



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

*A Welcoming  
Congregation*

# Parish Paper

December 2013

Vol. 41, 12

*Please join us Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for  
the Hanging of the Greens.*

We will be singing Christmas carols, decorating the sanctuary, and telling the Christmas story. Youth of the congregation will once again be leading the service and our Choir will be singing.

A light lunch will be served after the program.



**Children's Christmas Program Dec. 8th  
during our 11 a.m. Worship Service**

**"A Special Place for Santa Claus"**

Join us as the children share the true meaning of Christmas and the legend of Santa Claus, who pays tribute to the birth of Christ on Christmas.

All children and youth are invited to join us for a Birthday Party for Jesus and breaking of the Piñata beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Practice for the program will be  
Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 - 11:00 and will include lunch.

There will not be Sunday School on Dec. 29.

***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

***Tuesday, December 24, 2013 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 light 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."



**Ushers:** Darrel and Diane Mosel  
**Greeters:** Jeff and Deb Meyer  
12-1, 12-8  
Ewald and Ruby Keller  
12-15, 12-22, 12-29  
**Acolyte:** Ginger Ott/Jason Meyer

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**Fellowship Hour:**

December 1 ..... Keithahn  
December 8 ..... Board of Education  
December 15 ..... Deb & Jeff Meyer  
December 22 ..... Harriet Troidahl  
December 29 ..... Saxton & Meyer

**Lectionary Readings for December**

**Dec. 1, 2013: First Sunday of Advent**

Isa 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14,  
Matthew 24:36-44.

**Dec. 8, 2013: Second Sunday of Advent**

Isa 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7,18-19, Romans 15:4-13,  
Matthew 3:1-12.

**Dec. 15, 2013: Third Sunday of Advent**

Isa 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-107, Matthew  
11:2-11.

**Dec. 22, 2013: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isa 7:10-16, Psalm 80 1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7,  
Matthew 1:18-25.

**Dec. 29, 2013: First Sunday after Christmas**

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew  
2:13-23.

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**Among those who were lifted up in prayer this past month:** Partners for Affordable Housing, Brian Wagenius, Mary Thoele family, Fran Armstrong, Dayle Troidahl, others who have been ill or are home bound and those at Oak Terrace. We also pray for those affected by the typhoon in the Philippines. Pray for Brit Keithahn, Alex Thoele, Mark Thoele, May and Raymond Ysasaga and others serving in the military.

**Prayer Chain** If you would like to be remembered in prayer or are in need of pastoral care please contact Rev. Hank Campbell at the church office (507) 237-2595 or his cell (507)217-9948 or call one of the prayer chain captains. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain please contact one of the prayer chain captains: Barb Sneltjes or Jan Carlson.

**Please call the Church Office:** When your phone number, address or email address change so that church records can be updated. When you or a loved one are admitted to the hospital. When your group plans to hold a meeting, so it can be placed on the church calendar. Thank You.

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**Thank you to Women's Fellowship for their donation of \$250 for one of the PETs. Also thanks for arranging to have a new Advent wreath made and new posts to hang the greens on. Thanks also to Roger Meffert for making the posts and Gary Kaufmann for making the new Advent wreath.**

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**Beginning Sunday, January 5, 2014**

**WORSHIP time begins at 9:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hour at 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

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**Reminder:**  
*Change in  
Worship  
Time!*

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**Gaylord UCC Annual Meeting**

**On Sunday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m. our congregation will gather after worship to hold its Annual Meeting.** On the agenda are the budget for 2014, the slate of nominees for offices, boards and committees, and other issues which members may bring to the meeting.

Light refreshments will be served by council members.

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**Wanted:** We are looking for pictures of events and activities that take place in connection with our members and friends. You can use the church camera or your own and then submit the pictures through email or bring in a copy and we will include them in our newsletters and website. Contact the church office or pastor for more information or to use the camera.

***“All is Calm, all is Bright....”***

One of the special lessons and promises that come with the annual observance of the birth of Christ is that of peace. It is a time to create and cultivate opportunities for peace...from the realms of inner peace to the wider realms of world peace.

Some of that creating of peace may involve finding some space to just “let go” amidst the frenzied planning and frenzied pace of all that we expect during this holiday time. We need to give ourselves and one another permission to pause and rest, to relax and breathe deeply. In a spiritual sense, to breathe deeply, and “be still and know that I am God” as the book of Psalms encourages us do. God’s greater Christmas gifts will happen -- in spite of or in light of – our efforts.

And then, we might devote some special time to acts of helping bring a little extra hope and peace to someone, or some cause, in the world. Sharing good-will beyond ourselves has a way of fulfilling our inner peace, as well as contributing to peace on earth. “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

Amidst our Advent preparations may we devote some precious moments of prayerful waiting and watching for the heaven-born rule of the Prince of Peace. Then when we arrive at Bethlehem we won’t be so out of breath.

***Dear God, we give thanks that Christ’s coming has given each one of your children and the whole world the possibility of peace. Christmas Blessings, Hank***

***I’m looking forward to some of the special services and happenings at Gaylord UCC during this Holy Season:***

- ◆ **Hanging of the Greens Celebration** December 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Confirmation youth and mentors** will be doing good-will shopping for Santa's Helpers.
- ◆ **Children’s Christmas Program Sunday**, December 8 “A Special Place for Santa Claus” brings the message about the true meaning of Christmas. *Come support our kids!*
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Also these other Gaylord community events hosted by Gaylord UCC:** MENDING Project Presentation and the Sibley County Choir Concert. See more information in this Newsletter.

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- ◆ **Cancellations Reminder:** UCC meetings and events are cancelled if school is closed early or cancelled that day. Also listen to KNUJ for closings. If our Worship Service is cancelled because of bad weather the calling tree will be activated and you will receive a call from a Council member.
- ◆ **Children and Youth** who would like to share their musical talents for Worship during the Christmas season please contact Pastor Hank.

