

Another Look at the Twelve Days of Christmas

From Kiskiminetas Presbytery resource center

The popular song “The Twelve Day of Christmas” has become a part of the secular celebration of Christmas as much as “Jingle Bells.” But some believe that this charmingly repetitive song is actually full of rich spiritual significance. The “12 Days” constitute the time between Christmas Day, 12/25 and Epiphany, 1/6. Epiphany means manifestation, in this case, the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentile world.

Before looking at the gifts, recognize the giver. **The “true love” who gives the gifts is God**, the giver of all good and perfect gifts.

12/26: Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge represents Jesus Christ, not as the child in the manger but as the man on the cross. Jesus is the first and foremost Christmas gift.

12/27: Two Turtledoves

The two turtledoves represent the Old and New Testaments, the two divisions of Christian scripture. In them we have the record of how divine love has been shown to God’s people, first through a covenant with a people who became the nation of Israel, then through the “new covenant,” established through Jesus Christ, with baptism as its sign.

12/28: Three French Hens

Faith, hope, and love are the three essential qualities of the Christian life, the abiding gifts given to all believers.

12/29: Four Calling Birds

God has given us four witnesses to the life of Jesus Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each writer gives distinctive testimony to the meaning of Jesus’ life and teachings.

12/30: Five Golden Rings

Just as the 4th gift is the first four books of the New Testament, the 5th gift is the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah. The central story of the Torah is God’s saving redemption of a people from slavery in Egypt.

12/31: Six Geese A-Laying

God gave life to all through the six days of creation, and then God gives the care and nurture of all life to us.

01/01: Seven Swans A-Swimming

God’s Spirit gives specific gifts to persons individually, not for their own good but for the benefit of God’s

people. These seven gifts are outlined in Romans 12:6-8.

01/02: Eight Maids A-Milking

Most people feel blessed when they have adequate food, shelter, good health, and friends. The Beatitudes outlined in the Gospel of Matthew point out the blessings that exist in the midst of struggle and suffering.

01/03: Nine Ladies Dancing

Christians are identified by certain characteristics. In Galatians Paul notes that these are the “Fruit of the Spirit,” nine attributes the Spirit brings forth in us.

01/04: Ten Lord A-Leaping

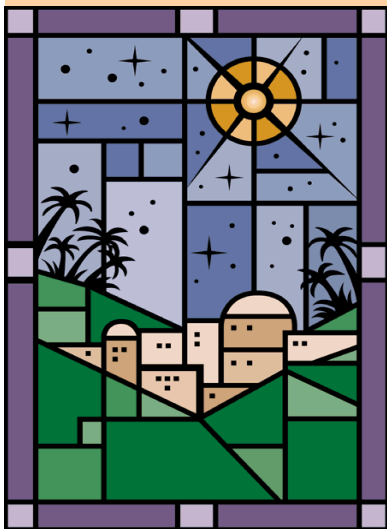
God gave the Ten Commandments to the Hebrew people after their exodus from Egypt as the fundamental requirements for a right relationship with God and other people. They remain the foundational teachings for God’s people.

01/05: Eleven Pipers Piping

Jesus chose twelve disciples to be his closest companions. Eleven were faithful, and these eleven went out to witness to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

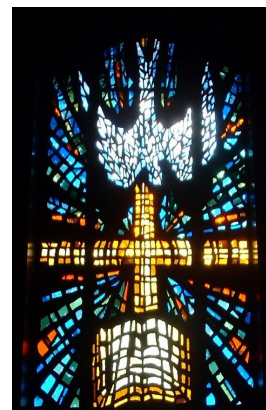
01/06: Twelve Drummers Drumming

The Apostles’ Creed is one of the earliest creeds of the church. It sets out twelve basic beliefs of the Christian faith.



