



OREMS BEACON 2013

Orems United Methodist Church

Advent Wreath Readers We are still in need of a few readers for our Advent Wreath lighting. If you are interested in reading during the Christmas Eve service contact the Church office.



December

Special points of interest:

- Dec 1 Communion and All Saints Day Service
- Cofirmation 1—3 p.m.
- * Dec 4 UMW Choir Rehearsal
- Dec 5 Keenagers meets at Jad's
- Dec 7—Hall Closet Thrift
- Dec 10—Sarah Circle
- Dec 11 - Esther Circle Choir Rehearsal
- Dec 12—Lunch bunch
- Dec 14 Spirit of the Season
- Dec 15 Christmas Cantata
- Angel tree gifts returned
- Confirmation 1-3
- Dec 16—Rachel Circle
- Dec 18 Choir
- Dec 22 Choir rehearsal after Church
- Dec 24th 7 p.m. Family Service
- 10 p.m. Organ and Piano Concert
- 11 p.m. Candlelight Service

The Hall of Trees will begin set up the first two weeks of December. Each group can design their own tree decorations and theme and all the money for their votes will go to their group. Join us on December 14th to view the Hall of Trees and vote for your favorite.

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



*A Special Event at
Orems United Methodist
Church
Saturday, December 14th
5 - 9 p.m.
Marketplace of
Crafts/Specialty Items
Beautiful Hallway of Trees
Delicious Treats
and
Live Nativity Scene*

Orems United Methodist
1020 Orems Road
Middle River, MD 21220
Church office: 410-687-9483
www.oremsumc.org
Email address:
oremsumc@verizon.net
Rev. Dr. Ann Adams, pastor
Email: oremspastor@verizon.net

Join us for Christmas Caroling on December 12th. We will meet at Orems Church at 6:30 p.m. and carol through the neighborhood. We need drivers of Vans and SUV's to drive us. And we would like to have someone volunteer to make hot chocolate for the returning singers. This is a great opportunity to spread the GOOD NEWS!



CAROLING

Message from your Pastor:

As I sat down to write this newsletter article, I remembered that this would be the Christmas issue and then, I said to myself.... “No dear....this isn’t the Christmas issue – this is the Advent issue.” (I try to keep ahead on my planning) Then, my next thought was “WAIT! Don’t get overly anxious... don’t rush this!” We get rushed enough in the secular world. I was in Joann Fabrics last night and it was hard to find the Thanksgiving decorations because the Christmas decorations were exploding everywhere. Yes, I know we have to prepare because family is coming and there are presents to buy and wrap, a tree to buy and trim...and that is what we do in our secular life. But, in our spiritual lives, it isn’t Christmas. Not yet.

Advent is a season observed as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. So don’t expect to hear Christmas carols in church for the next few weeks...we must wait. It isn’t Christmas....it is Advent...so we must wait. We are supposed to wait. We are supposed to wait with anxious anticipation for the gift of the baby Jesus coming at Christmas.

Then I thought about Vicki’s (our Admin Assistant) daughter, Sarahann, who is pregnant and her baby is due on March 10th. I wondered what must be going through her mind...or through the mind of any pregnant woman. Will my baby be healthy? Is it a boy or a girl? Where will we live? Can we make the finances work? There are all sorts of logistical questions.

And then I thought about Mary and the questions that she had in her mind. Perhaps she thought...What am I going to do? I am pregnant and I have no husband. How can I care for this baby without the help of a husband? I will be shunned and perhaps even stoned. How can I even tell anyone that I am with child? And how do you tell someone that you have been impregnated by The Holy Spirit. How do I tell Joseph that? She was thinking a completely different set of questions than we would think about today.

Either way, Mary had to wait and so will Sarahann....and so do we. It is my prayer that we can take some time and “wait” at this Advent season. And perhaps we can even be still, so we can know that God is God. It will take some waiting and being still and, of course, we will need to listen. Listen for God’s still small voice....or perhaps you will feel him touch you on the shoulder, or nudge you to do something to help someone, or cause you to speak a kind word to someone who you might never speak to ordinarily. Perhaps God will urge you to open your Bible and read some extra passages or sing a hymn in the middle of the day, or create an extra prayer time for yourself or others.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor, theologian and dissident anti-Nazi, whose writings on Christianity’s role in the secular world have become wildly influential, and many of his works are labeled as classic. He wrote a wonderful poem titled “Celebrating Advent Means Knowing How to Wait” and it is printed on the next page.



