

mahomet + united + methodist + church

Our Mission: To know Christ's love and share it with our neighbors through service and education.

12/1/2015 Volume 20, Issue 12

From John,

Here are some suggestions to enrich your Christmas experience this year, in no particular order.

- Be realistic about your expectations. No celebrations are perfect, yet they are still celebrations. No families are perfect, yet they are still worth celebrating.
- The absence or presence of Christmas trees, Christmas lights, or any decorations are not essential to the meaning of Christmas. Keep these in the proper significance.
- Try to keep a realistic pace to your Christmas. If you find yourself in a hurry, do the counter-intuitive by stopping to set realistic time priorities. Schedule some of your activities for January in a more relaxed, low-key way. Most of us could use the boost of family and friends in the doldrums of January and February.
- Guard against the obligatory Christmas gift buying that may lead to resenting the expense or trouble.
- Please resist the temptation to compare gifts, houses, or parties. Evaluating and comparing opens the door for envy.
- Spend unstructured time with family and friends. Really give them your undivided attention. Set aside cell phones, other electronic devices, and social media. These trends come and go, family and friends are priceless and timeless.
- Spend time with a manger scene. Ponder the story it tells us. Share the sense of wonder and awe that Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds experienced. Consider putting out the manger scene as a family activity.
- Be patient in traffic and in lines at stores. Celebrate that, in some way, these people sense it is a special season. Simple acts of courtesy, like holding doors and letting someone with few items go ahead, and cordial greetings seem to carry more influence in this season. And be patient even more times.
- Read Matthew's and Luke's accounts of the birth of Jesus, if you can, with family and friends.
- Come to worship in Advent and on Christmas Eve.

- Look at a starry night and think of the Wise Men's journey and devotion. Consider that the God of all the great universe came to you and for you as a vulnerable child. He entered the world just as you did to make sure you were included in God's saving miracle.
- Hope. The message of hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ has outlasted every empire and army. God is still most powerful in this world and even in this time.

A child is born to us. We can have a hopeful Christmas if we start there and spend time at the manger, ponder the stars and their Creator, read the Gospels and love. Love yourself, love your family and friends, love humanity with all its flaws, love your Savior, love God and love the life God gives you.

Merry Birth of Jesus Christ to you.

New Adult Class

Starting in January, 2016, we will be offering a Sunday morning class for the parents of young children. The study will be based around the book *Ask: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age* by father-son authors, Bishop Scott Jones and Rev. Arthur Jones. Our leader will be Gene Larson, who has been a Certified Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church and has taught a variety of classes in United Methodist Churches.

You will find this study engaging. The intent is to encourage the searching and inquiry for the hard questions of faith. We are not looking to put one answer in everyone's mind. Together we will find resources that help us find our answers.

We will meet in the library starting Sunday, January 3, with an introductory session and distribution of books. The first class will be January 10. (If you miss January 3, please contact Gene, the office, or Rev. McIntosh to make arrangements to pick up the book.) This class will run ten weeks. Questions about the book and the class are welcome. Contact Rev. McIntosh at 586-2147, jmcintosh@mumc.org or catch Gene Larson at worship on Sunday.



Madrigal Singers

Join us Sunday, Dec. 6th at our 8:30 am church service to hear the Mahomet-Seymour High School Madrigals as they lead us into worship and share their musical talent.



Join us for the Fellowship Feast Sunday, Dec. 6 at noon

- Beef & Noodles
- Green Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Dessert



Volunteers are always greatly appreciated for cleanup :-)

From the Finance Committee

We want to share with you're the results of our Celebration Sunday. To date, we have received 112 Estimate of Giving Cards. Of these, fifteen were new giving units and forty-three increased their pledge. We have \$359,800 for 2016. Thank you for your support and commitment to our church.

We used a slightly different approach this year by sending you the Estimate of Giving card ahead of Celebration Sunday. If you have not filled one out or need another card to fulfill this act of faith, pick one up at the office or call. The office staff will get one to you.

We are a blessed church as we continue to operate with a positive balance for this year. We are blessed with growth and improvement of our facilities. We are blessed to look at our future with confidence. Thank you.