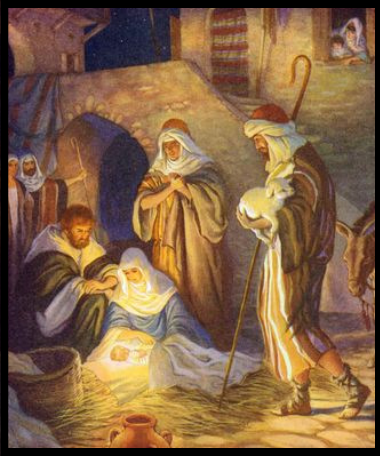
COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Community Clarion



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CHRIST, THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Christmas 2009

Christmas Greetings from the Lares

Every year our world - and perhaps ourselves as well - gets more and more caught up in celebrating the coming of Santa at Christmas instead of our SAVIOR, after whom the day is named. And yet, as the following comparison - circulating on the internet and written by an unknown author - indicates, if one only will pause to consider the evidence for both, it's not hard to see just WHO should be the object of our Christmas celebration - and all the year through...

WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS

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 wait 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.

While 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.

*Our prayer for you this Christmas is not only for health and happiness, but that you and all your family would make the Greatest Gift of Christmas your own. And having received that precious Gift, you will share it with everyone you know! For *JESUS* is better - even better than Santa!*

Merry CHRISTmas!!!

Pastor Don & Rosemary

Mission Reports

BUSES International

I wanted to let you know of an immediate need that Antioch International and Buses International is responding to.

Hurricane Ida devastated El Salvador a week ago. There is vast destruction, and tens of thousands of people have been impacted. Our missionary friends, Don and Terri Triplett, are reporting huge needs among the people. The storm hit during the harvest, and it wiped out fields of corn, rice and beans. There are going to be many basic needs among the poor for months to come. You can go to our website for more details. www.busesinternational.org

We know that you are probably in the midst of holiday food drives and other outreaches, but we are asking that you might partner with us to help the children of El Salva-

dor. We are going to send the Triplets a 40 foot shipping container. BUSES International is going to send all of this year's Christmas shoebox gifts to be distributed to the kids in El Salvador affected by the hurricane. We will then fill the rest of the container with nonperishable foods.

Can you do something to help? We are collecting food through December 7th. A list of needed items can be found on our website. We also need to raise \$6,000 to cover the shipping from Lorain to El Salvador. Can you send a mission offering to help with this? Any amount will help and every can of food counts.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Todd Rainey

Joy in the Harvest (Lowell & Claudia Wertz)

On our arrival back in Tanzania after being in Cincinnati for Luke & Kara's wedding, it was clear that the crew had been hard at work making sure that everything was in good condition to welcome us. The day after we got home we had guests from the US embassy. They came to hold "town hall" meetings with the Americans in this area. I hosted them at our guesthouse and we had a packed house for the meetings.

In just two weeks a team of nine men from the Houston area (Kingwood UMC) will come to put the roof on the ministry center. This building has been under construction for less than a year. Roofing a building this size so soon is

record speed for Africa! I'm sure your Christmas newsletter will have pictures of this great effort. Please pray for their safety as it's a huge two-story building.

Thank you for your recent gift to this ministry. I assure you it makes a big difference to these wonderful people that someone so far away has cared about their difficult lives. It is a blessing for Lowell and I to be your representatives here in Africa.

We are also so happy you were able to have our Kim & Daniel with you in October.

Love, Claudia

PS - Lowell is recovering from eye surgery and can't do computer work yet.

OMS Indonesia (Mark & Cindy Freer)

Since coming back from Andrew's wedding we have been very busy. Cindy has been having a good year at Wesley. As high school principal, while the discipline problems seem to be up this year, her hours spent at school are down a little because Jonathan Heath has returned from furlough to take over the school director duties that she was carrying last year. She likes her classes, American History and English, and loves her students. One of them the other day suggested she be nominated for *Teacher of the Year* after she postponed one of their assignments. As she told the class, "Flattery will get you everywhere!" We praise the Lord for His continued faithfulness and help at Wesley.

