



CIRCUIT RIDER

HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2506 Caton Farm Road Joliet, Illinois 60435

December 2008

Preparing for
Worship In December

December 7

Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;

2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:47-55;

Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 24

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 28

1st Sunday of Christmastide

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

CLS John Wietlispach preaching



Dear Friends,

It continues to be my joy and privilege to serve as your pastor. Hope UMC is alive and filled with the Holy Spirit. In the past year we have witnessed growth in faith and a commitment to serve others through ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Evidence to this growth is revealed by our increased worship attendance, growing participation in mission projects, eager engagement in biblical studies, and empowering new leadership within the church. Much of this change can be linked to our ministerial focus last year which centered upon three of our weakest characteristics named in the Natural Church Development Survey: Those were: Passionate Spirituality, Holistic Small Groups, and Need-Orientated Evangelism.

Opportunities were made to experience the Holy Spirit creatively during special worship services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and the candlelight Christmas Eve service. Sunday morning worship seeks to address the issues of our day and how that translates to living as a Christian in the 21st century.

A renewed focus on magnifying the Sacraments reminds us of Christ's gift to the Church and the means of grace that empowers us for discipleship and service.

The growth of small groups whether in mission activity or in biblical study has led to persons finding a more intimate community to share their faith stories, engage in spiritual interaction and find support through prayer and practical help. Participation in small groups and sharing in creative worship resulted in an outgrowth of passionate spirituality where faith is exhibited by enthusiasm and commitment. Hope UMC supports area food pantry's, participates in the Joliet Area Crop Walk, aids underprivileged children through "Boomer's Kids," and offers a Sat. night youth ministry. This is not a complete list but a sampling of projects. Two new ministries have emerged as members identified further gifts for ministry: A Prayer Quilt ministry is offering prayer and support to those facing trying circumstances. A Pet -Therapy visitation ministry has brightened the lives of those who are physically or mentally shut – in.

Need - Orientated Evangelism will be an area for continued concentration as we work through our Joliet-area cluster to name other areas for outreach within the community.

The cluster has identified a growing concern in our area; the high number of foreclosures in Will County, and rising unemployment. Developing missions to address need - orientated evangelism will arise through growth in faith in Jesus Christ and in discernment of our call to be in service in the world.

Two areas of concern identified last year, centered upon the staffing of our children's Sunday school and developing new leadership on committees. The hiring of a staff person to teach Sunday school has brought stability to the program. The children have responded to the continuity of a permanent teacher. Our Sunday school attendance is beginning to exhibit further growth above last year.

Hope UMC is blessed to have committed leadership. Members have devoted countless hours of their time and talent to ensure all committees run efficiently while maintaining the order of the church. New members within our congregation have become active on various committees and new leadership has stepped forward for the coming year. These signs point to a healthy and growing congregation.

In closing, I remain committed to pastoral visitation and to serving the sacraments in homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities. It has been a joy to represent Hope UMC as I lead worship in area nursing homes on a regular basis. I remain active in our Joliet Cluster, I take advantage of conference training, and continuing education opportunities offered through Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary and elsewhere as I seek to engage and improve upon my skills for ministry.

As I continue my appointment to Hope UMC, I look forward in celebrating with the congregation 50 years of faithful ministry to the Joliet area. May we go forth to live into our mission statement as "*a diverse community of believers in Jesus Christ, who worship, work and play together; committed to growing and sharing in our knowledge of the Bible and spreading God's love by reaching out to the needs of people.*"

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Glenna

(from the Pastor's Report: Church Conference, November 30, 2008)

Hope Notes

Please keep bringing your **aluminum cans** to church. See **Linda Hess** with questions.

The church office is always in need of **used ink cartridges**. The office supply stores have *changed their policies* and now **accept only name-brand (Dell, HP, and Epson) cartridges**. These cartridges can be redeemed at office supply stores for paper and other supplies we need to run our office. Please leave used cartridges in Roberta's mailbox.

