



The Jubilate

First United Methodist
Church
of Leavenworth, KS

Volume I, Issue 50
December 13, 2011

Can you think about both Advent and Lent???

It's that time already! We are compiling a list of 'writers' for the **2011 Lenten Devotional**. Please let me know if you are willing to write a short (not a word over 370 words!) devotion.

Our theme for the 2012 Lenten Devotion booklet is Carrying the Light Through the Years: The changing face—and the constant faith—of our congregation.

The 2012 booklet will be the **50th** anniversary of the Lenten booklet and we will include a selection from each of the previous five decades of essays. We want to remind our

congregation, and all the readers of this booklet, that although the calendar has marched onward, our Christian faith remains constant and strong and unchanged through the years.

Please consider this theme if you are willing to write a devotion for 2012. However, not every essay must fit the theme precisely; if God is speaking to you in your writing, then it will be included in the booklet!

As you know, the Lenten Devotion Booklet (in the format of The Upper Room daily devotional) is always inspirational, and

warmly received by everyone. Please prayerfully consider this... and **let me know if you are willing to write this year**. I can email you the guidelines or print you a copy and also provide you with an example if you are new to FUMC and did not get a copy of the booklet last year. Your final devotion will be turned in shortly after mid-January, but this is a good time to begin thinking about what you want to share.

Thank you!
Sandy Simmons,
ssimmons7@kc.rr.com



As many of you have noticed, we are nearing the completion of Phase I of our building project – the demolition of the old Leavenworth High School/ East Middle School. The good news is that we were able to do it quicker and cheaper than we anticipated. Now the really exciting part begins – looking to the future.

As part of our planning and site development process, your building committee has looked at a number of options, to include renovating the existing church/sanctuary facility and adding an adjoining building that will help us meet both existing and future requirements. It truly would be a magnificent complex – one we would all be proud of. While we all get excited about the possibilities, our enthusiasm is tempered by the existing economic situation and the cost of any

major construction project. As a result, we believe we should focus our efforts on a stand-alone building, that could be incorporated with the sanctuary building at a later date. We feel this option will meet the most pressing requirements of the First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth. We will continue to explore this option and look forward to presenting a building concept to you in the near future. We ask for your continued prayers and support for this project.

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Prayer Concerns:

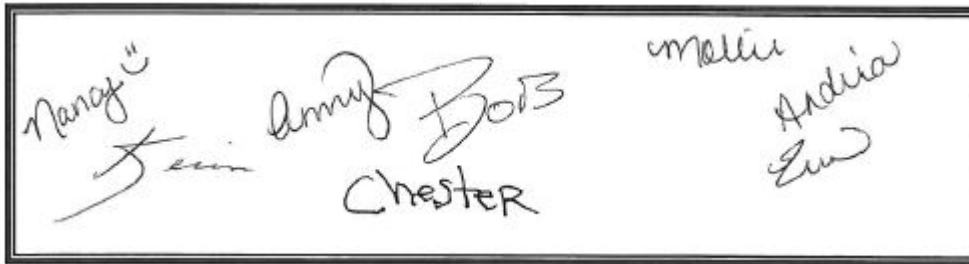
- Doris Brownson
- Rebecca Brownson
- Todd Brownson
- Kristi Edington
- Bradley Ragsdale



*Our purpose:
"We are a Church of the Ages,
Serving the Present Age by making
Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of our community
and world"*

*Our vision:
Being a spiritually dynamic, outward
focused United Methodist
Congregation enlivened by
passionate worship, equipped
discipleship and compassionate
service.*

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your office staff as well as:
 Mark Paisar, organist; Austin Wells, Part-time Custodian; Carla Anderson, director of Young Christian Singers; Katherine Overend, Young Christian Singers pianist; Nicole Bustraan, director of Youth Bells; Kathy Sodowsky, director of Cherub Choir; Sherri Williams, director of Kids Praise Choir; Phelba Wecas, pianist for Kids Praise Choir; Susan Goertzen, Nursery Coordinator; Teresa Hicks, Finance Secretary and Brenda Sheumaker, Treasurer and all of our Nursery Workers too!