When I was a little boy one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up was a builder or an architect. I loved building things with my Lincoln Logs and especially with my Kenner "Girder and Panel" set. But when I became a pastor and then a missionary I thought those days were over.

Well it seems my first love and what I have called my "hobby" have gone into full drive the past few months. We praise the Lord for so many capable people here and for faithful people back home who have helped us with our expansion of both the Wesley and Charis campuses. I'm working on the design for the new Charis teacher training center right now that we wish start building this fall. Please continue to pray as we have our hands full and truly must depend upon God to get through.

Thank you for your faithfulness to pray for us and for your continued sacrificial giving in these very difficult days. We praise the Lord our support account is still in the black but we are faced with the fact that our monthly income has not matched expenses since earlier this year. We trust the Lord will continue to provide. We are truly humbled by God's faithfulness we sense through your partnership with us in Indonesia. We continue to pray that God will provide for your needs as you serve Him in Your own communities and around the world through ministries like ours.

Mission Reports (continued)

Jonathan & Cosetta Priest

We are doing fine. We almost made two weeks of having school. Last night Honduras qualified for the world cup in soccer. This was a big deal! The President declared today a national holiday and there is no school. That's one more day we will have to make up. Jonathan is really

happy because it is his birthday. It never hurts to have a national holiday declared on your birthday! Arelia will be 3 on Saturday! She is really excited.

The city seems "normal" in regards to the political situation, but we still need prayers for peace and a resolution.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in prayer!

Genesis House

We will present the "2009 Festival of Trees" on Friday, December 4, 2009. It will be in Independence Village at 345 Lear Rd. in Avon Lake.

A free will donation can be accepted at the front door. Here's what you can expect:

- Purchase Custom Decorated Trees and Wreaths
- Bid on an array of fabulous Silent Auction items, including an autographed Lebron James rookie card!
- Buy a key to try to open the box containing a gorgeous

custom designed diamond ring!

- Raffle items given away throughout the evening!
- Get your picture taken with Santa and enjoy holiday stories and crafts!
- Holiday music performed by local entertainers as well as juggling, magic and more by the St. Ignatius Circus Club!
- Enjoy food and beverages, mingle with friends and delight in the Holiday Festivities!

Home for the Holiday with the Library

By now, Christmas is on everyone's mind! Here are a few ideas for getting more out of this Season of Joy!

- First, mark your calendar for Sunday, December 6, and be sure to attend the Library's Christmas Open House! We're Waiting to Welcome **you** to our 'home' - the church library! There will be cookies and warm beverages to enjoy, you can enter a drawing for a very nice prize and you can take all the time you want just browsing our newest selections! Our doors will be open before and after the church services - we hope to see you there!
- If you haven't done so already, please consider loaning the library one of your extra throws, afghans or quilts so that we can 'warm up' the library during the winter. We want to encourage everyone to visit us and snuggle up with a good book and a cover to keep out the winter chill!
- Last, but not least, here are a few Christmas-themed titles to entice you:
 - * The Nativity Story DVD for the whole family.
 - * Christmas Homecoming - Bill & Gloria Gaither - Video
 - * The Christmas Shoes DVD
 - * All I Want for Christmas is My New False

Teeth - Dennis Swanberg DVD

- * Punchinello and the Marvelous Gift - Max Lucado DVD
- * Books for Youth & Adults
 - ◆ Cosmic Christmas - Max Lucado
 - ◆ I'll Be home for Christmas - Thomas Kinkade
 - ◆ The Red Glories Collection - Karen Kingsbury
 - ◆ Why the Nativity? -David Jeremiah
 - ◆ All I Calm, All is Bright - Cheryl Kirking
 - ◆ A Christmas Longing - Joni Eareckson-Tada
- * Books for Children
 - ◆ McGee and Me - T'was the Fight Before Christmas - Bill Myers
 - ◆ God Gave Us Christmas - Lisa Tawn Bergren
 - ◆ Santa Are Your for Real? -Harold Myra
 - ◆ The Christmas Miracle of Janathan Toomey - Susan Wojciechowski
 - ◆ The Very First Christmas—Paul L. Maier
 - ◆ Baby's First Nativity - Muff Singer

We all have a choice in every difficult situation in life. We can become either bitter or better.

