



MILLERSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

“In the heart of the community, with the community at heart.”

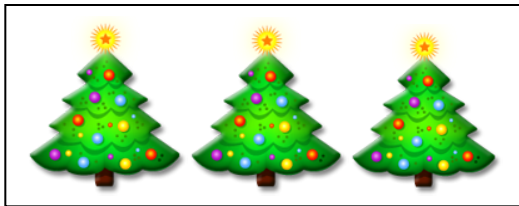
REV. BARBARA K. GULICK, MINISTER

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December, 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS



Parents' Morning Out/Kid's Gift Workshop - December 10th

The Christian Education Committee is offering a time for parents to have a morning out and their children a time to make gifts for their family. This year, local artist Dolores Tennenbaum, will lead a special project. Kids, join our elves for a fun time making gifts at 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM on Saturday, December 10th. A light, mid-morning snack will be provided.



Christmas Program

Christmas Celebration! Saturday, December 17th

All are invited to share a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM at Millersburg Christian Church. Then we will enjoy a Christmas Program beginning at 7:00 PM. Come hear the children perform their special song with bells as part of the program, as well as a special performance celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Contact Allison Hutchison or Barbara Moran if you're interested in participating in the Annual Christmas Program. We have parts for readers, actors, and singers. Come join the fun!

Christmas Bells!

The children are preparing a song for the Christmas Program December 17th. We'll practice at 9:15 AM on Sunday, December 4th and 11th, and Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:00 PM. Please talk to Barbara Moran if your child is interested in participating.



Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24th at 7:00 PM

Come and bring your family and neighbors to start the new/old tradition of Christmas Eve worship with carols, scripture, the lighting of the Christ Candle, communion for all believers, and the candlelight singing of “Silent Night.” All are welcome here as we celebrate the good news for all people. The Savior is born!

A Birthday Party for Jesus

On Christmas Morning at 10:30 AM
Happy Birthday, Jesus!



Christmas Movie Nights: Polar Express

Wednesdays, December 7th and 14th
From 6:20 PM to 7:20 PM on the Mezzanine
Snacks and Conversation
All ages welcome as we share this modern
Christmas fable.



We will gather at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 18th, for All Church Christmas Caroling. Come sing with us and spread some Christmas cheer!



REFLECTIONS

by

Rev. Barbara K. Gulick

As we move from this season of gratitude into the season of Christmas promises and renewed hope, it is appropriate to recognize that all seasons are worthy of giving thanks and all seasons are worthy of hope. Presbyterian pastor Christine Chakoian wrote in a recent edition of *The Christian Century*, "There is nothing wrong with hope in the not yet, but it begins with gratitude for the already." As we worked our way through November... *with grateful hearts*, I made a concerted effort to practice what I preach by keeping a "gratitude journal." And I have become increasingly aware of the blessings of the *already*. Prominent on my list is the blessing of our faith family here at Millersburg Christian Church. God was indeed looking out for John and me when he landed us in this loving, caring, and supportive community of believers, who quietly act out their faith in their deeds and in their lives. We are indeed grateful for the compassion and concern you have shown John and I, especially in these past months of our grieving. And our gratitude extends from the *already* to the eternal *not yet*.

We will begin Advent, the season of waiting and hope, on December 4th with the "Hanging of the Greens" as we decorate our sanctuary for Christmas and light the first candle on the Advent wreath. It is a fun service for all ages. Each family is welcome to bring an ornament for our church Christmas tree. Our theme for Advent worship is "The Promises of Christmas" based on a scripture from the second letter of the Apostle Peter: 2 Peter: 3: 8-9. "*Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient on our account, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.*" Peter's words got me thinking that maybe this Advent season of waiting is not so much about us waiting for God to come into our lives, but of God waiting for every last one of us to finally come to him in response to his loving offer of redeeming grace. Thus Advent becomes not only a season of hope for us, but also for God.

This year we are renewing the much loved Christmas tradition of a Candlelight Communion Service at 7:00 on Christmas Eve. I can think of no more appropriate family tradition than pausing in the midst of our Christmas festivities to worship the Messiah whose birth is the reason for the season. It is my hope and prayer that this may become not only a tradition for our church, but for our entire community.

AND--this year is one of those rare but precious years when Christmas Day falls on Sunday. We will celebrate with an abbreviated service of beloved Christmas carols, scripture, and communion. And we will share a birthday cake for Jesus! Come to the party!

May your Christmas be filled with all the hope, peace, love, and joy of the birth of our savior. To God be the glory! Amen.

