



THE TORCH

ROUND LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DEDICATED 1894
CELEBRATING OUR 118TH YEAR
DECEMBER 2012



COOKIE DECORATING PARTY

DECEMBER 8TH

Children are invited to come and decorate cookies to take home and to decorate one the Church's Christmas trees.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CAROLING

DECEMBER 14TH

The evening starts with a soup and bread supper in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM followed by Christmas Caroling through the Village.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Welcome anew the Living God into our midst.
5:00pm and 8:00pm



Pastoral Ponderings

One of the hardest things for residents of the twenty-first century to do is wait. We have become accustomed to instant gratification for just about anything we want. We can heat something up in the microwave oven in a few minutes rather than the longer time in a conventional oven. We can be instantly connected to family and friends just about anywhere in the world with a punch, click or slide through our mobile phones or the internet. We hear of events anywhere in the world within minutes rather than the hours and days it took for news to travel in times past. Many of us are used to deciding we want something and immediately go out to purchase it. Waiting, it seems to many of us, should be a thing of the past. Still, we spend time waiting each day for something. Usually we know what it is we are waiting for and why we are waiting, not always patiently, for it to happen.

As I've been thinking about waiting I decided to check out what it means. According to my *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* "wait" is "to remain in active readiness or expectation or to be ready". Other meanings listed have to do with postponing an event or serving others.

As part of the people of God, we have spent a great deal of time waiting throughout history. We have waited for the promise to Abrahams to be fulfilled. We have waited for the promised Messiah. We wait for the Messiah to return. How well are we, God's people, waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled? Are we ready, prepared, for God's promises to be fulfilled in and through us?

Often the prophets would instruct the people to continue going about one's everyday routine life while they waited for God to act. Their instructions to wait also included instructions to be continually aware of God's presence as they went about their routine lives. Without the awareness of God's presence and activity it will be hard to experience God's work in and through them. The same is still true today.

As hard as it may be, Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation for Christians. We are waiting to hear again the angelic chorus announce the birth of the Savior in a manger in Bethlehem. We are also waiting for Christ to return to earth as he promised. We know when we will hear the angelic chorus. We do not know when Christ will return to earth. It is hard to wait when all around us we hear Christmas music and the merchants' message that Christmas is here. Sometimes it seems to me there are some who would like us to believe that the shopping frenzy that leads up to December 25th is really Christmas. As Christians, we know this is NOT true.

This year, while waiting for Christmas Day, why not enhance your readiness to hear the angelic chorus announce the birth of the Messiah by being attentive to where God is already present in your life each day?

Ponderings, continued

Jesus might tell us this is staying awake and alert, living in watchful expectation. *The Upper Room* devotional guide, available in the church and online at www.upperroom.org, is an excellent resource to accompany you daily during the Advent time of waiting. There is also an excellent Advent devotional, *Jesus Beloved Son*, available in the church for your use.

This year, may your Advent waiting be blessed with knowing God's active presence in your life as we prepare to celebrate God coming to live among us.

With Christ's Peace – Rev. Jane



Scriptures in Worship

With the coming of Advent we begin a new church year. During December we anticipate the coming of God in Jesus Christ. Of course we anxiously await the celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, Christmas. Advent begins with remembering that we also look forward to the return, the Second Coming, of Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of expectation, a time of living into God's time rather than our own fast paced time. Advent is a time to savor the presence of God with us and not rush to the manger.

Sunday, December 2, 2012 First Sunday in Advent SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 9, 2012 Second Sunday in Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 16, 2012 Third Sunday in Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 23, 2012

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sunday, December 30, 2012

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



Prayer Vigil

A prayer vigil will be held on Friday, November 30, 2012. You are invited to participate even if you are hearing about it for the first time, right now. By participating you agree to be in a Conversation with God for 30 minutes between 7am and 9pm, by listening AND speaking.

1. Please give thanks to our Lord for the many blessings showered upon us. Listen for the ways we can use these blessings to help others.
2. Please pray for The Round Lake United Methodist Church, our elected leaders and financial decisions being made, and transitions that will be required.. Listen for God's ideas.
3. Please pray for ways in which we can share the Good News of Christmas. Listen for guidance from God.
4. Please continue in prayer for those persons on our prayer list found in the bulletin.