Fishing Fellowship



The Fishing Fellowship will meet Friday, December 18 at 8:30 am at the church then proceed to Scheels sports store in Springfield. After visiting the store, we'll have lunch and return by mid-afternoon.

Wonderful Outreach Wednesdays

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead-

Every Wednesday night, members of the church and community come together. Our goal is to not only provide an atmosphere to build friendships, but give the opportunity to build a relationship with our church. We want people to get excited to come to MUMC, to be amongst friends, to look forward to our events, to take notice of the people of the church and their kind hearts, and decide "that is where I want to be".

Are you in need of a smile? A friend? A warm meal? Do you know someone who does? WOW is for the community. WOW is for you. Let us change your world, even if it is just having a place to relax and be.



Date	Adult Group	Children's Theme	Children's Group
Wed., Dec. 2, 2015	One Hour Workout	Fast & Furious—Cars Can Be Fast, Worship Doesn't Need to Be	Make-a-track race, Make cars for the Drive-In
Wed., Dec. 9, 2015	Family Indoor Drive-In	Family Indoor Drive-In	Family Indoor Drive-In
Wed., Dec. 16, 2015	Christmas Present Wrapping Party Wrapping paper, ribbon, & bows provided	Isaiah 1:18—"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..."	Scarlet to white bleach experiments; snow scene through window; make ornaments



THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the prayers and cards! Our family appreciates the positive thoughts, prayers, support and love you all express. Please keep Julie's family in your prayers as they reorganize their family.

Tink and Bonnie Vaughn

Dear Mahomet UMC Family,

The United Methodist Women would like to thank you for your generous giving at the Cunningham Connection. We gave the Cunningham Children's Home almost \$2,700 in gift cards and monetary donations. Because of you, these "kids" will have a little better Christmas.

Thank you for your generosity!

Dear Mahomet UMW,

The excitement for Christmas is building at Cunningham Children's Home. Your gift has added to our joy! Thank you for thinking of our kids and helping us provide just the right item from their wish list.

In the weeks ahead, our kids will enjoy holiday meals, caroling, Christmas cookie baking and decorating (YUM!), a visit from Santa, the retelling of Jesus' birth, and, of course, gifts under the tree. Thanks to your gifts, which totaled \$2665.00, our kids are able to feel unconditional love and hope—even greater gifts. Your generosity is positively impacting youth who may have never experienced the excitement of the Christmas season. Thank you for sharing with our kids this Christmas!

We wish you and your family many blessings during the holidays.

Thank you again,

Sharla Jolly, Director of Advancement

A big thank you to Kathy Roush and Carol Swearingen for all of the hours and effort they put into the beautiful decorating of our church for this Christmas season.



The Mission Mondays group would like to thank the "Secret Santas" who donated money to purchase two new sewing machines for our mission projects.

We are so grateful for your generosity and hope to be able to make even more items to share with others.

The Mission Team would like to thank all of those who purchased pies for the holidays. We had a great time bonding as we put them together, baked them and wrapped them up. Thank you again for supporting the Mission Team!

IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the Creek and Vaughn families following the death of Jeff Creek on Nov. 6.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go out to:

- Treanna Sue Ragan, who was welcomed as a member of Mahomet United Methodist Church on Nov. 22.
- Annabelle Wallace Coleman, daughter of Adrienne Coleman & Gene Pavlovsky, who received Holy Baptism on Nov. 8th.

Finance Update for October

October unrestricted revenue was \$36,779 versus unrestricted expenses of \$30,371 for net outcome of +6,408 for the month. Year-to-date net revenue for 2015 as of the end of October was approximately +\$25,900. The church also received the final payment from the insurance company for the hail damage claim and the insurance recovery was sufficient to cover the repairs. The finance committee thanks the congregation once again for their generosity.

Donations Needed

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Helping Hands is in need of kleenex and paper towels as well as non-perishable food items to help members of our community. Please place donations in the grocery cart located at the welcome center.



Circuit Rider Deadline
Wednesday, Dec. 16



Bags of Christmas Joy

As the Christmas season approaches, we look forward to sharing Christmas joy with our facility- and home-bound friends. If you would like to share small gifts, labeled Christmas bags have been placed outside of the church library.