With love and gratitude,

John and Barbara



**Christmas Worship at Millersburg Christian Church
"The Promises of Christmas"**

**December 4th
"The Promise of Hope"**

"The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient on our account, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9

Join us as we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath, the candle of *Hope*, and celebrate the "Hanging of the Greens," decorating the sanctuary in preparation for the coming of the Messiah anew into our lives—and into our hearts. Come and bring an ornament to add to our church Christmas tree!

**December 11th
"The Promise of Peace"**

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of Christ Jesus for all of you...May the God of peace himself bless you and make you holy, entirely prepared for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 23

Come and celebrate the promise of the Prince of Peace as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child.

**December 18th
"The Promise of Love"**

"I have calmed and quieted my soul. Like a baby content in its mother's arms, my soul is as content as the baby with me." (Psalm 131:2) "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant...for the Holy One has done great things for me." (Luke 1: 46-49)

In this last week of hurried chores before Christmas, take time to worship and share a message of love.

**December 24th at 7:00 PM
Candle-light Communion Service
"The Promise of a Child"**

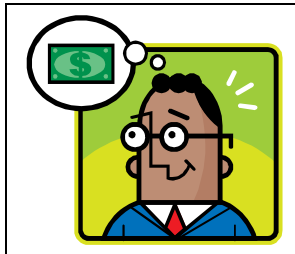
"To us a child is born!"

Join your faith family on this most Holy Night, for a retelling of the Christmas story as it has been shared every year--since that long ago night. Service will conclude with communion for all, the lighting of the candles, and the singing of "Silent Night." Merry Christmas!

**December 25th at 10:30 AM
(No Sunday School today)
"The Promise of Joy"**

"Joy to the World, The Lord Has Come!"

Where else would we be on Christmas morning but in church—especially when Christmas falls on Sunday? Join us for an abbreviated service of favorite carols, scripture, and communion. "O Come, All Ye Faithful!"



***Stewardship and Finance
Committee Report
by Jeff Moran***

At the congregational meeting Sunday, November 13, a 2012 budget of \$57,680 was approved (details of this budget are available on the table in the narthex of the church). Projected income to meet this budget includes pledges, offerings, donations, use of the church (e.g., for weddings), and various fundraisers. Lisa's best current estimate of 2012 income and other money available is \$50,089. This represents a deficit of \$7,591. While this seems like a lot of money for us, we have passed deficit budgets before and managed to stay in business. This happens because of greater than expected income and lower than expected expenses over the course of the year.

Nonetheless, each of us must continue to be aware of places in the church business where we can realize expense savings and to work at church fundraisers. The best fundraiser, of course, would be for each of us to get some of our friends and neighbors to attend Millersburg Christian Church!



Christian Women's Fellowship
Christmas Cookie Exchange is set for Monday, December 5 at 6:30 PM at the home of Carolyn Anderson. Bring 3 dozen cookies to share and a big appetite! Soup will be provided.

Truth or Myth?

Youth and Adult Sunday School will explore the Gospel versions of the Christmas story Sundays at 9:30 on December 4th, 11th, and 18th, seeking the truth behind the Christmas Pageant traditions. We will continue our Bible 101, *Bible for Dummies* format, which means no question is too dumb or too far off track. Sunday school will not meet on December 25th or January 1st.

Missions Committee Report by Beth Haas

The Millersburg Christian Church Missions Committee has been very blessed by the continuing generosity of our congregation. We may be relatively small, but we are mighty when we roar!

The Annual Crop Walk we participated in on October 16th in Fulton raised over \$6,000, with MCC contributing \$200+. Amanda Smith coordinated the logistics and the donations collection. Thank you, Amanda, for a job well done!

Over 200 pounds of food was donated to SERVE this quarter. This is from SERVE's newsletter; please help if you are able:

“Food Pantry Shortage! Increased demand has had food flying off the food pantry shelves! We are purchasing food to restock and need your help! Clean out a cupboard, hold an impromptu food drive, or make a donation to help restock the pantry. Items needed most include: ANY canned goods (veggies, soups, meats, fruits, beans), peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, etc.” Also, there are many and varied opportunities for volunteering with SERVE. This is the webpage for SERVE's volunteer opportunities:

<http://www.callawayunitedway.com/Volunteer.htm>.

The Clothes Cupboard reopened after a pretty amazing remodeling! Individuals have donated over 100 pounds of clothing. If you have clothes to donate, especially winter coats, etc., either I can pick them up from you and take them in, or the employees will be glad to help you carry your donations into the store. Be sure to check out the merchandise while you're there!