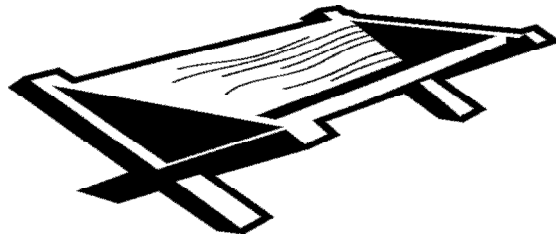
Christmas Traditions Old and New

Lessons and carols

The traditional Christmas Eve service using Bible lessons and Christmas carols was first held in England in 1918 at Cambridge University's King's College. Eric Milner-White, a 34-year-old who had just been appointed dean of King's, planned the service. His previous experience as an army chaplain convinced him that the Church of England needed to make worship more expressive.

The service has been broadcast from King's annually since 1928, missing only one year (1930). Radio listeners could tune in and hear the service during World War II, although the name of King's couldn't be broadcast due to security precautions. During the war, the chapel's antique glass — and thus all its heat — had been removed.

Every year, millions of people worldwide listen to the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." Since 1919, the service has begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City."



Advent

In early church history, Advent began as a time of repentance. It served as preparation for Epiphany, which was the second most popular day for baptisms (after Pentecost). Common traditions during the Advent season, including wreaths and candles, add to the anticipation of Jesus' birth. Another tradition is to leave the manger empty when you set up your nativity scene. Then, during Christmas morning celebrations, you can place the newborn baby Jesus in his "bed."

Katie's Kidz

Katie Greene of Weddington, North Carolina, has a heart of love. At age 6, she thought about what sort of Christmas the patients in the Children's Hospital would have. It occurred to Katie that, with help, she could provide a toy for each child. In 2006, she collected \$167 toward her efforts, calling it "the best time of my life."

The next year, she began a Web site called Katie's Kidz, and donations totaled \$2,600. Katie and her parents shopped for art supplies, board games, playing cards, gift cards and even iPod Shuffles. On Christmas Day, they took 600 toys to the hospital.

Katie put on a Santa hat and helped hospital workers deliver toys in red wagons. "Next year, we're going to do two hospitals," Katie

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where tradition says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church. Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6'6" tall), was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.

There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston's famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event in Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be."

Nature and Care for our CUMC Family

Are you facing a crisis?
Is your loved one sick?
Has someone close to you died?
Do you need someone to listen?
Help is just minutes away at CUMC.

Who Should You Call?

First call Pastor Don at 365-8734. If Pastor Don is not available, call the office at 440-365-7391.

Specific Help Available

For Lay Counseling support call Ginnie Baillie, Lay Counseling Minister, at 365-7391.

For meals brought to your home, or assistance for shut-ins, call Sue Short, Chairperson of the ICU Team, at 365-8184.

For funeral dinners, call Alberta Haas at 365-5326.

For help with moving, household repairs, or other odd jobs around the home the DOERS can help. Call Adam Baillie at 365-3200.

For information or questions about church activities or if you can't reach any of the other people listed above, call Sherry Dangremond in the church office at 365-7391. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. M-F.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR ALL LISTED BELOW

