



CIRCUIT RIDER

HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2506 Caton Farm Road Joliet, Illinois 60435

December 2009

Preparing for
Worship In December

December 6

Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelighting

Holy Communion

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Glenna preaching

December 27

First Sunday in Christmastide

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Hymn Sing



Advent Thoughts

Dear Friends,

The coming of the Christmas season brings with it a myriad of traditions and symbols. One cannot enter a store, workplace, home or church without noticing signs of an upcoming celebration. Even before Thanksgiving, we begin to see signs of the approaching holiday. It is interesting to remember that the term *holiday* has its beginnings in the idea of a “*Holy Day*,” meaning that it is a day set-apart, or different from the ordinary.

As I gaze upon the symbols of the season, I find myself being reminded of images that point to the “*reason for the season*.” Wreaths, evergreens, candles, ornaments and bells are not only decorations that look nice; for Christians, they can be used to instruct us in our Christian faith. I came across a little book this year that has helped me find deeper meaning in the symbols of Christmas. *The Advent Instructor*, by Kenneth Mortonson has given me topics to meditate upon as I go about my day observing the various symbols on display.

One symbol that is lifted up in his book is the wreath. This decoration is often used during the Advent season as decoration on a door, or to help mark time in the church. The unique feature of the wreath is that it forms a circle, a symbol of eternity. The circle has no beginning and no end. It serves as a reminder of the scripture from Revelation 1:8 “*I am the Alpha and Omega.*” These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; words that symbolize the beginning and the end, a completeness of what Jesus the Christ brings to us.

As we enter this season of Advent, as we light the candles on the Advent wreath each Sunday, let us prepare to remember the wonderful gift given to us by God. Mortonson writes, “Whenever we see that symbol of the circle let us remember we are celebrating things that shall influence us and our world forever.”

So, think about the symbols we use during the Christmas season: and then think how they remind you of the comings of the Christ- whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.

Peace,

Pastor Glenna

Pastor Glenna

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<i>Those Who Serve</i>	December 6 <i>Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion</i>	December 13 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	December 20 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	December 27 <i>First Sunday of Christmastide</i>
Liturgist	Roger Hess	Wanda Mattix	Sue Ritts	Becky Gilliam	Greg Chapman
Greeter	Lori Mattix	Jim Reuther	JoAnn Hall	Linda Hess	The Moore Family
Host(s)	Sheryl Dyer	Nancy Mitchell & Marlene Shain	Jacqui Slaughter		Joan & Boomer Crotty
Acolyte	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominick Larmon
Offering Counters	Carole Blackwell & TBA	Carole Blackwell & Harriet Luce	Carole Blackwell & Carol Becker		Carole Blackwell & Boomer Crotty
Communion Steward	Jill Genge			Jill Genge	

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 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. See **Linda Hess**.

If you purchase your personal office supplies at **Staples**, please give the church phone number (815-436-2209) to the cashier when you check out so that a percentage of your purchase will come back to the church as part of their Rewards program. This is another way to help our church get what it needs without costing you anything! Thanks for your help.

A **big THANK YOU** to everyone who took part in the **Bag Ladies'** bake sale. We made \$160 which will all go to buying fabric. We are going to have another bake sale Dec. 20th. Thank you everyone.

The Midwest Crossroad Chorus of Sweet Adelines' Annual Show is **Dec. 5 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Christian School, 901 Shorewood Drive in Shorewood**. Tickets are **\$10** and are available at the door, or from **Arlene Hupach**. See her with questions.

The Bag Ladies are having a **bake sale on December 20**. The money will be used to buy fabric for making the bags. You may also want to pick up some little things to go into the 30 Christmas stockings (for Boomer's kids) that the Bag Ladies will be making. Thank you for helping to make 30 kids happy. See **Linda** with any questions.

Every five years, the church is required by the state to update our **tax-exempt letter**. *The current letter expires next month*. The new letters are available in the **Forms Center**, to the right of the office door. All who shop for the church or deal with outside vendors should pick up a copy of the new letter and destroy their old one. Please update your vendors with this new letter. Contact **Roberta** if you have questions or problems.

If you utilize the church on Thursday afternoons, please leave the back door to Fellowship Hall unlocked for the A.A. group that meets on Thursday evenings. Questions or concerns? See **Larry Wilkinson**.