Celebrating Advent Means Knowing How to Wait
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Mary, grasped and seized by the Spirit,
Speaks of God's coming into the world,
Of the advent of Jesus Christ.
For she knows better than anyone what it means
To wait for Christ.
She waits for him in a way unlike anyone else.
She awaits him as his mother.
She knows about the mystery of his coming,
About the Spirit that is at play here,
About the almighty God who works his wonders.
She experiences in her own body
That God's ways with humans are wonderful,
That is isn't bound by human standards,
That he doesn't follow the path
That humans like to lay out for him –
That his way is beyond all understanding,
Beyond all proof,
Free, and with a mind of its own.

Who knows what God is going to do. And still we are told to “wait”. Wait and see what God is going to do next.

Blessings this Advent and always, **Rev. Ann**

Angel Tree Mission The Four Elementary Schools in our area have collected information for our Angel Tree in our Narthex. Now it is your turn to sponsor an Angel this Christmas. Remember that these families would not have a Christmas without our donations. We ask for sponsorship for the children ages infant to 18 years of age. Because every child in the family should have a Christmas! Don't let the teenage children be left behind! The office will be happy to give you shopping ideas. To further spread your dollars team up with someone so that as many items as possible on the list can be purchased for the child. It may very well be all they receive this Christmas. If you would like to help with the Angel Tree Mission but don't care to shop or are unable to sponsor a child we will gladly accept your donation. Simply place your monetary donation in the Angel Tree envelope available near the tree. **When you take an angel please be sure to register on the Angel Tree log with your name and phone number, the Angel's name and Code number. Gifts must be back to the church by December 15th.**



MARK THE CALENDAR

January 11, 2014 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon there will be a planning meeting in Room 100.

If you are a leader on the Administrative Board, please mark your calendar for this important meeting.

MEMORIAL FUND

The following memorials have been given in memory and in honor of loved ones:

In memory of:

Lt. Thomas W. McGeever JR. given by Donald and Leona Egner

Lydia Sue Jenkins Rose given by Dennis and Gloria Asbury, John and Donna Winner, Orem's UMW, Esther Circle, Wesley and Nikki Hart

Thank you for your thoughtfulness,

Yours in Christ

Donna Winner

Memorial Fund Treasurer

Thank You Notes

Family Crisis Center sends us this note:

On behalf of the Board, staff and the victims of domestic violence that we serve at the Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, we want to sincerely "thank you" for your generous contribution of clothing totaling \$400.00. We continue to ask our core supporters and donors to consider making donations of materials to help us and the victims we serve. Without your continued support we will not be able to provide the services that so many victims in your community depend on.

Again thank you for your generosity and your concern. We truly believe "When someone somewhere cares then someone somewhere survives."

Douglas C Murphy Executive Clinical Director



FOOD PANTRY



We served 15 families at Thanksgiving with baskets of food including a turkey and all the fixings plus enough food for several more days.

Our pantry is being restocked to prepare for the Christmas baskets which will go to the families on our Angel Tree. These families are from the neighboring schools of Orem's, Glen Mar, Martin Boulevard and Victory Villa Elementary Schools. The schools have expressed their sincere thanks in remembering them at this time of year. There has been a great deal of help requested from families in our area and the schools can not keep up with it all.

We will begin to restock our pantry with an area food drive held at Orem's Elementary school. We are however still in need of certain items. If you are able to help us in anyway it would be greatly appreciated by everyone involved.

Here is the list of needed items: pancake syrup, Cereal, Juices, mac and cheese, jars of gravy, instant potatoes, Tuna, canned Chicken, Saltine Crackers, canned fruits of all kinds, applesauce, beef stew, biscuit and muffin mixes, jello and pudding, sauerkraut, sweet potatoes, cookies, jelly and peanut butter.

I would like to thank everyone who helped us make the Thanksgiving baskets possible. Thank you all so much for all you gave.

I would like to especially thank the Youth Group for the dessert baskets they put together. These will be given with the Thanksgiving baskets that they also are assembling for the dozen or so families that are receiving them this year.

Again thanks to everyone.

Bless you all

Cathy Horst



Dear Church family: Happy Advent,

As you well know Christmas is just a few weeks away. The choir has been working very hard preparing for the Christmas services as well as the cantata.

Each week of advent we will be singing something pertaining, to the lead up of the birth of our savior.

Please take a look at the many dates and concerts going on this Christmas season. Sunday December 15th at 10 am, The sanctuary choir with the help of guest singers from our congregation will be presenting the Christmas Cantata. “Celebrate the wonder” This is a beautiful work that you will not want to miss.