IN THE ARMED FORCES

Justin Berry	Step-Grandson of June Miller	Ryan Schaffer	Friend of the Leidenheimer's
Jacob Brown	Nephew of Cora Campbell	Matt Sharp	Nephew of Sharon Moehle
Roy Cooper	Son of Chuck & Pat Burkey	Ashley Sklenar	Niece of Becky Sklenar
Amanda Gray	Daughter of Becky Sklenar	Ben Sklenar	Son of Becky Sklenar
Jen Murphy	Daughter of Sandee Daggett	Lynne Sklenar	Daughter-in-law of Becky Sklenar
Tom Murphy	Son-in-law of Sandee Daggett	Ché Stedman	Nephew of the Doebele's
Daniel Quigle	Grandson of Mary Hendershot	Jesse Tubb	Nephew of the Doebele's
Eddie R. Rivera	Son-in-law of Becky Sklenar	Donald Wyatt	Friend of the Moehle Family

SHUT INS

Tillie Bonafield, Jessie Carrick, Ray Ferrell, Robert Krueger,
Mae McGlumphy, Loren Meschke, Evelyn Miller,
Rev. Ronald Ober, William & Louise Rogers,
Donna Roseborough, Les Rubino, Evonne Searls,
Doc & Dolores Turner

ONGOING ILLNESS

Donna Adams	Chris Marks
Keith Boggs	Juanita Matson
Gerry Brown	Joanne Meschke
Helen Buckwald	Todd Moehle
Andy Edgar	Jack Quinn
Nellie Ferrell	Louise Rogers
Wreatha Goforth	Barbara Shiltz
Sandy Golding	Gene Willoughby
Juanita Jones	

OTHER CONCERNS

Diane Harbst, Sharon Moehle's Mother & Father, Dick Sharrock,
Jordana Taylor (Gerry Brown's Niece)

Condolences: To Deena Collins and her family at the death of her daughter Kim.

C.U.M.C. Prayer Chain

Call Alberta Haas (365-5326). For the E-mail prayer chain contact Candi Thompson at clthompson@eriecoast.com.

From the Pastor's Desk....

Marriage in the church should always be considered sacred and sacramental in nature. It is a privilege offered to those who are seeking to live a Christian life, in obedience to God - not simply a right of church membership or attendance. *Christian* marriage differs substantially from secular marriage, because a Christian marriage is an act of Christian worship. A Christian wedding should, therefore, glorify God and promote a clear Christian witness regarding the true nature and meaning of marriage as God, who instituted marriage, intended it. Those coming to be married in a church are really making sacred vows before God – and the pastor acts on God's behalf to affirm and bless those sacred vows and the marriage that follows. To make such sacred vows, while openly refusing to obey God's laws regarding marriage – such as by having premarital sexual relations and/or "living together" - desecrates the sacred name of Christ, destroys the Christian witness of the couple, the church and its pastor, and predisposes the marriage to failure.

Over the past month, some at CUMC have taken issue with my policy on church weddings. Misinformation, half-truths and even outright lies have been spread by some members and friends of the church against me and another fellow pastor. Without knowing all the facts, some have been quick to take up sides and spread gossip, while slow to consider both sides and, above all, the truth of God's Word.

My wedding policy is not new or arbitrary. It's been my policy – and therefore (according to the Book of Discipline) the church's policy – ever since I was appointed to CUMC in July, 2005. In fact, I explained my policy on weddings to the SPR Committee when we interviewed each other prior to my appointment, and asked if they had any objections. Much to the contrary, all were highly supportive. Likewise, I shared the policy with the Administrative Council shortly after my appointment here – and again, the support was unanimous, as I recall. Realizing that some in our congregation may not be aware of this policy, I have recently posted it on our church web site: www.elyriacumc.org. I encourage you to read it, so that all may be aware of the policy on weddings at CUMC. When you click on the menu item "**Wedding Information**", you may view and/or save a copy of the "**Wedding Policy**".

In keeping with our Methodist roots, this policy is based upon the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience – with Scripture (God's Word) being primary. For those who wish to better understand why this policy is necessary and the scriptural basis for it, I invite you read the second link on the Wedding Information page – a "pastoral" paper I've prepared entitled: "**Living Together Before Marriage: What Christians Need to Understand about Cohabitation**". (For those without internet access, who wish a copy of either the Wedding Policy or this pastoral paper, please let me know and I'll make sure you get copies)!