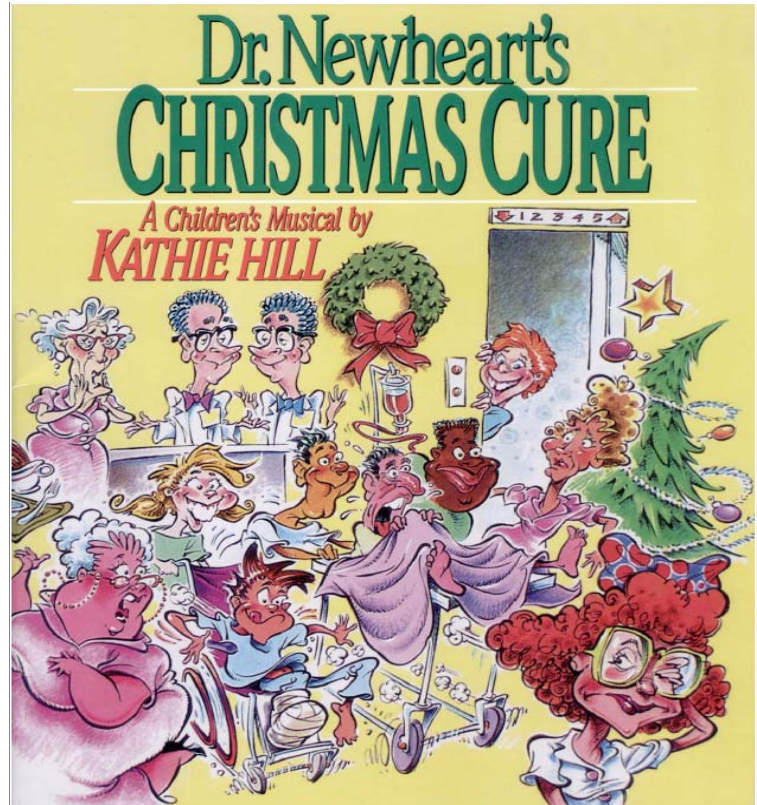


The church office will be
 closed: December 26th
 and January 2nd.

Please join us for the
Children's Musical
Presentation!



Sunday, December 18th
during the 11:00 service
with a soup luncheon to
follow!



Here are our choir rehearsal schedules for the Children's Musical, Cantata and Christmas Eve services. Be sure to cut this out and put it on your refrigerator. We so appreciate those who give of their time and talents to help us celebrate the birth of our Lord through music.

Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure Rehearsals

Wednesday, December 14th 4:15 pm Sanctuary
Saturday, December 17th 10:00 am - 12 pm Sanctuary

"Winter's Grace" Christmas Cantata Rehearsals

Wednesday, December 14th 6:30 pm Sanctuary
Saturday, December 17th 1:00 pm - 3 pm Sanctuary

Christmas Eve: Rehearsals for the 5:30 pm service

4:30 pm	Youth Bell Choir	Sanctuary
4:45 pm	Praise Band	Sanctuary
4:45 pm	Young Christian Singers	Choir Room
5:10 pm	Kids Praise Choir	Choir Room
5:10 pm	Cherub Choir	Fellowship Hall



Christmas Eve: Rehearsals for the 8:00 pm service

7:00 pm Wesley Ringers and Sanctuary Choir Sanctuary

Advent Happenings at FUMC

Sunday, December 18th

- 8:30 a.m. A service of Lessons and Carols.
- 11:00 a.m. "Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure".
Soup Luncheon to follow.
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata "*Winter's Grace*"
Come early for the Pre-Cantata concert by our very own,
Mark Paisar at 6:40 p.m. Be sure to invite your friends and relatives.

Wednesday, December 21st

- 5:30 p.m. Join us for our Fellowship Meal followed by Caroling
to our Shut-ins.

Saturday, December 24th

- 5:30 p.m. *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*
This service will feature our Cherub Choir, Kids Praise
Choir, Young Christian Singers, Youth Bells and our Praise Team.
- 8:00 p.m. *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*
This service will feature our Sanctuary Choir and Wesley Ringers.
Be sure to join us at 7:30 for a prelude by the Brass Ensemble,
coordinated by Bob Cowan.

Sunday, December 25th and Sunday, January 1st

- 10:00 a.m. We will have one service on these dates and will not
have Sunday School or Kingdom Express.