On Christmas Eve I will be presenting an organ and piano recital of about 45 Mins. Works include J.S Bach, Jeanette Isabelle, Daquin, Dan miller, Boellner and more. Be sure to listen for the gathering music and as well as the preludes and postludes.

Peace, Ben Boellner , Director of Music and Organist.



Keenagers The Keen-

**agers will be
meeting on December 5th
at Jad's for their Christmas
Dinner. Bring a unisex gift .
The group will be decorat-
ing a tree for Spirit of the
Season. Bring your gloves,
mittens and hats to hang
on the tree.**

Hope to see you there!!

Disciples of Yarn News

Our group has made 5 Christmas Prayer Shawls for our church family. If you have an unexpected illness in your family during the holiday season, please ask me for one. I will bring them to church each Sunday morning. By Mid December, I will take any remaining shawls to Franklin Square Hospital for patients who are spending Christmas in the hospital.

Our friends of the Joppatowne Group gave us 80 Premie Hats for the area hospitals. Thank you to Karen Dull for delivering the hats to us from this wonderful group.



**Stay Well,
Christmas Blessings to All
Mildred Shephard**

Floor Tile Update

Flooring tiles been completed in the Fellowship hall, and donations have been received. Thank you for your donations. We have now received \$12,605 toward the cost of \$16,855. We hope you have all had an opportunity to see our new floor.

Online Offering Payment

If you pay most or all of your bills online, consider adding Orem's United Methodist Church to your list. Our mailing address is 1020 Orem's Road, Middle River, MD 21220. Save yourself the task of finding a stamp or writing a check.



Newsletter Deadline for November News is December 15th. Please have material into the Office for that



The MEN OF OREMS (MOO)

The Men of Orem's meet the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. All men who attend Orem's are welcome to join this group. The purpose of this group is for fellowship of men in our church.

The men have taken on various projects around the church. They are currently purchasing lighter tables for our fellowship hall so that they can easily move tables around for different functions in the hall. If you would like to help with donations to pay for a table contact Butch Frank. Thank you to those who have donated money to purchase a table for the hall.

The Spaghetti Dinner held on November 16th was very successful. Thank you to everyone who helped to serve, and who came to support our dinner. We were able to put \$1000 into the Cemetery Fund for the upkeep of our Cemetery. Thanks again to all involved.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRAN FRANK!

MARY FRANCIS FRANK WILL BE INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME IN MARYLAND'S DRUM CORP

WE WILL HAVE MORE DETAILS AFTER THE AWARD CEREMONY SLATED FOR EARLY 2014.



The Orem's United Methodist Women invites you to join us at our next meeting on **December 4**, 2013 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us as we grow in friendship and share God's love.

Our Operation Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse shoebox mission has completed for this year. Many thanks to Margie Mayer, OCC Project leader. Here is a note from Margie:

Operation Christmas Child 2013 was a huge success at Orem's United Methodist Church. On November 17 Rev. Ann blessed 216 O.C.C. shoeboxes. The final count was 227 shoeboxes filled to overflowing with love and prayers by the congregation of Orem's. In the beginning each shoebox, whether it is laid out flat or assembled, is already filled with love from God. Before the Operation Christmas Child Kickoff I asked everyone to pray for the success of the project. It became quite apparent that your prayers were being heard as each week passed. Donations of money were placed in the Teddy bear canister and in the collection plates. Gifts of toys and toiletries were placed in the box.

A packing party was planned and Volunteers arrived on Saturday, November 9, 2013. We packed 68 boxes that day. The next day there were more donations! Two more boxes were able to be packed. Our packing party was a success!! We enjoyed fellowship, cookies and Billy Graham's DVD "My Hope for America".

The members of the church became the body and hands of Christ as they all worked together on the Operation Christmas Child project. Everyone helped. Many thanks to the choir for singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and to Ben for adding the second verse! Don Schenning was able to provide a huge contribution of toys, flip flops, socks and many other items. Fran and Butch Frank took flat boxes home to assemble them. Carol Dakin was a major provider of moral support and her vast knowledge was invaluable. I would like to send thanks to the United Methodist Women for the friendship and support. Thanks goes to Paul Julian for transporting the boxes to the local collection site. So many people helped and I want to thank every person in the church for their prayers and for packing boxes. Operation Christmas Child was such a success because of ALL of you. Thanks to our heavenly Father for bringing us together and blessing us, the children and the shoeboxes.

Now the next step is the journey to the children. Please continue to pray for all of the children who receive a shoebox this year. Pray for them as they take the "greatest journey" learning about the wonderful love and the joy of Jesus.

Thank you all,
Margaret Mayer

