

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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*Loving
Father,*
help us remember
the **birth of Jesus**
that we may share in
the *song of the angels,*
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the *worship of the wise men.*
Close the door of hate and
open the door of love all over the
world. Let kindness come with every gift and
good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from
evil by the *blessing which Christ brings,* and teach us
to *be merry with clear hearts.* May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be *Thy children,* and the Christmas
evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

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Note from the Pastor



“Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?”

These are lyrics from the song, *Mary did you know?* Written by Mark Lowry in 1984. It is a truly inspiring song, and has become a regular during Advent and Christmas. Over the years I have wrestled with this question, “Mary did you know?” I have often thought of other lines that I might have added to this song. Mary did you know that your son would bring good news to the downtrodden, the marginalized, and the different.

Over the years our little planet has become increasingly polarized and divided over so many issues, and in many ways it seems that the church is following suit. We sometimes get the idea in our head that we must agree on all the issues, we must think the same, we must look the same, we must be the same... This has never been the case, and will never be the case with the church; it will always be filled with “differing people.”

So, this year, during Advent and Christmas, as we talk about “peace on earth”, let us start with the realization that it’s O.K. to agree to disagree. Because as Christians we are called for a deeper purpose...and that purpose is to love one another. Not because we look alike, not because we are like minded, and not because theologically we are all in line...but because Jesus Christ loves us, and we are to love each other.

May you all have a Merry Christmas filled with love and peace.

Pastor John

Year-end Reports are Due

Church leaders, Session members, committee heads, bring your 2016 reports on your committee or event to the office no later than **Friday, January 6**—sending via email is best! If you have questions, see UPC’s Secretary Allen Pease.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, December 11 for the purpose of electing Deacons and Elders as presented by the Nominating Committee. This brief meeting will be immediately after the worship service.

Youth in Action (and everyone is invited to join)



Get Involved

We are looking for some fresh faces to teach Sunday school one week a month. We have two levels, elementary and teen. If you would like more information please see Karen during fellowship or send her an email at klike@earthlink.net.

Would you like to be rejuvenated by taking care of some little ones in the nursery once a month? Introduce yourself to Johnny and Margaret and I am sure you will want to spend more time with them to get to know them better. If we get enough people to volunteer we can have teams so you will not be working alone.

Reverse Advent—

It is better to give than to receive. A Typical advent calendar is used to celebrate the coming of Christmas and for 24 days you get a gift or devotional to prepare you. This year the UPC youth have decorated boxes and bags and picked some not-for-profits in the county that could use our help.



Take a box, write the organization you would like to support on the label, and each day of advent you add an item to the box. On or before Christmas Eve you return the box and put it under the Christmas tree in front of the sanctuary. Members will then volunteer to distribute them to the organizations by the New Year.

Guest Speaker: During 6pm Bible Study

UPC's 6 p.m. Book and Bible study is hosting a guest speaker on Tuesday, December 6 in Fellowship Hall. A graduate of Hiram College and Christian Theological Seminary, David Garshaw is a historian and retired minister of the Disciples of Christ. He'll present **"The American Civil War and Religion,"** an intriguing, thought provoking and educational talk regarding the struggle theologians had regarding slavery and that war. A question and answer session will follow. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend. A sign up is posted in Fellowship Hall.

Haddad Christmas

Once again, the gracious Alejandra and Souheil Haddad will open their home for Christmas Dinner on December 10 at 6 p.m. so that friends and members of UPC can gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. After more than twenty years of hosting this event, the annual Haddad Christmas Party is certainly no less than a Christmas tradition for UPC.

All we have to do is show up!
And eat!
And laugh!
And sing!

It's an act of love from their entire family and that's why it's such a joyous event. Everyone is welcome! Don't miss it! A sign up is posted in the Narthex. Please mark on the sign-up sheet if you need a ride and transportation will be provided.

Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
with tiny lights like heaven's stars reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular please wipe away that tear,
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.
I sent you a special gift, from my heavenly home above.
I sent you each a memory, of my undying love.
After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always more important in stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do.
For I can't count the blessings or love He has for you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away the tear.
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

In Loving Memory of

Merle Michael

Entered into the Kingdom of Heaven on December 12, 1999

From her children

Miriam Michael

Paul Michael

Richard Michael

Letter to the Church

To the wonderful community of United Presbyterian,
Thank you for your generous contribution of two turkeys to our Thanksgiving Celebration. Also,
thanks for allowing us to have our celebration in Fellowship Hall. Wishing you all those little joys
that make your Thanksgiving Day just right. Happy Thanksgiving. Campus Group



In Loving Memory

A memorial donation of \$250 has been made to United Presbyterian Church in loving memory of the late Marvin and Merle Michael, long time members of UPC and parents of Miriam Michael.