We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

winter's grace

A
CANTATA
FOR
CHRISTMAS
by Joseph M. Martin



Date: December 18th
Time: 7 pm with a Pre-Cantata Organ Concert
by Mark Paisar at 6:40 pm

Presented by: First United Methodist Church Cantata Choir
*Reception to follow



Did you know?

Children's Ministries is in need of the following leaders:

Wonderful Wednesday Activity leader, Wednesday afternoons 4:00 – 4:45 (beginning January 2012)

We also need volunteers willing to substitute for our Sunday school teachers and/or for our Wonderful Wednesday activity leaders.

Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to one of these service opportunities and contact Nancy Shade, at 682-5374 or nancysshade@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.



Children's Ministry Items Needed for January:

- 40 - 6 inch squares of soft fabric
- 10 empty water bottles
- Miscellaneous fabric remnants



Congratulations to Andy Hall, son of Doug and Alice Hall. Andy is graduating from Emporia State University on December 17th. His major is in English with a minor in Creative Writing



FRIENDS OF JESUS CIRCLE will meet earlier than usual on **Monday, December 19th** for a Christmas Gathering in the home of Melodie Warner at 6:30. We will be having our annual Christmas Ornament Exchange. If you need directions or a ride, please call Teresa Hicks at 727-2694.



Following our 5:30 **Wednesday night potluck meal on December 21st**, we will head out in small groups to go caroling to some of our shut-ins. Everyone is invited to join us to bring a little Christmas cheer to those who might not otherwise be able to get out to church services.



It's that time again! It's time to sign up for our next session of Dinner for 8. This session will run January - April. If you would like to participate please sign up on the sign up sheet in the narthex or contact Sherri Williams at mommy22ss@me.com or 364-6370. We will start with our new groups in January! If you signed up last time please sign up again. Couples and Singles welcome! Dinner for 8 is a supper group of 6 to 8 people (couples and singles) getting together once a month or so. It's a great way to get to know one another better. Join us!

Please be sure to contact the church office and check the calendar for availability of Church and/or Education Building space when scheduling meetings or events. We have many groups and teams to accommodate as well as outside groups that occasionally use our facilities. Please check with Amy if you wish to use a space or hold a meeting that is not already on the calendar. Thanks so much!

Connections Corner:

Do you want to learn more about this church and the ministry opportunities available? Are you interested in learning about ways to connect within the life of the congregation? You are invited to visit our new Connections Corner located in the narthex. Staff and volunteers are available at the Connections Corner before and after each service to answer questions about ministry opportunities and connect with you. If you are unable to stop by the Connections Corner on a Sunday morning but are interested in learning about ways to get connected, please contact Pastor Erin at erinmys@gmail.com or through the church office.



End of Year Note from your Financial Secretary Please take into consideration the holiday office hours when turning in your end of year pledges. The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26th. It would be helpful if all 2011 contributions are in to the church office by Friday, December 30th. Thank you, Teresa Hicks

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours
Monday - Friday: 8-12 and 1-5

A church of the ages serving the present
age by making disciples for the
transformation of the world!

We're on the web!
leavenworthfirst.org

Stewardship & Financial Update

Ron White, Chair Committee on Stewardship & Finance

I want to provide you a short update on a couple of items.

2011 Financial Support

First, thank you for your generous financial support to the church. Because of your generosity I have good news to report. Through November our offerings total \$408,596 for the Unified (Operational) Budget and \$60,565 for the Capital Improvement Budget. Giving to the Operational Budget is up 5.1% over last year!

Giving to the Capital Improvement Budget is essentially the same as 2010. Your support enables our church to provide dynamic ministries that enable us to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform our community and the world. THANK YOU!

Annual Stewardship Campaign

You may have been wondering why we have not conducted our annual Stewardship Campaign this

Fall. Earlier in the year, the Church Council approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to change our fiscal year to June through May starting in 2012. Beginning in 2012 we will conduct our Annual Stewardship Campaign during Lent with Commitment Sunday being on Palm Sunday.

For the period of January through May 2012, we will provide the ministry areas a budget based on their requirements for those five months. While we are not conducting a campaign this

year, the church will continue to need your financial support next year. Obviously, we will still have operational expenses. Please prayerfully consider continuing to support the church at least at the same level as this year.

In closing, I want to thank you for your financial support to our church. We are making a difference in lives! Please continue to support the church with your prayers, attendance, gifts, service, and witness