15, 2011, to new Monday, 10-17 thru Friday, 10-21, 2011 due to 110th anniversary planning.

Motion: to approve change in dates of vacation for Pastor Cathy (Amber, Diann) **Carried**

There will be an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service but it hasn't been determined where it will be, yet.

Adam P will be attending Confirmation at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Medford. Their schedule works better with the activities in his life. He will transfer his membership to Community United Church of Christ after their Confirmation program is completed. Pastor Cathy will discuss the differences between ELCA and United Church of Christ with Adam, prior to his transferring of membership. Council members will be leading worship on Oct 9th. Pastor Cathy will be at the Confirmation Retreat at Moon Beach.

Group Reports:

Candlelight Guild: the new tables are here; the final cost was \$90 per table for 19 tables. New tables are not for serving food, may melt from heat from roasters. We will use two of the older tables for serving food in roasters. Soup supper will be held Saturday, Nov 5th; help needed for cleanup, waiters and waitresses. Will need bars cooked. There will be a signup sheet. There will be bucket raffles at the Soup Supper (and Pre-Holiday Fair) due to restrictions on mailing raffle tickets. Suggested ideas are for members to fill certificates donating services or baked goods. (Creative gift ideas) The mitten tree is up in Fellowship Hall. Candlelight Circle will decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, Dec 6th at 6:30 pm.

Anniversary Group:

So far, there are 58 adults and 10 children signed up for the Anniversary Worship/Dinner. Fellowship Hall will be decorated with a fall theme. There will be certificates handed out for special recognitions of our over 50 year members and special music.

Men's Group

Men's Group met and hosted a meeting on a Back Bay Mission Trip. Our guest was Kay T, who showed a Power Point presentation, gave a short history of past trips and answered questions from attendees. The Men's Group held a short meeting after and decided the following. We will move meetings to Sunday after fellowship, granted \$200 to fund Pastor Cathy attending a monthly Clergy Discernment Group, approved helping Salvation Army with heating their Bell Ringing Shack at Walmart, Approved Men's Group submitting a memory to anniversary memories book, Group notified of funds spent to assist Golf Outing. The Men's Group would like to put up a 'permanent' display of Fair Trade items in Fellowship Hall. Various Fair Trade coffees and Chocolate goods would be in the display for sale.

Stewardship

We have been in contact with *Great Lakes Scrip*, Kwik Trip and Holiday Gas Stations. *Great Lakes Scrip* offers scrip but keeps a 1% commission for handling. Shipping charges are \$8 ground-\$12 special delivery for each shipment from *Great Lakes Scrip*. They offer a wide array of choices so we could offer special orders. We would set up an ACH account so funds are withdrawn and our order could be shipped and received in 2-3 days. All orders would go thru the church office (Diann). If we go direct to each business, we pay more in shipping

All orders would go thru the church office (Diann). If we go direct to each business, we pay more in shipping but gain rate of return. Walmart is only available thru *Great Lakes* at 2 %. Kwik Trip is 9-10 %. Holiday is 2-3 %. I have a family who will sponsor the first purchase of 20 car wash tokens from Classis Car Wash (\$160). We buy 20 tokens at full price; we get a donation for \$1 for each ticket bought. Example: 20 tickets at \$8= \$160, we get donation of \$20 from business. Net cost \$140= gain of \$40. If we transfer funds from a CD, we would gain more return on our funds expanding our scrip choices available for the holidays.

Building and Grounds:

Doug B. is checking on the cry room speaker issues. The garage door opener is still needed to be installed for the parsonage garage door (Roger's side). Scott K will contact Dan H. about getting this project completed.

Christian Education:

Trudy is back to teaching

Membership

We are looking to meet soon to give Council guidance on Membership list changes. It will probably be on a Sunday due to work conflicts. We will submit report at next Council Meeting after Membership Committee meets.

Old Business

Pastoral Contract Negotiating Committee: still being formed. Jeff is waiting for response from possible members. There will be 5 members.

Scrip Funding: discussion about using \$5,000 from our 6 month CD (which has come due) to expand scrip program. Some local businesses offer returns up to 10 %.

Motion: to use \$5,000 from the 6 month CD and place into scrip fund; with 3 month reports to Council.

Council will evaluate after 6 months (Amber, Gloria) **Carried**

New Business

There was general discussion about our worship services. The council was reminded about the policy concerning comments being directed to the Pastoral Relations and Ministries Committee using the suggestion box if needed.

Communion: there was discussion about Communion being offered to the children on World Communion Sunday. Pastor Cathy and Diann explained that with the Christian Education Committee's blessing, the children have been taught what communion is and have a good understanding of what the Bread, Cup and Jesus' Memorial are all about. All the parents were notified in advance that the children would be participating on World Communion Sunday and it would be their decision whether their children received or not. Susan thought that there was a possible motion in the 2000 to 2006 years that Communion should not be served to children until they are confirmed.