The Reconciliation Offering is always spread over two Sundays in September. Our contribution amount is not yet available for reporting, but it will be forthcoming. Here is yet another website, <http://www.reconciliationministry.org/Purpose/tabid/611/Default.aspx>, that discusses how our donations are used to further the anti-racism/pro-reconciliation efforts of the DOC (Disciples Of Christ).

MCC is helping feed two families this Thanksgiving. All the "feathers" are off the turkey and \$\$\$ and food-item donations have been made, all the items/money need to be at the church by this coming Sunday, November 20th, so we can sort the baskets and fill

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them with what we hope will be the makings of a bountiful Thanksgiving Day, and we thank Brenda Rose for offering the two family recipients. May this abundance continue for them in the coming new year.

The Thanksgiving Special Offering provides direct support to Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 14 colleges or universities, 3 seminaries and 4 seminary foundations/divinity houses. Gifts from the Disciples Mission Fund Thanksgiving offering continue a Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the church.

The Christmas Special Offering supports Regional Ministries. In 33 regions across the U.S. and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister. MCC will also be gathering gift items for a special family for Christmas, a treasured tradition for our church.

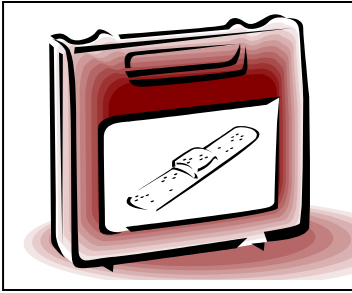
The Missions Committee remains awed and humbled by the generosity of our congregation. Thank you for bearing witness to the better angels in all of us, and for taking that further step of sharing. We are truly blessed!



Personnel Report

As you have often heard, there is good news and bad news! The bad news is that our secretary, Shirley Dixon, has resigned her position effective December 1, 2011 so that she can find more time to be the “retired” person she is. The good news is that we have hired a new secretary already – Carolyn Anderson! Carolyn has had years of experience as a secretary and has just recently retired as the school secretary from McIntire Elementary. She will be an excellent addition to our staff and we welcome her! You may send newsletter and bulletin articles to:

andersoncarolyn1212@yahoo.com.



*New
Opportunity!*

*Training
Provided by
NAMI*

A New Form of First Aid Comes to the Millersburg, Columbia, Fulton Areas

Millersburg Christian Church – disciples of Christ will be hosting a Mental Health First Aid Course (MHFA) in conjunction with NAMI Missouri.

Location: Millersburg Christian Church
Date: Saturday, January 7 & Saturday, January 14

When you think of basic first aid, what comes to mind? Many of us carry first aid kits in our cars, or have taken basic first aid courses. We want to be prepared. We want to help in case of an emergency. But what if that emergency comes in the form of a psychiatric issue? What do we do then?

MHFA answers this question. It teaches members of the public how to respond in a mental health emergency and offer support to someone who appears to be in emotional distress.

Originating in Australia, the course was adopted by the Missouri Department of Health as one of its mental health service transformation efforts. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Missouri threw its support behind MHFA last year when its director and a volunteer presented the program to the NAMI MO board.

Mental disorders were once thought to affect very few, but today we know the opposite is true. It is estimated that one in four Americans will have a diagnosable mental disorder at some point in their lives. Of that number, relatively few get the help they need. MHFA can help change this.

For more information about mental health first aid, call NAMI Missouri at 573-634-7727, toll-free at 800-374-2138, or the Missouri Department of Mental Health.



THOSE WHO SERVE IN DECEMBER:

Elders: Patty Eggleston & Rita Adams

Ushers: Jesse Hutchison & Jerry Landrum

Preparation: Aimee Landrum

Bread:

December 4, 2011 – Carolyn Anderson

December 11, 2011 – Hutchison Family

December 18, 2011 – Bright Family

December 25, 2011 – Rita Adams

SERVE Food Pantry for December: Support our Christmas Families

Please Hold in Prayer...

- Jenny Brown
- Floyd & Marie Lytle
- Esther Flaigle
- Hazel Pahl
- Virginia Williams
- The Richard Shores Family



Children's Sunday School for December:

- ❖ December 4 – Love others, Love God
- ❖ December 11 – An Angel Speaks to Mary & Joseph
- ❖ December 18 – Jesus is Born
- ❖ December 25 – (No Sunday School)

Lectionary Readings for the Month of December:

December 4, 2011

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

December 11, 2011

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

December 18, 2011

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Luke 1: 46b-55

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

December 25, 2011

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14, (15-20)



MCC PHOTO GALLERY

Groundbreaking Ceremony with Socket & Gov. Jay Nixon at MCC



A horseshoe was found at the excavation site for the new Socket hut being built on MCC's grounds.



