

United Methodist Messenger

A publication of the United Methodist Church of Gibson City, Illinois

December 2010

Volume 29, Issue 12



Christmas Eve Worship
Friday, December 24
Candle Light Service 9:00 PM

March to the Manger

The annual March to the Manger special offering will be held December 18th and 19th. This offering will be used to fund missions that our church sponsors.



Christmas Program

This year's Christmas program will be held Wednesday, December 15th at 6:45pm. Program practice will be November 28th and December 5th at the beginning of the Sunday School hour (10-10:15) and December 12th during the Sunday School hour.



Children's Ministries News



During the month of December, the LIVE B.I.G. Theme will be: A Baby is Coming.

The B.I.G. Idea: We believe that Jesus' birth shows that God is with us.

Prayers for our Children

Photos and names of children in our church family were made available to the congregation beginning Saturday, November 13th. Thank you to everyone who has chosen to lift up a child in prayer for the coming year! If you did not yet pick one up, there are still some envelopes available. Each envelope has a photo that includes the name, age, grade and birth date of a child who attends our Sunday School. During the year, we encourage you to connect with this young person by mail, or in person to let them know you are praying for them. If you are unable to pick up an envelope in person and would like one delivered to you, please contact Judy Eckhoff or Barb Horsch.

Combined Worship Service December 26 at 9:30 AM

On Sunday, December 26th we will combine our worship services with only one service at 9:30 AM. **There will be no Sunday School for children and youth on December 26th.** WGCY will air our Christmas Eve service that Sunday at 8:45 AM. There will be no service held on Saturday, December 25th.

Kevin Boesen—Pastor
Barb Horsch—Minister of
Children & Family Ministries
April Rotramel—
Administrative Assistant

Pam Gee—Church Custodian
Beverly Nagle—Organist
Ruth Davis—Choir Director
Verna Buck—Saturday Pianist

Phone 217-784-5452, Fax 217-784-5543
Saturday Night Light Worship 5:30PM
Sunday Traditional Worship 8:45AM
Sunday School 10:00AM
Sunday Emerging Worship 11:00AM

Office phone (217) 784-5452, Pastor's cell phone (217) 249-5453, e-mail gcumc@sbcglobal.net



From the Pastor's Pen

Are you prepared? Once again we find ourselves facing another Christmas Season. I am so thankful for my wife Joan because, according to her, just about all of my Christmas shopping is done. It feels good to have that task behind me (even if she does it for me). Where are you in your Christmas shopping? Are all of the boxes with decorations coming out again? Have you put up the lights yet? Don't forget to start planning the meals and wrapping the presents. Will it be artificial or real this year? Just can't beat the smell of pine in the house. We need at least three different types of Christmas cookies to bake – especially those that grandma used to bake. WOW, the smells, the tastes, the memories! Even though Joan does most of the shopping for me I love to be a part of all that goes on this time of year.

Most of us will look back at our efforts in another month and say, "It was worth it." The time we spend for and with each other is a joy and it fills us with something that cannot be purchased in a store or wrapped and put under a tree. It is the gift that can't be put in the back of a closet, it doesn't wear out and it is something that we want to keep. Isn't it interesting that in order to keep this gift we need to give ourselves away?

That is what Christmas is all about. God sent His Son so that He could live with us and be a part of our lives. This Son revealed to us that true gifts that last for eternity don't come from the world's shopping malls but rather from within ourselves. There is a lot of planning and a lot of effort but when we look back on a life that is lived reflecting God's love we will say, "It was worth it." Our families and friends will remember us for what we gave to them that was a part of ourselves. God gave ALL away so that we might know how to live.

This Holy Day season make sure to take the time to relive the story so that we might know this gift that has no end. Open this present by opening our hearts to this love. Be intentional about including God in our plans and our traditions as part of our family.

Jesus has done it ALL for us. He gave it all away so that we might know how to live a life that has meaning, purpose, and fulfillment.

What a gift that we have to give to the world!

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Kevin

Letter Writing Ministry

There have been four names with addresses given of active military personnel who are connected to our church family. Please take the time to write them because this holiday season may find them away from family. Remind them of God's love through your words!

Cpl. Kirkpatrick, Colin H
9th Comm Bn –SVC Co.
Unit 42583
FPO AP 96427-2583

KEM ESTABAN
CAPTF – ACAGKAIA
APO, AE 09320

AIC Zachary E. Mohn
4496 Delvin Ave. Unit B7
Nellis AFB, NV 89191
e-mail zach.mohn@yahoo.com

Rudiger Strebeck
3/401 st AFSBn-AF (AMC)
FOB Sharana
APO, AE 09311
e-mail rudiger.strebeck@us.army.mil

If you would like to add someone to the list please contact the church office.