By sharing these resources on our web site, I hope we can all be better informed regarding the wedding policy, and eliminate any future misunderstandings. I also hope that the paper I've written will serve as an educational tool regarding the sanctity of Christian marriage as God intends it – and why pastors bear special responsibility in who they marry - something which we hear precious little of today, including from many pastors and churches.

And, lest anyone think this policy is unique, I assure you it is not. There is a growing movement among Christian counselors, pastors and churches to restore the sanctity of Christian marriage to our society. I have copies of policies from pastors and churches, both United Methodist and others, that have adopted similar policies – some without the "grace" that my policy offers to those willing to acknowledge and turn away from their sins. Even the "official" United Methodist pre-marital counseling workbook *Growing Love in Christian Marriage*, which I give to couples, now strongly discourages living together and premarital sexual relationship before marriage.

My hope is that Christian marriage in our church and community can once again become the "sacred covenant relationship" and foundation of the home, church and society that it was intended by God to be.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this wedding policy, please read it for yourself and come talk with me directly – don't gossip about what you may have heard. And don't jump to judgment about me or a fellow pastor, based on what you've heard from others. Instead, talk to us directly – and get the facts. That's what real Christians do!

Pastor Don

Worship Helpers for December



12/6 Christine Gregory
Gabby Schramm
12/13 Omar Senquiz
Tyler Schramm
12/20 Christine Gregory
Tyler Schramm
12/27 Jacob Baker
Gabby Schramm



Lay
Readers

12/6 Sharon Dunkel
12/13 Martin Dunkel
12/20 Lee Forster
12/27 Maxine Watkins

USHERS



Head User
Kathy Gibbs

Perry Burns
Carlos Senquiz
Mary Snider
Brenda Stoll



Gordon & Linda Brunson

Lowell & Jo Poling

Greeters

Children's Moments

12/6 Rob Taylor 12/13 Sherry Dangremond 12/20 Linda Brunson 12/27 Pastor Lare

Children's Activities Helpers

Nursery

9:30 Becky Sklenar
10:45 12/6 MaryLou Doebele, Holly Leidenheimer, Anna Daniels
12/13 Carol Blaner, Becky Sklenar, Alex Craig
12/20 Holly Leidenheimer, Maria Hartwig, Gabby Schramm
12/27 Holly Leidenheimer, Lily Jacklitch

Growing Up Church

12/6 Linda Brunson, Sue Short
12/13 Linda Brunson, Mavis Brown
12/20 Linda Brunson
12/27 Bill & MaryLou Doebele

Substitutes Helen Buckwald, Pat Gregory, Pam Taylor, Melody Dyer

December Messages

Road to Recovery Series Continues

12/6 When Faith Runs Dry
12/13 The Gift of Everlasting Joy
12/20 The Story of Christmas
*12/24 Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.
12/27 Don't Forget the Best

*Special Services



If we really want to see Jesus this Christmas, we need to do what Anna and Simeon did. We need to pray. If we want others to see Jesus, we need to pray. And if we want to world to discover Jesus, we need to pray!

The Bulletin Board

Happy Birthday!

12/2 Carol Hutchinson
 12/3 Carol Green
 Jane Miller
 Ralph Smith
 12/5 Mary Harbert
 12/7 Dorothy Shobe
 12/10 Carol Blaner
 Evelyn Miller
 12/12 Liz Gibbs
 12/13 Dick Hartwig
 12/16 Louise Rogers
 12/17 Betty Brown
 12/18 Brad Baker
 12/19 Becky Sklenar
 12/22 Roberta Wysocky
 12/25 Donna Adams
 12/28 Lida Mays
 12/29 Sue Short

Happy Anniversary!