Volunteers are needed to **clean our church**. Please continue to sign up on the Volunteer Schedule which is in the Housekeeping mailbox. The job description is also available in the mailbox. Call **Linda Hess** for more information. **Volunteers** are also needed to **mow the lawn**. The sign-up clipboard is located below the housekeeping board.

The Joliet Cluster continues to support the **Ridgewood United Community Pantry**, an outreach ministry of **Trinity United Methodist Church**, located in the Ridgewood neighborhood of Joliet. In **December**, we will be gathering *cans of tuna fish, boxes of Rice Krispies and Cheerios cereals*. Please place them in the blue bin in the narthex, and many thanks for your assistance.

The United Methodist Men will have a **Quilt drawing on March 7, 2009**, the day of our Corned Beef Dinner. Tickets are on sale now for the drawing. See Linda or Roger Hess to buy one ticket for \$1.00, or six tickets for \$5.00. The proceeds will be designated for current expenses. The quilt is hanging at the back of the sanctuary.

Be sure to pick up your copy of **January/February** edition of *The Upper Room*. Regular and large-print copies are on the credenza in the narthex.

The United Methodist Women will be holding their annual **Christmas Breakfast** at **Larry's Diner** in Plainfield on **Saturday, December 6, at 9:00 a.m.** All are invited to attend. Please see **Harriet Luce** to RSVP.

Budget requests are due in the **Finance Committee** mailbox **December 7**.

It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias! Plants are **\$7.00 each** and will be placed on the chancel for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve**. Plants may be taken home **after** the Christmas Eve Service. *Please fill out the envelope in your bulletin to dedicate your plant(s), include payment, and give to Judy Sohr.* The last day to place an order is **Sunday, December 14**.

The Bag Ladies will be hosting a **Bake Sale** on **Sunday, December 14**, following worship. Proceeds will be used to purchase supplies for their projects.

UMW News – Pick up a copy of the recommended reading list from Janice Gintzler, Secretary of Program Resources, from the credenza in the narthex.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Saturday January 10, 2009

Serving: 3:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Adults \$ 8.00, under 10 \$5.00

Salad, Spaghetti, Bread, Beverage, Dessert

Hope United Methodist Church

2506 Caton Farm Rd, Joliet, IL

This fundraising dinner is open to the public. Be sure to tell all your friends!
Proceeds will be used toward the purchase of a multi-media system for the sanctuary.

<i>Those Who Serve</i>	December 7 <i>Holy Communion Second Sunday of Advent</i>	December 14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	December 21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	December 28 <i>First Sunday of Christmastide</i>
Liturgist	Frank Denk	Becky Gilliam	Boomer Crotty	Carol Cawvey	Dennis Mattix
Greeter	Marty Olumstad	Jana Knight	Joan Crotty	Sheryl Dyer	Wanda Mattix
Host	Barb Denk	Carole Blackwell & Marlene Shain	Boomer & Joan Crotty		Connie Vahle
Acolyte	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon
Offering Counters	Carole Blackwell & TBA	Carole Blackwell & Harriet Luce	Carole Blackwell & Carol Becker		Carole Blackwell & TBA
Communion Steward	Jill Genge			Jill Genge	



Shirley Zupancic and
Fitzwilliam seem to be
hitting it off!



Birthdays This Month

December 3 – Mary Hill
 December 7 – Rosemary Breen
 December 7 – Frank Denk
 December 9 – Dominic Larmon
 December 10 – Mickey Orta
 December 13 – Diane Bown
 December 17 – Dorothy Chapman
 December 21 – Doris Douglas
 December 23 – Boomer Crotty
 December 24 – Shirley Zupancic
 December 26 – Michael Mattix
 December 28 – Wauneta Oleferchik
 December 29 – Lee Nyhart

We Missed!

Happy Belated Birthday to
Kylie Shelton
 who turned 6 on November 17.
 Sorry we missed your big day!