



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF HUMMELSTOWN

BELFRY ECHOES

104 East Main Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036

717-566-8893 hucc@hummelstownucc.org

DECEMBER 2011

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

GIFTS GIVEN — PASSION DRIVEN

A lot of attention is directed to gift giving at this time of the year. It has become our custom, at Christmas time, to give gifts as an expression of love and gratitude to the people who bring joy to our lives. How appropriate, therefore, that the focus of our December 11 Congregational Meeting (11:45 am) will be gifts.

During the fall months the church has been challenging worshippers to reflect on the gifts that God gives people to bless the ministry and mission of the church. The Consistory of HUCC has prayerfully discerned that four gifts will guide the church in 2012:



Nurturing



Outreach



Witnessing



Administration

We have spent time, in worship, exploring the nature of each of these gifts, encouraging people to prayerfully consider which of these gifts they have been given and which one gift God is calling them to use, in the church, at this particular moment. Time will be set aside, at the Congregational Meeting, to provide more support to people still trying to discern which gift God is calling them to share. Another topic that will be covered at the meeting will be the adoption of the church's 2012 operating budget. This budget was sent in a previous mailing.

The Congregational Meeting will begin with a time of fellowship in Keller Hall after the 10:30 am worship service. The church will provide beverages and you are asked to bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with others.





Angel Tree Project

We are planning to participate in the **Angel Tree Project** again this year. This involves buying gifts for children of folks who are incarcerated. The gift is given in the name of the absent parent/grandparent and provides a connection with the child that the prisoner may not otherwise have. The Angel Tree names are available now. Please select an angel from the tree and write your name on the list beside the name of the child(ren) you choose. Contact the person listed on the tag attached to the angel to find out what the child may need/want for Christmas. Please return the gifts to the church or to Carole Hoover by **December 11th**. **No** party will be held this year, so the gifts will be delivered. If you wish to deliver them yourself, please do so and let Carole know. Please see Carole with questions.



Warm Gift Tree

The **Warm Gift Tree** will be set up in the main Sunday School room after the Hanging of the Greens on **December 4th**. Gloves, scarves, hats and socks can be placed on the tree up until December 20th. If we are able, the items will be taken to the Bethesda Mission during the week before Christmas.



Please give as generously as your heart allows.



LIVE NATIVITY at HUCC

DECEMBER 20 & 21

Once again the Live Nativity will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, December 20 and 21. For those who have never experience it before, it is a unique experience with both adults and children dressing in costumes and standing, along with some animals, in the Nativity scene in front of church. We also need people to help with the costumes and coordinate the shifts; to help with the Christmas music; to bake cookies; and people to watch and think about the first Christmas and forget, for a few minutes, about the hustle and bustle in their lives. This is an event for the entire church and **we need your help.** Sign-up sheet is on the easel in the Annie Keller Room.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Join together with friends to help get the church ready for the holiday season.



December 4th worship will include a symbolic adding of holiday decoration in the sanctuary. After worship you're invited to a pizza and salad lunch, then we'll all pitch in and put up the remainder of our holiday decorations. A sign-up sheet is located in Keller Hall.





True Christmas



*True Christmas is not chiming bells,
However sweet their sound,
Nor even joyous carols, sung
By choirs the earth around.
It's not the fragrant evergreen,
Nor candle's wavering gleam,
Nor yet the wealth of Christmas gifts
Of which the children dream.*

*We love the carols and the bells,
We love a Christmas tree,
And greetings from the distant friends
We long so much to see.
But all these joys too quickly pass,
And memories grow dim.
True Christmas is to find the Child,
And give ourselves to Him.*

Mary H. Beam

Christmas Blessing — with special prayers that each of you may find the TRUE CHRISTMAS!

Best Wishes for peace, joy, good health, and happiness in the New Year!



*The Health Ministry Team:
Bob Harpel, Chairperson
Barb Florence Carole Hoover
"Dusty" Rhoads Ruth Bernitsky
Grace Laubach*



GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY



The Good Samaritan Ministry Team is looking for a new member. In the spirit of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (St. Luke 10:30-37) this ministry team seeks to "show mercy" to individuals (members of HUCC and non-members) and not-for-profit organizations who find themselves experiencing adversities in life.

The team has five (5) voting members. Any member in good standing of HUCC is eligible to serve. The term of service on this ministry team is five (5) years.

In order for this ministry team to function effectively and efficiently, the following criteria shall be considered:

1. The highly sensitive information the team can be asked to deal with requires team members to be able to hold strict confidences.
2. There is a need for a high level of trust and candor between team members insuring mutual respect.
3. Consideration will be given to the variety of skills and gifts needed (i.e.—financial, medical, counseling, educational, real estate property management) to have a well balanced team in regard to areas of expertise.

