

This Week at Union Church

Sun. Dec. 6	9:30 am Christian Education for all ages 10:30 am Morning Worship 11:30 am Alternative Giving Market, Comm. Rm. 5:30 pm Advent Vespers Service, Cowan Chapel
Mon. Dec. 7	7:00 pm AA Bottom Line Big Book Study, Dialog Center
Tues. Dec. 8	6:00 pm Christian Ed. Board meets 6:30 pm Trustees meet 7:30 pm Deacons meet 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
Weds. Dec. 9	Wednesday Nite Live! 5:00 pm Middle School Youth Group, 302 5:45 pm Dinner (donation), Community Room 6:15 pm High School Youth Group 6:30 pm Study on the Book of Acts , led by Bob Berger in 204, College Fellowship meets in the Community Rm, activities for elementary age kids in 104 7:00 pm Union Church Ringers, Choir Room, 3rd floor
Thurs. Dec. 10	10:30 am Mothers Forum, Room 204 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:15 pm Union Church Choir
Fri. Dec. 11	9:00 am Woman's Industrial 6:00 pm Christmas Caroling party
Sun. Dec. 13	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 **Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal** 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.
- ◆ **Laura and the family and friends of Harry Robie**, who died peacefully on Thursday night. Memorial service will be at 2:00 pm Monday at First Christian Church.
- ◆ **Les Kovacs** and his family as his dementia worsens
- ◆ **Dorie Hubbard's mother**, undergoing treatment for cancer
- ◆ **John Courter** who will begin chemotherapy for a tumor in his lung.
- ◆ **Steve and Anne Rhodes**, attending the memorial service for Steve's father
- ◆ **Lowell and Barbara Taylor**

Assisting in Worship

Worship leader this morning is Michelle Tooley **Next week:** John Payne

Announcements

Rev. Kent will be away next week visiting family in Denver, Co. He will return on Saturday the 12th.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Hanging of the Greens and decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas season!!

About Our Advent Art: Each Sunday in Advent we will light a new candle and hang an additional banner as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. The color of the liturgical season also changes 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, (which is 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. Each week's Advent banner has an image drawn from the traditional advent texts that is also larger than the waiting world over which it appears.

Second Week: "Shalom"

This Sunday, harkening to the images in Isaiah 40:1-11, the theme is "Shalom" meaning "peace/wholeness/completeness." The dove hovering over the world weeps for Jerusalem, and broods over the world. The tail of the dove is made from the Hebrew letters (reading from right to left) that spell "Shalom." Two stars in the sky, signal the second Sunday of the season.

Communionware Cover: This Advent cover is designed to honor the Holy Family, using only methods available in the first century.

The blue wool center is for Mary. It is made from locally-raised wool, hand-washed, picked, and carded, hand-spun on a drop spindle, handwoven on a frame loom, and dyed with indigo at PeaceCraft.

The silver lace is for the Christ Child. It is Armenian needle lace, which has been made in the middle east for millennia and is also known as "Nazareth lace." However, it is made of 21st century fiber, to represent the intrusion into Mary's life of the frightening, the wonderful, that which she could not know, prepare for, or control. She could only say No. . . or. . . *Yes! Let it be so!*

The wooden beads are for Joseph. They are made of olive wood from his homeland, and were hand-carved in Bethlehem, with tools he knew and loved in his carpenter's shop.

The best part? This lace was intended and designed to be eight-sided. . . but I did the math wrong. . . so now it is that rare and difficult thing, a seven-sided shape; linking it to an ancient holy number of the Bible. *Come, Emmanuel!*

Designed and made with love and gratitude by Debbonnaire Kovacs, 2007-8.

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.

The Annual Alternative Giving Christmas Market continues today in the Community Room after worship. An annual event, this is an opportunity to give gifts instead of "stuff" - give the gift of life and love with donations to local, national, and international charities!

Christmas Play help needed! Please contact Wyndee (200-9880 or wholbrook@union-church.org) if you are willing to

- ◆ Help a child with his or her costume
- ◆ Run the sound system during rehearsals and the performance

Rehearsals: Each Wednesday after the Wednesday Nite Live Supper (Dec. 9 & 16) we'll begin by 6:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm. Dress rehearsal will be in the sanctuary on Saturday Dec. 19 at 10:00 am. (subject to change if too many children have conflicts). Performance is during the Sunday morning service on Dec. 20.

Costumes: Animal Characters: Please create a costume for your character and bring it on Dec. 9. Solid color sweat suits work well as the base for animal costumes along with craft felt to create ears, tails, etc.

Narrators: Please wear a nice pair of blue jeans and either a red, green or white shirt or sweater.

Christmas Caroling Party! December 11, 6:00 pm, Carla & Kevin's, 125 Harrison Court. Bring your appetite and joy (singing voice not required) and we will enjoy an evening of festive fellowship.

Poinsettias Needed by Dec 11—if you would like to bring a poinsettia to church, please do so by Friday, Dec. 11. If it is to be “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone, please get that dedication to the office by noon on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Annual Budget Meeting December 16, 6:30 pm At this meeting we will review and adopt the 2010 budget and hold elections to fill vacant spots on Boards. In the Community Room after Wednesday Nite Live supper, all encouraged to attend.