Financial Report

We had a significant deficit in October. We only took in \$4660.50 and our expenses were \$8,191.13 giving us a cash flow of negative \$3,530.63 for the month. We do have a surplus of \$929.15 for the year to date. However, we do have some significant expenses coming up in the final 2 months of the year. As in the past few years, we again ask anyone who is able to give a little extra in December to avoid a significant overall deficit for the year.

On the brighter side, there was a generous response of \$252 to the Peace Offering in October.

Don Root

Advent at United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 27 – First Sunday in Advent

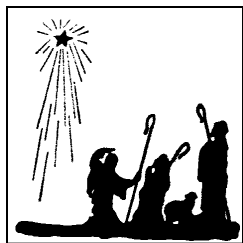
10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend John Napoli, liturgy by Rev. Sarah Cochran
Lighting of the Hope Candle on the Advent Wreath
Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

Wednesday, November 30 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Reverend John Napoli; Dr. Sarah Stamey on piano

Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent – Deacons Sunday

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend John Napoli, liturgy by Stephanie Worden
Lighting of the Peace Candle on the Advent Wreath by Souheil & Alejandra Haddad
Holy Communion served by Reverend John Napoli and the UPC Elders from the table prepared by the Deacons; Dr. Sarah Stamey on piano and organ



Wednesday, December 7 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily by Reverend Sarah Cochran; Dr. Sarah Stamey on piano and organ

Saturday, December 10 – Annual Christmas Party

6 p.m. – Souheil & Alejandra Haddad host a celebration of Christmas at their home, 400 E. Clover Lane

Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend John Napoli, liturgy by Gerrit Heitink
Lighting of the Joy Candle on the Advent Wreath by Bill, Stephanie, Logan & Caroline Worden
Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ – Guest Artist soprano Madeline Coffey

Wednesday, December 14 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily by Alejandra Haddad; Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend John Napoli, liturgy by Michelle Heitink
Lighting of the Love Candle on the Advent Wreath by Michelle Heitink and sons Gerrit Jan & Benjamin
Receiving of the Christmas Joy Offering – Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ
Guest artist Jennifer Kirby, oboist

Wednesday, December 21 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily by Reverend Bob Lorimer; Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7 p.m. – Worship led by Reverend John Napoli, lighting of the Christ Candle
Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ,
Holy Communion served by Reverend Napoli and the UPC Elders served by Intinction with the sacraments prepared by the Deacons
Congregational singing of *Silent Night* and the Circle of Light

Sunday, December 25 – Service of Hymns & Carols

10 a.m. – A service of hymns and carols led by Reverend John Napoli
Second Christmas Joy Offering – Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

~ December 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 11:45am – Men's Lunch	3
4 Communion/ Deacons Sunday 10am Worship and Peace Candle 11am Fellowship	5	6 12pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study (Guest Speaker)	7 7pm Advent Service	8 #	9 11:45am – Men's Lunch	10 Haddad Christmas
11 10am Worship, Joy Candle & Nyaka update 11am Voting Meeting 11:15am Fellowship	12	13 12pm Bible Study	14 6pm Book Study 7pm Advent Service	15	16 11:45am – Men's Lunch	17
18 10am Worship and Love Candle 11am Fellowship	19	20 12pm Bible Study 7pm Session	21 6pm Book Study 7pm Advent Service	22	23 11:45am – Men's Lunch	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight ser- vice & Holy Communion
25 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	26	27 12pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study	28	29	30	31

Weekly Community Uses of UPC Rooms

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6pm Overeaters Anonymous	5:15pm Kiwanis (2nd Monday)		7pm OA	5:30pm Self Realization	5:30pm – Women's Group	11am Overeaters Anonymous
8pm Campus				8pm Campus		
				7pm SA (2nd and 4th Thursdays)		

December Birthdays and Anniversaries



December 8 Sookyong Kim
 December 9 Sarah Cochran
 December 10 Lance Like
 December 14 Elaine Hubbard
 December 20 Bill Schofield
 December 23 Brenda Wood
 December 26 Salwa Spir

December 27 Jane and Fred Priest
 Anniversary
 December 28 Aline Hamati
 Haddad
 December 31 Rowan Heitink