Suggestions for small gifts include the following items: Christmas cards, notes or letters, pocket tissue packs, small hand lotions, chap sticks, lip balms, stationery, stamps, notepads, pens, non-skid slippers or socks, large print word search or crosswords, handkerchiefs, soft individually wrapped cakes or cookies, non-nut candies like plain M&Ms or snack sized chocolates, hard candies for dry mouth, small candy canes, large print books & magazines, photographs, small crafts like bookmarks or ornaments, scarves, gloves, and travel-size anything.



We have 19 persons to whom members of the congregation will deliver bags to shortly before Christmas. In addition, we will send a collection of cards to 4 other families who are not in the area.

The gifts are greatly appreciated but the visits are just as vital. Please be a part of this important ministry and help deliver these special bags. The bags may be picked up for **delivery beginning Sunday, Dec. 13th.**

For questions, please contact Eileen Waters at enie@mediacombb.net or the church office at mumc@mumc.org.

Helping Hands Christmas Gifts

Please remember that the **toys for Mahomet Helping Hands are due back to the church office no later than Sunday, December 6.** If you would still like to participate, you may donate a toy for a general toy giveaway. Toys are due back to the church office no later than Sunday, December 6. Thank you for your support of this annual Christmas gift project for Mahomet Helping Hands children. For more information, contact Karen Wilkinson at wwilkinson@mchsi.com.



Cookie Walk & Goodies Sale

Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 am - Noon

- Homemade cookies by the boxful
- Homemade candies & assorted food items
- Handcrafted items
- Proceeds go towards Mission Projects



Do You Like to Bake?

We are asking all household bakers for five dozen of their favorite Christmas cookies, and/or baked goods and candies for the Cookie Walk. If you are able, please bring them to the church on Friday, Dec. 11 or early Saturday, Dec. 12.

Thank you!



Women's Reading Circle

The Thursday Reading Circle will resume meeting Jan. 14th at 1:30 pm in the church prayer room. We will be discussing *Miss Brenda and the Love-ladies: A Heartwarming True Story of Grace, God, and Gumption* by Brenda Spahn.



For Brenda Spahn, entrepreneur and businesswoman, wealth was a lifestyle—until a brush with the law threatened to send her to prison. Spared incarceration, a renewed Brenda glimpsed into the lives of women serving time in one of the worst places in America—the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women in Wetumpka, Alabama. What she saw prompted a God-inspired vision. With a heart to help and a will that couldn't be crushed, Brenda fought the system and overcame tremendous obstacles to take ex-cons into her own home and help them navigate the alien world of life on the outside.

If you love reading and discussing what you read with others, please join us on the second Thursday afternoon of each month. Contact Sheryle Carpenter at davesheryle65@yahoo.com for more information.



DECEMBER, 2015 CALENDAR

TUESDAY, 12/1—6:30 pm Wesley Bells; **7 pm AA**; **7 pm** Al Anon; **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY, 12/2—W.O.W.;
5 pm Children’s Choir; **5:30 pm** Dinner; **6 pm** Children & Adult Programs;

THURSDAY 12/3—8:30 am Women’s Small Group at Mahomet Family Restaurant; **1 pm** UMW; **7 pm** Staff-Parish

SATURDAY, 12/5—Noon AA

SUNDAY, 12/6—COMMUNION SUNDAY; Food Drive; 8:30 am Worship with Madrigals; **9:30 am-Noon** Blood Pressure Checks; **9:45 am** Discipleship for All Ages; **10:45 am** Worship with Praise Band; **Noon** Fellowship Feast; **5 pm AA**; **6 pm** Senior High Youth

MONDAY, 12/7—1 pm Mission Mondays; **6 pm** Mission Team; **7 pm** Discipleship Team

TUESDAY, 12/8—6:30 pm Wesley Bells; **7 pm** Finance; **7 pm AA**; **7 pm** Al Anon; **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY 12/9—W.O.W.
5 pm Children’s Choir; **5:30 pm** Dinner; **6 pm** Children & Adult Programs