**Pastor Hank will be on vacation December 28 - Dec. 30. Emergency Pastoral needs should be directed to Deacons Harriet Troidahl or Dale Johnson. Thanks to Jodi Pfarr for leading our Worship Service on Dec. 29.**

Pastor Hank’s usual office hours or visiting hours during the week are typically Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons as needed. If you need to reach him call the church office 237-2595 or his cell 507-217-9848.

***No matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey, you are welcome here!***

## Council President's Notes

December 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of Advent for 2013. On that day the youth of our church will be introducing the Christmas season with the festive Hanging of the Greens service Sunday evening. Please bring friends and family and come listen to the story of Christmas and its symbols, as well as hear an expanded choir sing some awesome songs!

As Pastor Hank told us in a sermon last month, change is a good thing and has happened in church life on a 500 year cycle. Where is the Gaylord UCC going in this cycle? Council is still listening to input and doing research on the proposal for audio-visual improvements to the sanctuary. Council members are open to your input and thoughts. Plans are being made to visit churches that have installed similar systems. If you're interested in visiting along with the AV committee, please let me know. Website plans are also still under development and discussion. It is exciting to be moving forward in our endeavors! Council appreciates your prayers and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the congregation for their work throughout the year. It's an especially busy time for staff, boards, and committees. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. And I am noticing that our "permission-giving" attitude is encouraging many ideas and initiatives to be worked on. I've always appreciated the way everyone works together at the Gaylord UCC and contributes whatever time and talents they are able. That has been especially true this year as we converse about the future of our church.

**The next church council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm at the Klimmek residence. Anyone is welcome to join us!**

Pauline Marlinski, Council President

## News from the Mission Board

Thank you for donating \$161 to Santa's Helpers. Pastor Hank and the confirmation participants will buy gifts with this money for distribution to families less fortunate in our county.

Any church member can still donate hats, mittens, toys and wrapping paper and place it on or under the Santa's Helpers tree located in the lobby of the church. Donations will be accepted thru December 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in volunteering to sort and wrap gifts can contact Santa's Helpers committee at 507 237 4000.

There is a box on the table in the Fellowship Hall where you can donate for the disaster assistance to the Philippines. Checks should be made out to the church with Philippine Disaster Relief on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for all your food donations throughout the year for the Sibley County Food Shelf. Your donations or assistance will be greatly appreciated. Let's fill our grocery cart at church with food for the Holidays, as it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our next From The Heart Offering will be Sunday, December 8 and is for the Christmas Fund. For over 111 years, The Christmas Fund has been there to be a light of Christ to our United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees who are facing difficult financial situations. The Christmas Fund gives direct support so that retired and active church workers will have quality health care and an adequate monthly income in retirement, as well as emergency assistance when those big burdens come up at any point in life. Thank you from the Mission Board.

***We wish you God's blessings for a wonderful holiday season!***

## Women's Fellowship News

On Thursday, Nov. 26, Women's Fellowship had their annual Christmas Party and decorated the church in preparation for Advent. *Thank you to everyone who helped make this a fun night.*

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. to undecorate the church.** If you are able to help it would be appreciated.



## Priscilla Circle News

**Priscilla Circle will meet on Thursday, December 19 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 and friends of the church are invited to join us.

With money from the sale of quilts and dishcloths, we donated money to Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, Sibley County Food Share, St. Peter Regional Treatment Center, Salvation Army, World Vision, Santa's Helpers and \$100 to the Pastor Deb Celley Cancer Benefit. In addition, we paid for the flowers for the church planters and made tray favors for the residents at Oak Terrace for Easter and Halloween.

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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 friends and members of UCC who made a financial pledge in 2013 to make sure that they are current. They would also like to encourage everyone to prayerfully and abundantly consider their pledge of time, talents and treasures for 2014 and return the form that was mailed out in November. We continue with the ingathering of pledges. *Thank You.*



Come join us as the  
**Sibley County Choral Society**  
present their **2013 Christmas Concert**  
**"Sing We Now of Christmas"**

Concerts will be held on:

**Friday, Dec. 13 - 7:30 p.m.** at Gaylord UCC  
**Saturday, Dec. 14 - 7:30 p.m.** at UCC Henderson  
**Sunday, Dec. 15 - 2:00 p.m.** Zion Lutheran  
Arlington



## **MENding Project Presentation**

**Introducing the MENding Project**  
**Wednesday, December 4, 2013 7:00**  
**p.m. at**  
**Gaylord United Church of Christ.**

Domestic Violence -

it DOES exist in Sibley County!

Come hear featured speaker, Cara Bishop, of Henderson speak on how domestic violence can change the lives of many forever. Learn from this powerful message some of the warning sign of domestic violence. The MENding Project acknowledges men's unique opportunity to end men's violence against women and our collective responsibility to do so. It will help answer the question "What can I do to help?" This initiative, and your participation, will provide direct and immediate relief to those in need. Light refreshments are available after the presentation. Sponsored by Sibley Lodge No. 209 of Winthrop and Supportive Women Against Violence (SWAV).





## Happy Birthday, Jesus

Each Christmas, a family celebrated by holding a birthday party for Jesus. To remind themselves of Jesus' presence, they placed a chair of honor for him at their dinner table.

The highlight of the party was singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and then blowing out the candles on a special cake.



One Christmas, a visitor asked the family's 5-year-old daughter, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?" The girl paused and then answered, "No! It's not my birthday!"

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  
Email - [uccgaylord@gmail.com](mailto:uccgaylord@gmail.com)

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

Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month.

Pastor - Rev. Hank Campbell

Council President, Pauline Marlinski

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