Finance Committee Update - Apportionments are paid and up to date.

A New Photo Directory Is In The Works! Hope Church will be assembling a new **Photo Directory** starting in January. It will be self-generated; we are not using any outside company to take the pictures (no pressure to buy!) **Trish Nash** will be leading the project, with **Linda Hess** serving as our photographer and **Sue Ritts** will be doing the computer work. Linda has already begun taking pictures of those who will be away in January. More information will be coming soon.

A New Members Class will be held in **January** for those who have been attending worship and want to learn more about membership. We will meet in the front of the Sanctuary after worship on **January 17, 24, and 31**. See **Pastor Glenna** if you plan to attend so that enough materials may be prepared.



It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias! Plants are **\$7.00 each** and will be placed on the chancel for the **Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service**. 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 place in the offering or in Roberta's mailbox. Envelopes are also available on the credenza in the Narthex.* The last day to place an order is **Sunday, December 13**.

News About Kids



Upcoming Sunday School Lessons

December 6th Lesson: "Mary hears the good news!" The children will learn that Jesus is the Son of God, the scripture reading is Luke 1:26-38. The highlighted verse is: The child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God (Luke 1:35)

December 13th Lesson: "Joseph Hears the Good News". The children will learn that Jesus is the Son of God, the scripture reading is Matthew 1:18-24. The highlighted verse is: Jesus will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21, CEV)

December 20th Lesson: "Shepherds Hear the Good News". The children will learn that we celebrate the birth of God's Son at Christmas, the scripture reading is Luke 2:1:20. The highlighted verse is: To you is born this day... a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11).

December 27th Lesson: "Simeon and Anna". The children will learn that Jesus is the Savior whom God promised to send us. The scripture reading is Luke 2:22-38. The highlighted verse is: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus is the Son of God. Luke 1:26-38

Youth Group News – The United Methodist Men's Youth Outreach Project will be resuming soon! Watch the announcements for more information. All teen-agers are welcome to attend.

Boomer's Kids - Please continue to bring school supplies for **Boomer's kids**. We will be collecting year-round to help supply the needs of the kids all though the school year.

More Hope Notes . . .



A big “Thank You” goes out to all the persons who are rotating off the committees and to the new ones coming on:

Board of Trustees

Leaving: Carol Becker, Wanda Mattix
Staying on: Roger Hess
New Class: Harriet Luce, Connie Vahle

Church Council

Leaving: Carole Blackwell as recording secretary, and special thanks for her work taking the minutes at the Annual Church Conference.

Staff Parish

Leaving: Linda Hess, Marty Kaspar
New: Jim Vahle, Nola Owen, and Rosemary Breen

Committee on Lay Leadership

Leaving: Marjorie Dernulc
New: Wanda Mattix

Education

New: Sue Ritts

Finance

Leaving: John Wietlispach as chair, thanks for serving faithfully for many years.
New Co-Chairs: Roger Hess/Dennis Mattix



December 3 – Mary Hill
December 7 – Rosemary Breen
December 7 – Frank Denk
December 9 – Dominic Larmon
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 29 – Lee Nyhart
December 30 – Brett Chapman
December 31 – Peggy Chapman



Ridgewood United Community Pantry

*Trinity United Methodist Church
301 Fairbanks Avenue
Joliet, IL 60432*

As of November 1, 2009, the food pantry will only be able to serve those families with a 60432 or 60433 zip code. There re a sufficient amount of food pantries in Joliet and other cities to serve their “local” residents in need. Approximately 60 families are being served at the Ridgewood United Community Pantry at this time. That’s about 240 families per month! Right now there is a need for main course foods, such as canned meat, soups, etc. Fresh produce is also extremely limited. Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated. Please send any donations to the address above. Food pantry hours are **every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** We exist solely from contributions and gifts from churches and individuals. We buy most of our food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank in St. Charles. First time clients need to bring an ID for adults, a recent utility bill or proof of their address, and if they have children, birth certificates for their children. **Volunteers are always welcome any Wednesday from 12 noon until 3 p.m.** Hunger is NOT a choice. Helping to end hunger IS a choice. Please help in all ways that you can – as often as you can.