THURSDAY 12/10—8:30 am Women’s Small Group at Mahomet Family

Restaurant; **7 pm** Church Council; **7 pm** Joanna Circle bake cookies

FRIDAY, 12/11—6 pm Cookie Walk Set-up

SATURDAY, 12/12—9 am—Noon Cookie Walk & Goodie Sale; **Noon AA**

SUNDAY, 12/13—8:30 am Worship; **9:45 am** Sunday School for All Ages; **10:45 am** Worship with Praise Band; **5 pm AA**; **6 pm** Senior High Youth

MONDAY, 12/14—1 pm Mission Mondays

TUESDAY, 12/15—Noon Senior Citizens’ Potluck; **6:30 pm** Wesley Bells; **7 pm AA**; **7 pm** Al Anon; **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY, 12/16—W.O.W.;
Noon *Circuit Rider* deadline; **5 pm** Children’s Choir; **5:30 pm** Dinner; **6 pm** Children & Adult Programs

THURSDAY, 12/17—8:30 am Women’s Small Group at Mahomet Family Restaurant

FRIDAY, 12/18—8:30 am Fishing Fellowship to meet and go to Springfield

SATURDAY, 12/19—Noon AA

SUNDAY, 12/20—MARCH TO THE MANGER; 8:30 am Worship; **9:45 am** Discipleship for All Ages; **10:45 am** Worship with Praise Band; **5 pm AA**; **6 pm** Senior High Youth

MONDAY, 12/21—1 pm Mission Mondays

TUESDAY, 12/22—6:30 pm Wesley Bells; **7 pm AA**; **7 pm** Al Anon; **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, 12/24—CHRISTMAS EVE;
Noon Office closed; **5 pm, 7 pm, & 11 pm** Services

FRIDAY, 12/25—CHRISTMAS DAY

SATURDAY, 12/26— Noon AA

SUNDAY, 12/27—8:30 am Worship; **9:45 am** Discipleship for All Ages; **10:45 am** Worship with Praise Band; **5 pm AA**

MONDAY, 12/28—1 pm Mission Mondays

TUESDAY, 12/29—6:30 pm Wesley Bells; **7 pm AA**; **7 pm** Al Anon; **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, 12/31—NEW YEAR’S EVE;
Noon Office closed

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm
Candlelight Worship
Children’s Message
Childcare Available

7 pm
Candlelight Worship
Holy Communion
Childcare Available

11 pm
Candlelight Worship
Chancel Choir
Holy Communion



Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 24 at Noon
and Friday, December 25
For Christmas

Worship Attendance Figures for November, 2015

	8:30 am	10:45 am	Total
Nov. 1	111	84	195
Nov. 8	149	72	221
Nov. 15	120	68	188
Nov. 22	109	79	188
Nov. 29	109	76	185
Nov. Total	598	379	977



mahomet + united + methodist + church

Our Mission: To Lead People to Jesus and help them grow as disciples.

1302 E. South Mahomet Road, Mahomet, IL 61853-3729

Phone: (217) 586-2147 • FAX: (217) 586-3431

Email: mumc@mumc.org • www.mumc.org

Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Fri., 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Sunday Worship