If you feel you have the necessary gifts or qualifications, please be in contact with Pastor Dencler (dencler@msn.com or 566-8893).



**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
SUNDAY
JANUARY 29TH, 2012**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting following the 10:30 am worship service. **Committee reports** (typed and emailed to the church office) are **due** in the church office by **December 18th** so they can be compiled and available by January 8th.

**HUMMELSTOWN
COMMUNITY SINGERS
CONCERT**

3:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH



HUCC is glad to host the Hummelstown Community Singers winter concert to be held in our sanctuary at 3:00 pm on December 11th.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of wonderful music.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Cancelation notice of Church Worship and other programs will be listed on TV Channels 27 (ABC), 21 (CBS), 8 (NBC), and 33 (NPR).

Also, please check our church website (www.HummelstownUCC.org) or call the church office for information.

All those who attend 8:00 am Sunday worship, please note that if Hummelstown puts a SNOW EMERGENCY in effect, the 8:00 am worship service will automatically be cancelled and refer to the above TV Channels to find out the status of the 10:30 am worship service. We, of course, encourage you to always use your own good judgment about whether or not it's safe to drive.



CARING FRIENDS ON-CALL SCHEDULE

November 27-December 3	Joyce Wolf
December 4-10	Grace Laubach
December 11-17	June Trocik
December 18-24	Ruth Bernitsky
December 25-31	Carol Hebel
January 1-7	Fern Heckman
January 8-14	Carole Hoover



BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

JANUARY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Angela Ulsh
Quinn Schrum | 2 William Vogelsong |
| 6 Lynn Berkheimer | 5 Christy Fisher |
| 9 Dusty Rhoads | 8 Richard Prescott
Susan Hamlett |
| 10 Alicia Mease
Dierra Fahnestock
Laura Fahnestock | 10 Mindy Goodrich
David Ash
Christopher Weaver
Isaiah Fisher |
| 14 Robert Harpel
Alexis Goddard | 11 Brett Anderson |
| 15 Samantha Shuey | 12 Caryn Borrell |
| 16 Xavier Stewart | 13 Elizabeth Radle
Wade Seibert |
| 17 Monica Moore
Jane Zeiters | 14 Jason Rhoads |
| 21 Adeline Koons | 16 Kathleen Hartwell
Lori Mease
Andrew Shumway |
| 23 Ruth Goepfert
Michelle Yentsch | 17 Shannon Heckman |
| 24 Kathy Rossi
Jenna Walters | 18 Mark Hummel |
| 26 Kenneth Robinson
Karissa Fahnestock
Luke Fisher | 20 Kayden Rutherford |
| 27 Robert King
Kara Goddard | 21 David Rhoads
Alora Shumway |
| 28 Keith Schrum
Sam MacElwee | 22 Marilyn Miller |
| 29 Matthew Hoover | 23 Jennifer Owsley |
| 30 Ann Barnet | 24 Jacen Moore
Thomas Rhoads |
| 31 Elizabeth Brightbill | 25 Robert Book |
| | 26 Noah Seibert |
| | 30 Emilie Musser |



— ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2011 —



There are so many things that make the church seasons of Advent and Christmas special. Advent is a time of preparing and anticipation. Christmas is a time of wonder and celebration. There are special customs, music, and decorations that make this time of year even more festive and meaningful. This December, we will explore, during Sunday worship, a few of the stories associated with some of the music, decorations, and customs, that have become part of Advent and Christmas.



December 4 — “Decorating”

The Christmas Tree, the greens, candles, and something called “Christingles” are more than decorations, they are symbols that program the message of the holidays.

December 11— Customs



From ancient times to the present day, customs have arisen which serve to express the significance of events we celebrate during the holy season.



December 18 — Carols/Hymns

It’s believed that the first Christmas carol was written in the second century. Countless others have proclaimed the magic of Christmas down through the ages.

December 25 — The Day



Sunday the day of new life is this year, 2011, also Christmas Day. Communion at the manger. **Hallelujah, Christ Is Born!**

Please note that there will be only one Sunday Worship Service, at 10:30 am, during December and on New Years Day, January 1.



Christmas Eve: Recital at 10:30 pm — Candlelight Service at 11:00 pm

BASEMENT UPDATE



It's been quite some time since the church basement was flooded. The surprise that has significantly slowed down efforts to get repairs underway was the discovery of suspicious looking old tile underneath the water-saturated carpet that was removed. Samples of the tile, which was now cracking and breaking up due to the flood damage, was sent off to be tested. The lab doing the testing, confirmed that the tile was asbestos. Asbestos abatement companies were contacted to come in and provide cost estimates for removing the tile. Our insurance company reviewed everything and on November 21 sent us a letter confirming that they would pay for the removal of the tile. Once the abatement work is done, we will be able to proceed with the renovation of the basement.