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December Birthdays



Marci Fisher	1	Destiny Langlois	8	Carolyn Ryan	13	Ruth Fisher	23	Seth McCall	30
Christopher Thorp	1	Josh Moody	8	Christina Moody	14	Bryan Woodall	26	Michael Rainwater	30
Harold Underwood	1	Heather McKeever		Claire Mullis	14	Gayle Hager	27	Robert Hill	31
Justus Clinton	2	Murphy	8	Karla Hunter	15	Wrigley Maxey	27	Logan Ward	31
Marsha Riddle	2	James Collison	9	Wyatt Rhodes	15	Marilyn Verkler	27		
Aaron Beckman	4	Todd Baillie	10	Cathy Thorp	17	Doris Ashley	28		
Ellen Maxey	4	Kirsten Boesen	10	Vicki Shields	17	Pauline Beesley	28		
Cameron Dewey	5	Ana Shanley	10	Kyle Freehill	19	Dutch Pruitt	28		
Sarah McCall	6	Ronald Baird	11	Sharon Pool	19	Lane Ferguson	30		
Nathan Young	6	Debra Stewart	11	Brenda Main	20	Kenny Hawthorne	30		
Jamie Young	7	Kami Knerr	12	Shelley Overman	20	Derek Kietzman	30		
Rick Young	7	Adam Hood	13	Lynne Titus	22	Chelsey Lange	30		



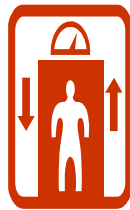
Stats and Such for November YTD 2010

Giving YTD (budget) through Nov 21	\$241,626.12
Giving Goal YTD (budget) through Nov 21	\$ 240,669.00
Giving Goal (budget) each week	\$ 6,171.00
*Other Giving YTD through Nov 21	\$180,068.66

Weekend of	Sat	Sun	Sun	SS	Offering
October 31	20	156	21	77	\$4,087.03
November 7	12	138	24	74	\$7,335.81
November 14	24	196	30	110	\$7,836.62
November 21	0	201	21	78	\$5,154.50

*Includes giving for the following missions: Bereavement Meals, Memorials, Designated Giving (Handyman Fund, Cookouts at County Market for Missions, Special Offerings, etc.), Mission Socks, Opportunity School, Organ Fund, Elevator Fund, and Youth Mission Trip. It also includes Interest Income.

All Cash and checks given for Elevator Project (1/1/2009—11/21/2010)	\$120,580
Pledges not yet received	\$ 68,785
Total of cash, checks and pledges (1/1/2009—11/21/2010)	\$335,943



December Anniversaries

Name	Day	Years
Kenny & Candice Hawthorne	1	3
Jack & Marlene Royal	6	52
Jeff & Jamie Grider	10	5
Dan & Carla Jones	14	
Tom & Kelly Borton	23	25
Roger & Brenda Main	26	63
Tom & Kathy Bennett	27	30
Tom & Nancy Taylor	31	22

December Mission Socks



will benefit

The Baby Fold Ministry



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Prayers for the People

Join us in the sanctuary each Monday morning at 9:00 for prayer. Every member of our congregation is prayed for by name. The following people are in need of our prayers:

Teresa Beckman	Ed Eagleson	Imogene Loy	Joni Peters
Marian Boog	Rick & Jean Ertel	Malinda Lutz	Ron Probus
Verna Buck	Jennifer Fancher	Bob & Bettie Main	Thelma Probus
Melody Cochran	Grace Hanley	Louis Miller (Mike	Dale Riblet
Corbin Family	Myron Hanley	Arsenault's	Shanley Family
(Rhonda	Ruth Harris	grandfather)	Dorothy Shields
Eckerty's niece)	Donald Hiner	Warren Meinhardt	Jo Swanson
Mildred Davis	Hailey Jamison	(Laura Hazen's	Dixie Thomas
Dusty & Nancy	Vivian Imlay (Lorene	father)	Bill & Sarah Tubbs
Davis	Edwards daughter)	Marilyn Morano	Don Williams
Kate Farris Dyer (Jenny	Alice Jones	Mark, Angela and	Emily Young
Arsenault's cousin)	Goldie Kincade	Kailyn Overman	Harold Young

Births, Baptisms, Weddings, Deaths

Congratulations to Todd and Uyen Littell on the birth of their son, **Timothy Nguyen**, born October 22, 2010 at 2:15 PM. He was 6 lbs 13 oz and 19" long.

Congratulations to Jeremy and April Rotramel on the birth of their sons, **Ian James**, born October 23, 2010 at 9:00 AM and was 4lbs 8 oz and 17 1/2" long, and **Isaac Eugene**, born October 23, 2010 at 9:02 AM and was 4 lbs 4 oz and 18" long.