8:30 am Traditional Worship

10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Sunday Schedule

9:30 & 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship

9:45 am Sunday School/Discipleship Hour for All Ages

Church Staff

Rev. John McIntosh, Pastor ~ jmcintosh@mumc.org

Kathy Tock, Worship Music Director ~ tockwoman@gmail.com

Cathy Peters, Office Manager ~ cpeters@mumc.org

Ashley Little, Children's Ministry Director, Admin. Assist. ~ alittle@mumc.org

Dr. Carlos R. Carrillo Cotto, Organist

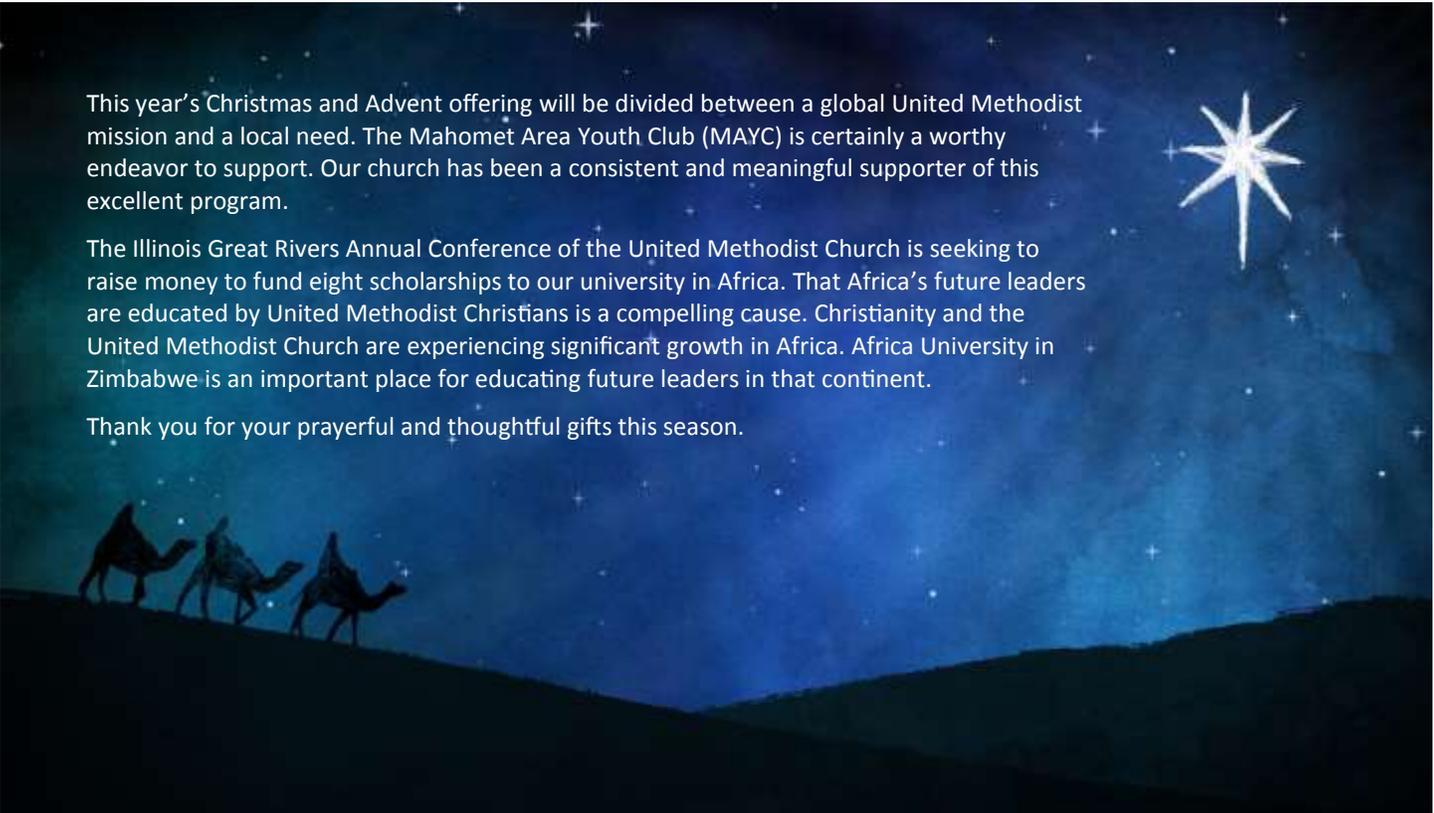
Emily Kuchenbrod, Choir Director

Eileen Waters, Parish Nurse ~ enie@mediacombb.net

Carrie Roberts, Nursery Co-Coordinator

Ciara Duitsman, Nursery Co-Coordinator

Marty Butts, Custodian



This year's Christmas and Advent offering will be divided between a global United Methodist mission and a local need. The Mahomet Area Youth Club (MAYC) is certainly a worthy endeavor to support. Our church has been a consistent and meaningful supporter of this excellent program.

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is seeking to raise money to fund eight scholarships to our university in Africa. That Africa's future leaders are educated by United Methodist Christians is a compelling cause. Christianity and the United Methodist Church are experiencing significant growth in Africa. Africa University in Zimbabwe is an important place for educating future leaders in that continent.

Thank you for your prayerful and thoughtful gifts this season.