12/14 Jack & Lavera Quinn
 12/18 Willie & Sandee Daggett
 12/20 Chuck & Karen Costin
 Bill & MaryLou Doebele
 George & Barbara Shiltz
 12/30 Roger & Donna Roseborough



Hot Meals and Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry
 Cake Mix

Hot Meals
 1 Lb. Margarine

From the Pastor

Pastor Don will be on vacation from 12/28—1/3. If you need pastoral assistance during this time, please call the church office (365-7391).

Dorcas Luncheon

This monthly event will be Tuesday 12/1 at 12:00 p.m.

UMM Breakfast

The UMM meeting will be Sunday 12/6 at 8:00 a.m.

Caring Crafters

There will not be a meeting this month.

December Meetings

Mon. 12/1 7:00 p.m. Trustees
 Tues. 12:00 p.m. Dorcas
 Thurs. 12/3 7:00 p.m. Evangelism
 Sun. 12/6 8:00 a.m. UMM
 Thurs. 12/10 7:00 p.m. SPRC
 Mon. 12/14 9:00 a.m. UMW Making
 Holiday Baskets for Shut-ins/Hot Meals.
 Tues. 12/15 7:00 p.m. Education

Leadership Academy

The 2010 Leadership Academy is Saturday, 2/6/2010. Save the date on your calendar.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Coming in January

Sun. 1/03 Puppets of Grace
 Thurs. 1/14 Beth Moore's Study on Esther
 Sat. 1/16 Adam Hamilton's "Selling Swimsuits in the Arctic"

Also
 Mon. & Tues. Anointed, Transformed, & Redeemed—study of David

Notes from the Office

If you are a chairperson for one of our church teams, please help avoid scheduling conflicts by posting your meeting dates and location on the office so that we can ensure a room is available for your meeting.

Please note that the new 2010 calendar is available in the office and is already filling up.

Kids Stuff

STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES

These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil

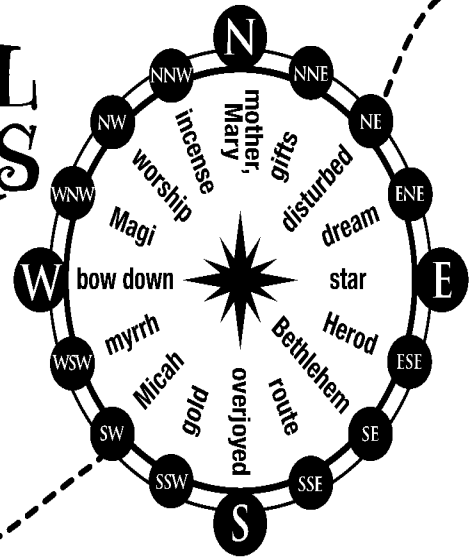
What you do:

1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)



SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
_____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

**Community United Methodist Church
December 2009**

		1 12:00 p.m. Dorcas Meeting 7:00 p.m. Trustees	2 8:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	3 6:30 p.m. Women's Study 7:00 Evangelism Comm	4 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals	5
6 8:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	7 10:00 a.m. Food Panty Open	8	9 8:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	10 7:00 p.m. SPRC	11 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals	12
13 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Genesis Luncheon	14 9:00 a.m. UMW Holiday Bas- kets for Shut-in's/ Hot Meals 10:00 a.m. Food Panty Open	15 7:00 Education Comm.	16 8:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	17	18 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals	19
20 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	21 10:00 a.m. Food Panty Open	22	23 8:00 a.m. Quilting	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 NO HOT MEALS TODAY!	26
27 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	28 10:00 a.m. Food Panty Open	29	30	31		

The Community Clarion
Community United Methodist Church
680 Abbe Road, North
Elyria, OH 44035

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9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. –Morning Worship

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Visit us on the Web at
www.elyriacumc.org

A Bible Based, Christ Centered Ministry

Our Mission:

***Proclaim Christ
Equip the saints
Seek the Lord
Glorify God***

Hot Meals are served for the
community every Friday at 5:00 p.m.

The **Food Pantry** is open Monday &
Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, 12/24
At 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate
our Savior's birth.