Motion: to table Communion discussion until next Council Meeting (Scott, Amber) **Carried**

Budget Discussion: Council went over Budget line items for 2012 budget.

Motion: to raise the bookkeeper's salary from \$100 a month to \$150 a month- \$1800 yearly (Diann, Gloria) **Carried**

Motion: to raise the church secretary's salary from \$8 an hour to \$ 10 an hour up to 520 hrs per year (Amber, Scott) **Carried**

Council must now wait for the Pastoral Contract Negotiations Committee to finalize budget.

Council Members for 2012 election: Jeff H, Virginia J and Doug B said they would like to stay on council, if reelected. We should still see if there is anyone else who would like to run for council.

Our next Council Meeting will be after worship on Sunday, Nov 13th.

Ushers for November – whoever is there!

Reminder – the Council Members are responsible for leading worship this Sunday, October 9. (Pastor Cathy is at the Confirmation Retreat at Moon Beach.)

Motion: to Adjourn (Amber, Susan) **Carried**

Recording Secretary Scott Knoff



Written by Jeff Woodard
November 22, 2011

Mission 1: 1-1-11 1-11-11

Three down, one to go – and the last one appears to be going fast.

That's how the tally board looked as of late Nov. 21 when the UCC Mission:1 goal of \$111,111 raised for Neighbors in Need (NIN) fell by the wayside. As of early Nov. 22, total giving was at \$113,398 and rising.

With totals still being tabulated – and with the goals of letters sent to U.S. Congress and the number of donated food items long since eclipsed – the one remaining Mission:1 goal, of aid for East Africa famine relief, is within reach. As of Nov. 22, the reported total was less than \$2,500 shy of the \$111,111 goal.

"Hallelujah!" said the Rev. Linda Jaramillo, executive minister for UCC Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM). "We are thrilled, but not surprised that our members rose to this occasion. Mission:1 provided opportunities for all of us, as ONE, to carry out our biblical mandate to feed the hungry and advocate for justice in ways that could be individualized in each congregation and community.

"The UCC's generous response indicates that God's people continue to demonstrate the love of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer," said Jaramillo. "We look forward to faithfully and responsibly using the dollars to carry out the work of Mission:1."

In addition to setting goals for NIN and East Africa, the UCC during the first 11 days of November set a Mission:1 goal of collecting more than 1 million food and household items for local food banks (more than 1.4 million tallied thus far) and asking its 5,300 congregations to advocate for hunger-related causes worldwide via 11,111 letters to Congress (nearly 37,000 reported to date). NIN is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by JWM to support justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects.

"We're grateful to have reached our NIN goal and are looking forward to exceeding our final goal for East Africa famine relief," said Barbara Powell, interim director of the UCC Publishing, Identity and Communication Ministry. What a blessed Thanksgiving this will be."



Sunday, December 18th Christmas Fund

We had hoped to collect 111 food items for our emergency food pantry.

We collected 112!!!! Thank you to everyone who donated and prayed for this special event!!!

Community United Church of Christ
T-Shirts are still available.
Please, speak with a member of Stewardship or the Men's Group if you are interested in purchasing one for \$6.25.
They'd make great Christmas presents!!!!


TWENTY DOLLARS	
<i>Income and Expense Summary</i>	
Needed each month—\$7,184.40	
October Income—\$7,606.11	October Expense—\$6,946.87
Withdrawn from savings YTD—\$5,000	Fiscal Balance \$659.24
Buildings and Grounds—\$60.00	21st Century—\$50.00
Our Churches Wider Mission—\$130.00	
TWENTY DOLLARS	

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship / Communion Sunday School 9 AM AA 7 PM	5	6 Al-anon / AA 7 PM	7 Council 6 PM	8 AA 7 PM	9	10 Memorial Service for Hugo DeJong 11 am Visitation from 10—11 Reception @ noon
11 Worship /Christmas Program 9 AM Caroling 2PM Men's group 7 PM AA 7 PM	12	13 Al-anon / AA 7 PM	14 Confirmation at 6:30 at Colby Nursing Home Worship 2 pm all welcome to attend!!	15 AA 7 PM	16	17
18 Worship 9 AM AA 7 PM	19	20 Al-anon / AA 7 PM	21	22  AA 7 PM	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5 PM With Communion
25 Christmas Worship / 9 AM Wear your Jammies AA 7 PM	26	27 Al-anon / AA 7 PM	28	29 AA 7 PM	30	31



Come a Caroling
Sunday
December 11th,
2 pm



Wherever you are on your
 faith journey,
 you are welcome here!
 - 9 am Sunday Worship
 - Communion is shared on
 the first Sunday of the
 month



Community United Church of Christ Newsletter

Community United Church of Christ
 510 East Broadway Avenue
 Medford, Wisconsin 54451-1524



Newsletter
 articles are due
 at the church
 office by the 20th
 of each month.