Adopt-a-Family for Christmas

MCC has adopted a family for Christmas. There is a 16-year-old boy, 14-year-old boy, 6-year-old boy and a single mother. A list of possible gifts will be at the church. All gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 11, unwrapped. We will also provide money to SERVE's holiday food basket for the family. Thank you for helping make their Christmas special!

New Board of Directors

The new Board of Directors will meet Tuesday night, December 13, at 7:00 PM. The new board consists of all new members who were elected at the congregational meeting, plus members whose terms have not yet expired. Immediately

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following the congregational meeting, the elders met to elect a chair and co-chair, and the diaconate met to do the same. One of their purposes is to come up with a slate of officers for the coming year, which will be presented and approved by the Board Caucus on December 13. Also at the caucus, responsibilities of the elders and diaconate will be discussed, along with training on how to prepare and serve communion, take attendance, etc. **THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND.** Again, members who are going off the Board in 2011 – John Gulick, Karen Ackley, Doug Gehring, Anna Sue Harmon, and Jesse Hutchison do not need to attend. Thank you, and see you on the 13th!

*Birthdays in Italics
 *Anniversaries in Bold Italics

December, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MPS 8-12, 5-8	2 <i>Terry & Vicki Fritz</i>	3 <i>Barbara Moran Jerry Landrum</i>
4 9:30 Sun. School 10:30 Worship  <i>Richard Shores</i>	5 MPS Parent Mtg. 6:30 CWF Cookie Exchange at Carolyn Anderson's 6:30	6 MPS 8-12 <i>John Gulick</i>	7 Christmas at the Movies 6:20-7:20 PM Joy Choir 7:30 <i>Joe Ed McCray</i>	8 MPS 8-12, 5-8	9 <i>Todd Gusé Carol Cox</i>	10 Parents' Morning Out – Gift Workshop 9:00-12:30 <i>Elaine Long</i>
11 9:30 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	12 <i>Bill & Carolyn Anderson</i>	13 MPS 8-12 Elders 6:15 PM Board Caucus 7:00 PM <i>Melanie Czeschin Michael Smith</i>	14 Christmas at the Movies 6:20 – 7:20 PM Joy Choir 7:30 <i>Vicki Fritz</i>	15 MPS 8-12, 5-8 <i>Jon Bright Jason & Shelly Bedsworth</i>	16 MPS 6-9 <i>Nickolas Forsee John Reynolds Walter & Pam Garrett</i>	17 Play Practice 10:00 AM Christmas Dinner at 6:00 & Program at 7:00 <i>Randy Loyd</i>
18 9:30 Sun. School 10:30 Worship 3:00 Christmas Caroling 	19 Newsletter Articles Due by Noon <i>Fred & Sally Erickson</i>	20 MPS 8-12 <i>Zach Gamet</i>	21	22 <i>Tina Arnold Alexander Mielke</i>	23 <i>Cheryl Pardue</i>	24  CANDELLIGHT SERVICE 7:00 PM <i>Gary & Elaine Long</i>
25 10:30 Worship  <i>Nadine Gentsch Jimmy Bittle</i>	26	27	28 Newsletter Assembly 5:15 PM	29	30 <i>Tom Haas</i>	31

Millersburg Christian Church

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DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 4, 2011

9:15 Bells Practice
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Worship *Hanging of the Greens*

Monday, December 5, 2011

6:30 MPS Parent Meeting
6:30 CWF at Carolyn Anderson's –
Cookie Exchange

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

6:20 Christmas at the Movies
7:30 JOY Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 10, 2011

9:00 Parents' Morning Out –
Gift Workshop

Sunday, December 11, 2011

9:15 Bells Practice
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Worship

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

6:15 Elders Meeting
7:00 Board Caucus

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

6:00 Bells Practice
6:20 Christmas at the Movies
7:30 JOY Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 17, 2011

10:00 Play Practice
6:00 Christmas Potluck Dinner
7:00 Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18, 2011

9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
3:00 Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 19, 2011

12:00 Newsletter Articles Due

Saturday, December 24, 2011

7:00 Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25, 2011

10:30 Worship

Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

5:15 Newsletter Assembly