Congratulations to Greg and Lisa Niewold on the birth of their daughter, **Ainsley**, born November 3, 2010 and was 6 lbs 15 oz and 20.25" long.

Cindy Fisher passed away on Saturday, November 13, 2010.

Memorial/Honorarium Poinsettias

As in past years, we will be displaying Memorial/Honorarium Poinsettias in the sanctuary starting on Sunday, November 28. They will be displayed for the following four weeks with the memorial and honorarium list to be printed in the December 19th bulletin. Please check in the next couple weeks' bulletins for more information on ordering the poinsettias.



Annex	Manor (G.C.)	Asta Care	Heartland Health	McLean
Verna Buck	Frances VanSwol	John R. Bell	Goldie Kincade	Bill Loy
Ruth Harris	Ella Mae Miller		Dorothy Rudolph	
Doris Young	Thelma Probus			

Area Nursing Home Residents

Office phone 217-784-5452, Pastor's cell phone (217) 249-5453, e-mail gcumc@sbcglobal.net



We want to thank our family and church for all the love, prayers and concerns shown to us during and after my knee surgeries and the illness and death of Ralph's brother, Jim Jones. We are so blessed to have each and every one of you in our lives. Also, thank you for all the food, cards, visits and phone calls.

Love, Marinell and Ralph Jones

Thank you very much for the cards, food, phone calls, and prayers of support since my total replacement of both knees. Pray that my therapy will go well so that I'll be able to walk by myself!

Love, Malinda

Thank you very much for your prayers and cards of encouragement as I was apartment hunting and then found the one I really wanted. I'm there now amidst boxes, etc. I have room for guests now at:

Ellen Lutz
19950 Huebner Rd Apt #806
San Antonio, TX 78258
317-690-2130
elutz9@gmail.com



Wesleyanna Circle

The December Wesleyanna Circle Meeting will be held on December 14th at Norma Patterson's home.

The lesson will be a Christmas story, and it will begin at 7:30pm.

Giving Tree 2010

Our church is again sponsoring a Giving Tree for needy children in our area. Each tag on the tree represents a child and will have their sizes and list some needs and wants. Tags will be available by Sunday, December 5th. **We only put one tag per child on the tree, so you may want to buy several items for this child, such as clothing and a toy.** Also, school supplies and personal items are great to include in the box as well.



Please follow these guidelines:

- ✚ Sign out all tags on the sign-out sheets.
- ✚ Return gifts to the church by **December 19th**
- ✚ All gifts for a child should be placed into one box, wrapped and decorated any way you wish. Attach the tag from the tree to the top of the box.

Last year we added to our mission project by making available gently used household items for families who came to pick up Christmas gifts. We will collect those items again this year. Gifts will be picked-up by families on Monday, December 22 between 8:00 AM—noon.

If you have any questions, please contact Susie Tongate at 784-5672.

Altar Flowers 2011

Would you like to provide Altar or Pedestal Flowers? The 2011 Altar Flower list has been posted on the bulletin board outside the office door. Please list your name and who you would like to honor or remember. Jayne Tjardes will provide the flowers and you will receive a bill from the church to your home in the amount of \$25. If you have a special request for the altar flowers, please let the church office know by the Wednesday prior to your chosen date.

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Worship Information for December

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
Liturgist	Jeff Glascock	Kent Bielfeldt	Lisa Farmer	Mick Kinsley
Greeters West	Bill & Joan Pool	Bill & Joan Pool	Ron & Mary Ann Hood	Ron & Mary Ann Hood
Greeters South	Susie Tongate & Family	Susie Tongate & Family	Larry & Kathy Littlefield	Larry & Kathy Littlefield
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Keitzman & Taylor Engel	Erin Arsenault & Audrey Boss-Maxey	Micah & Jonah Moody	Amber Wiitemann & Allison Davis
Sound Room 8:45	Steve Hawthorne	Lonnie Engel	Kim Fisher	Steve Hawthorne
Sound Room 11:00	Peggy Godsey	Peggy Godsey	Peggy Godsey	Peggy Godsey
Projection 8:45	Jessica Hunter	Doug Woodward	Meaghan Sharp	Sam Horsch
Projection 11:00	James Fairfield	Jeremy Steidinger	James Fairfield	Jessica Schultz
Nursery 8:45	S. & J. Schultz	S. & J. Schultz	S. & J. Schultz	S. & J. Schultz
Nursery 11:00	Open	Open	Open	Open
Altar Flowers	Jim Collison	Howard & Jo Nettleton	Beverly Nelson	Kip & Judy Rutledge & Family
Saturday Ushers	Open	Open	Open	Open

Head Usher for December is Glenn Riddle.

Church Website: www.gcumc3.org

We're on Facebook! Our page name is "Gibson City UMC"

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Gibson City United Methodist Church
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Gibson City, IL 60936

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED