

# This Week at Union Church

<b>Sun. Jan. 3</b>	9:30 am ..... Christian Education for all ages
	10:30 am ..... Morning Worship
<b>Mon. Jan. 4</b>	Office closed
	5:00 pm ..... Pastoral Relations Committee
	7:00 pm ..... AA Bottom Line Big Book Study, Dialog Center
<b>Tues. Jan. 5</b>	7:00 pm ..... Memory Keepers
<b>Weds. Jan. 6</b>	<b>Wednesday Nite Live</b>
	5:00 pm ..... Senior High Youth Group
	5:45pm ..... Supper, donation, Community Room
	6:15 pm ..... High School Youth Group
	6:30 pm ..... College Fellowship, Community Rm, activities for elementary age kids in 104
	7:00 pm ..... Union Church Ringers, Choir Room, 3rd floor
<b>Thurs. Jan. 7</b>	10:30 am ..... Mothers Forum
	12:00 pm ..... Bible Study
	6:15 pm ..... Union Church Choir, Choir Room, 3rd floor
<b>Fri. Jan. 8</b>	9:00 pm ..... Woman's Industrial
<b>Sun. Jan. 10</b>	9:30 am ..... Christian Education for all ages
	10:30 am ..... Morning Worship

## *Especially in our prayers ...*

Each week we join millions of Christians who pray for one another through the ecumenical prayer cycle and, locally, the Berea Ministerial Association's prayer cycle. Please keep the people **Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq** and our brothers and sisters at the **Berea Church of the Nazarene**, in your hearts, and pray for them. Please also hold these concerns in your prayers today and throughout the week. (Prayer concerns can be submitted to the church office via phone or email).

- ◆ All who are serving or living in harm's way across the world, especially those suffering in the violence in the Middle East. We pray for the day when war shall be no more.
- ◆ **Les Kovacs** and his family as his dementia worsens
- ◆ **Dorie Hubbard's mother**, undergoing treatment for cancer
- ◆ **John Courter**
- ◆ **Nancy Jones**, recovering at home
- ◆ **Shirley Dean**, who is on the mend at home

## *Assisting in Worship*

Worship leader this morning is Carla Gilbert. Next week: Merlin Kindel

## Announcements

**About Our Advent Art:** Each Sunday in Advent we lit a new candle and hung an additional banner in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. The color of the liturgical season also changed from green to dark blue, representing the nights of longing and waiting, and the night sky in which Christ's star appeared. The hand-wrought Advent Wreath and stand was made by member and local artisan Bob Montgomery. The Advent Banners were designed by Rev. Kent in 2006 who made them as full size paper cuts. In 2007 they were translated into fabric by Rita Barlow, Joyce Fields, Ramona Culp & Debbonnaire Kovacs.

**The Banner Series** complements a decades-old tapestry from the church's collection made by fabric artist Mildred Strickler. That banner, (hung for Christmas Eve and the weeks following) in blue, yellow, and red

accents, depicts a Star of Bethlehem that dwarfs the small city under it with both its size and dynamism, unable to be contained by the borders of the banner. The four Advent banners have images drawn from the traditional advent texts that are also larger than the waiting world over which they appear.

**New Class to begin in January! SWF: ISO a more meaningful bond** with church family members, a **deeper relationship** with God, and a **better understanding** of the Bible. Seeking a few others who have similar goals and may experience similar difficulty in meeting these goals because of the busy-ness of their lives or just because they don't know where to start. Male or female, youngish or oldish, married or single, blessed and overwhelmed by small children or child-free, Sunday school class member from way back or unfamiliar with church traditions -- all are welcome.

We will be studying the Bible with help from a book by Bob Darden called Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples: Introducing the Bible By Telling Its Stories. If interested in participating in and helping create a stress-free, user-friendly, enriching adult Sunday School experience, please meet me, Alvera Perman, in Union Church's room 204 by the church office at 9:30 on Sunday mornings beginning January 10, 2010.

**An Opportunity to Share** - Being the first Sunday of the new month – it is a Union Church FOOD BANK Sunday!!! Our tradition at Union Church for many years has been to bring food contributions for the Berea Food Bank and make financial contributions to BFCO (which funds the Food Bank, BUURR [Bereans United for Utility and Rent Relief]and the Frank Gailey Transient Aid Fund) on the first Sunday of each month. As we share the Lord's Supper as a congregation we share our food and money with our neighbors in need.

The Food Bank is being used very heavily this year, and food supplies are low. As always, all contributions are welcome and greatly appreciated! Special needs identified by Food Bank director Jerry Workman include: fruit juices; canned fruit of all kinds; peanut butter; jelly and jam; tuna, salmon, and canned meat of all kinds; cooking oil (small and medium sizes); spaghetti sauce; and pasta. Please put your contributions in or near the collection box in the narthex or deliver them directly to the Food Bank and BUURR building (103 Parkway Avenue, just across from the City Hall parking lot) clearly marked "from Union Church." Thank you for your continuing support of these important community programs