Church/Charge Conference

Our annual Church/Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 pm at the church. The agenda will include the adoption of the 2013 budget, setting the pastor's compensation, electing Trustees and other lay officers of the congregation and acting upon membership recommendations as well as other items that may properly come before the body.

Advent Prayer Emphasis

Advent is a season of preparation! We prepare for the celebration of the coming of Christ the first time AND - - we prepare for the coming of Christ the second time. During Advent, beginning November 30th, we suggest you prepare for the coming of Christ by participating in three simple activities:

1. Pray for at least 5 minutes daily,
2. Reduce or cut back an expense in one area of your life (a way of fasting).
3. Donate your fasting savings amount to *Missions and Ministry*.



Thank you for your participation in this Advent Prayer Emphasis.

Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us on Christmas Eve as we welcome anew the Living God in our midst.

The Round Lake UMC will welcome the Birth of the Christ Child with a Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, December 24th. The two services that evening will be at 5:00pm and 8:00pm. The service will include many of the favorite Christmas hymns, including *Silent Night* by candlelight, a special music selection by our choir and a Christmas meditation. The Sacrament of Holy communion will be shared at the 8:00 pm service.



Thank you and I am looking forward to sharing our Time in Prayer.

UMW

A **Cookie Decorating Party** will be held for our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighborhood kids on Saturday, December 8 10am-12pm. There will be cookies for them to decorate, a Christmas to trim and gifts to take home to a loved one. The child needs only to bring an item of dog or cat food. Please bring a child and come join the fun. Contact person for this event is Shelda Roerig 899-2389.

Our **Christmas Mission Project** this year is to fill stockings for the children that attend CAPTAIN'S Cheryl's Lodge. We have 40 stockings to fill. You may donate small items like shampoo, bars of soap, combs, washcloths or scrubby, chocolate, colored pencils, or any other items that may go in a stocking. Please have your items in by Sunday, Dec 9. Contact Carol Millington 899-2418 for questions.

Our **Caroling Party** will be held December 14 at 6pm. We will be having soup at 6pm then after we will go about the village of Round Lake caroling. After caroling, we will go to All Saints Church for their famous hot chocolate and dessert. Please come join the fun and spread holiday cheer with and to our neighbors.

UMW's **Christmas Party** will be held Monday, December 17 at 6pm at the home of Kathy Washburn. Please bring a dish to share and a \$5 grab gift. If you'd like to attend please call Kathy 664-5057. We always have a Wonderful time Please join us.

Please think about joining us for the above events. We always welcome your participation and donations. With God's Love, we appreciate and thank you for your support.

Trustees

Trustees would like to thank everyone who was a part of the Election Day Turkey Dinner event. There were 33 people involved in making this project a success. The positive response to the meal and fellowship was well worth all the effort.

We also had a very productive Fall Cleanup with 7 people helping in the effort to ready the church grounds for winter. Thank you to them as well.

Our next meeting has been changed due to scheduling issues. It will be Tuesday, December 11th at 7pm.

Thank You!

SURPRISED! Congratulations to the Round Lake UMC for successfully surprising me on October 28th during worship. John Halme, chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, presented me with a gift for Pastor Appreciation Month. The bouquet of roses was beautiful. The gift certificates, one for Bellini's and one to Hewett's, are appreciated. A heart-felt THANK YOU all who contributed to this gift and surprise.

Birthdays

1	Jessica Agnew
1	Amy Christopher
3	Mike Cranston
6	Diane Marino
12	William Grimm II
13	Gary Milkins
18	Pat Herold
19	Jane Baker
22	Linda Brown
25	Rita Brown
28	Sue Thompson

December

2	Dave Meurs
9	Bob Kopp
16	Todd Sievers
23	John Davey
24	Eugene LaDue
30	Terry Reynolds

Ushers

Counters

Terry Reynolds/Nancy LaPine
Shelda Roerig/Linda Milkins
Steve Mitchell/Nancy LaPine
C.Christopher/Jean Halme
Jean Halme/Nancy LaPine
Jean Halme/Nancy LaPine

