



*Keeping in
touch with the
heart of the
faith community
of
Gaylord
United
Church
of Christ*

*A Welcoming
Congregation*

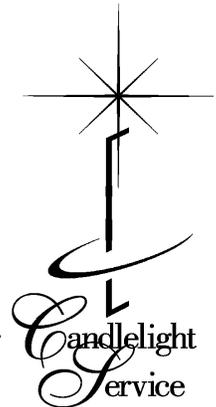
Parish Paper

December 2010

Vol. 38, 12

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Friday, December 24, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate with us at our "Family Christmas Eve" Worship Service as we tell with story and song the arrival of the Christ Child. Candles illuminate our story and dawn invades the dark as the Light of the World has come! Our service will conclude with the traditional candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night."



Children's Christmas Program Dec. 19th at 9 a.m. "ChrisMyth Busters"

There are a lot of great traditions surrounding Christmas and the Christmas story. Some are based on fact, some are directly addressed in the Bible and some are unproven. The children will discuss some of the facts and fiction of Christmas. This new twist on the Christmas program will include familiar carols and hymns. In the end, what matters most is not the details of the story, but the arrival of our Savior. Join us Sunday, Dec. 19th at 9:00 a.m. when the children of Gaylord UCC present "ChrisMyth Busters."

After the program join us for a Birthday Party for Jesus
and breaking of the piñata.

Written and directed by Liz Reishus
Music directed by Pauline Marlinski

This year's program is inspired by one of Liz's niece's favorite television shows "Myth Busters."



Ushers: Jim Peterson, Kevin Thies
Andrew Thies, Sam Thies

Greeters: Rueben and Bonnie Meyer
12-5, 12-12
Ewald Keller, Ted Pinske
12-19, 12-26

Acolyte: Sam Thies

Fellowship Hour:

December 5open
December 12open
December 19open
December 26open

Lectionary Readings for December

Dec. 5, 2010: Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13,
Matthew 3:1-12. UCC Theme: Vision of Peace.

Dec. 12, 2010: Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11; Luke 1:47-55. UCC
Theme: Heartbeat of Justice.

Dec. 19, 2010: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7,
Matthew 1:18-25. UCC Theme: God With Us.

Dec. 24, 2010: Christmas Eve
Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:(1-7), 8-
20.

Dec. 26, 2010: First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Ephesians 3:1-13, Matthew
2:1-12. UCC Theme: Cosmic Praise.

Remembered in prayer last month: Luther Kolstad,
Meredith Johnson, Clayton Johnson, Jill Schlichting,
and Ethel Plaman.

Veterans and their loved ones and those currently
serving in the military.

Continue to pray for those who have lost a loved one,
have been ill or are home bound.



In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sylvia Turbett and
her family on the loss of her husband Lynn on
November 6. A Memorial Service was held on Nov. 12.

Our sympathy also goes to Clayton Johnson, Candy and
Don Swenson and their families on the loss of Clayton's
wife Joyce on Tuesday, Nov. 16. Visitation and
celebration of her life was held on Nov. 26.

Prayer Chain

**If you would like to be remembered on the Prayer
Chain or be a part of the chain please contact one of
the Prayer Chain captains: Jan Carlson or Barb
Sneltjes.**

<u>Jan Carlson</u>	<u>237-2246</u>
Fran Armstrong	237-3247
Gloria Sinell	237-2931
Harriet Troidahl	237-2816
Ruby Keller	237-2237
Joanne Kolstad	237-2209
Aggie Schue	237-5156
<u>Barb Sneltjes</u>	<u>237-2208</u>
Frieda Schrupp	237-5208
Eunice Gasow	237-2434
Lorraine Mueller	237-2464
Sylvia Turbett	237-5209
Jane Peterson	237-5326
Ruth Klimmek	237-2985



**Come join us as the
Sibley County Choral Society
presents their annual
Christmas Concert
"30 Years of Music and Memories"**
Concerts will be held on:
Friday, Dec. 10th 7:30 p.m. at Gaylord UCC;
Saturday, Dec. 11th 7:30 p.m. at
St. Paul's Lutheran, Green Isle and
Sunday, Dec. 12th 2:00 p.m. at Creekside Church
in Arlington.

Women's Fellowship News

On Monday, Nov. 22, Women's Fellowship had their annual Christmas Party and decorated the church in preparation for Advent. We were happy to receive a china cabinet from Doris Wilson's family and have placed it in the Fellowship Hall and decorated it for Christmas. Thank you to Doris' family for your donation. Women's Fellowship is also sponsoring a Ladies Creative Christmas Celebration on Dec. 5 at 4:00 p.m. We hope all the women of the church will be able to attend.

Women's Fellowship Secretary, Gail Estenson



"Ladies Creative Christmas Celebration"

December 5, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

In the Gaylord UCC Fellowship Hall

Bring your friends and come join us!

Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

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Priscilla Circle News

Priscilla Circle will meet on Thursday, December 16th at 2 p.m. at Oak Terrace for our annual Christmas party. Members are asked to bring an appetizer or sweet treat to share. All women of the church are invited to join us.

With money from the sale of quilts and dishcloths, we donated money to St. Peter Regional Treatment Center, Santa's Helpers, World Vision, Oak Terrace Auxiliary, Sibley Co. Food Shelf and Sibley Co. Salvation Army in November.

Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see.

C. S Lewis

The Volunteer Lists which are used in lieu of the Time and Talent sheets, are on the table in the Fellowship Hall and are in need of updating. If you would like to volunteer in some way on a Board or Committee please sign up on the blank line under that category or if your name is listed and you are no longer able to help please cross off your name. We would like to have these lists updated by the first of the year.

The **Nominating Committee** is beginning to fill vacant positions on the Boards and Committees and ask that you prayerfully consider what your talents are and say "yes" if you are asked to serve.

Thank You.

Stewardship

The Church Council encourages all members that submitted 2010 pledges to make sure that their pledges are current. They would also like to encourage members to prayerfully and abundantly consider their pledges for 2011. Thank You.



Update from the Mission Board

In November we collected \$209 for the Sibley County Salvation Army during our From the Heart in-gathering. Thank you so much for your generous donations. Our December 14th offering is for the Christmas Fund. This fund goes to retired UCC pastors.

Twenty-six pounds of food was taken to the Food Shelf last month and we're looking for more to help those in need through the Holidays.

Donations for Santa's Helpers will be received until Monday, December 6th. Please leave your donation in the basket or on the mitten tree in the Fellowship area. Thank You for your generosity.

There will be a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for anyone who can help with **Meals on Wheels delivery in January**.

Our next meeting will be on December 14th after church.

Why the Piñata at Christmas?

Without doubt, one of the merriest Mexican Christmas traditions is that of the piñata, the whimsically decorated, brightly colored, hollow figure that holds candy and other goodies and is designed expressly to be smashed to bits!

Let's look at the history of the piñata.

At the beginning of the 16th century the Spanish missionaries to North America used the piñata to attract converts to their ceremonies. The missionaries ingeniously used them for religious instruction. They covered traditional pots with colored paper, giving it an extraordinary, perhaps fearful appearance.

The decorated clay pot also called a *cantero* represents Satan who often wears an attractive mask to attract humanity. The most traditional style piñata looks a bit like Sputnik, with seven points, each with streamers. These cones represent the seven deadly sins, *pecados* - greed, gluttony, sloth, pride, envy, wrath and lust. Beautiful and bright, the piñata tempted. Candies and fruits inside represented the *cantaros* (temptations) of wealth and earthly pleasures. Thus, the piñata reflected three theological virtues in the *catequismo*. (religious instruction or catechism)

The blindfolded participant represents the leading force in defying evil, 'Fe', faith, which must be blind. People gathered near the player and spun him around to confuse his sense of space. Sometimes the turns numbered thirty three in memory of the life of Christ. The voices of others cry out for guidance. Secondly the piñata served as a symbol of 'Esperanza', Hope. With the piñata hanging above their heads, people watched towards *los cielos* (sky or heaven) yearning and waiting for the prize. The stick for breaking the piñata symbolized virtue, as only good can overcome evil. Once broken, the candies and fruits represented the just reward for keeping faith. Finally the piñata symbolized 'Caridad', Charity. With its eventual breaking, everyone shared in the divine blessings and

gifts. The moral of the piñata: all are justified through faith.

Today, the piñata has lost its religious symbolism and most participate in the game solely for fun. Piñatas are especially popular during *Las Posadas*, traditional processions ringing in the Christmas season and at birthday parties. During festivities, people traditionally sing songs while breaking the piñatas.

Traditionally, piñatas are filled with both candies and fruits. Around Christmas in Mexico, wrapped candies, peanuts, guavas, oranges, *jicamas* (a sweet root vegetable), sugar cane, and *tejocotes* (a kind of crab apple) stuff piñatas.



The Three Trees

According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger: an olive tree, a palm tree and the fir. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn king, and the palm tree gave its dates.

The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration, and the angels hung stars on its branches. So the fir became the first Christmas tree.



The United Church of Christ
318 4th Street—P.O. Box 385
Gaylord, MN 55334
Return service requested



December

United Church of Christ
318 4th Street
P.O. Box 385
Gaylord, MN 55334-0385
507-237-2595 or 507-237-5846
Office—uccg@myclearwave.net

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the
Gaylord United Church of Christ.

Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour Follows Worship

Sunday School—10:15 a.m. Sept.—May

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month.

Pastor - Rev. Hank Campbell
Council President, Darrel Mosel
Church Secretary, Cindy Johnson

December Birthdays

01.....Dana Messner
09.....Frieda Schrupp
10.....Dale Tourtellott
15.....Payton Wolverton
17.....Mark Pauly
20.....Don Swenson
21.....Michael Messner
22.....Calvin Schrupp
23.....Phil Keithahn