

Good Shepherd Messiah Jesus of Nazareth
Healer Prince of Peace **Bread of Life**
Son of God *Emmanuel* King of Kings
Who Will Jesus Be For Us?
the Way the Truth and the Life **Living Water**
the Christ Light of the world *Teacher*
Son of Man Prophet **Living Word** Rabbi

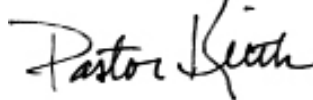
Who Will Jesus Be For Us?

This year Advent greets us as we struggle with the serious and desperate issues of life, community and survival. From that perspective, how might we greet Advent this year? Chris Ewing-Weisz writes: "Advent gives us an opportunity to break through the veneer of business as usual, to feel to the bottom of the 'quiet desperation' that often underlies ordinary life, as well as to give voice – and hope – to those whose world may be actively coming apart." To experience Advent, she continues, we must "stop pretending that everything is fine. It is to probe the nature of our malaise, of the human condition in general, and to speak again in today's language to today's concerns the words that realign us with the big picture: words of challenge and comfort, judgment and hope." (Homiletics, Vol. 23, #6)

In this Advent season, we will focus our worship time around the theme, "What Shall We Name Him?" or "Who Will Jesus Be For Us?" In Hebrew tradition, a name captures the essence of a person. So, what name shall we call him? What name shall we give this child of Bethlehem? Together, we will explore that theme during this season of preparation.

Again Chris Ewing-Weisz writes: "Advent is about the human heart: its pain and its hope, its inadequacy and its aspirations, its untrustworthiness and its capacity to come into right alignment with the Heart of Reality. If you do nothing else this Advent, speak truth to the human heart." That will be our hope and our aim this Advent season.

Pastor Keith



November / December 2011

Sunday Worship

8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m.

Advent Week 1 – November 27 United Methodist Student Day

Theme:

What Shall We Name Him?

His Name Is Hope.

On this Sunday, we will celebrate our college students and receive a special offering for UM Student Day. Our Music Ministry at 9:30 will be presented by our Chapel Choir and Bell Choir. The Chapel Choir will also share their music at 11:00 Worship in the Chapel.

Advent Week 2 – December 4

Theme:

What Shall We Name Him?

His Name Is Peace.

At the 9:30 and 11:00 worship, our Chancel Choir will present a special Choral Work, "How Sweet the Sound" by W. Cutter. Our regular 8:00 worship setting with Holy Communion will be held in the Chapel.

Advent Week 3 – December 11

Theme:

What Shall We Name Him?

His Name Is Joy.

The Blessed Brass provide seasonal music for this Advent Sunday at 9:30 worship. Our 8:00 worship service will be held in the Chapel.

Advent Week 4 – December 18

Theme:

What Shall We Name Him?

His Name Is Love.

Our Chancel Choir provides our music ministry at the 9:30 worship celebration. Our traditional Christmas Pageant will be held in the Sanctuary at the 11:00 worship hour. A reception with fellowship and Christmas treats will follow at noon in Fellowship Hall.



Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 26

Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Youth Rooms

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

A lunch of homemade soups and bread (no turkey leftovers) follows a time of bedecking our church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Sign up ahead of time by calling 608-256-9061 or online at www.fumc.org so we're sure to have enough soup!

Sunday Morning Advent Study

***The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg and**

John Dominic Crossan

Sundays, November 27 – December 18

Room 208, 11 a.m.

Facilitated by various participants

The Christian Adventure class welcomes new participants as they read and study *The First Christmas*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The two scholars join forces to show how history has biased our reading of the Nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. They explore the beginning of the life of Christ, peeling away the sentimentalism that has built up over the last two thousand years around this most well known of all stories to reveal the truth of what the gospels actually say. Borg and Crossan help us to see this well-known narrative afresh by answering the question, "What do these stories mean?" in the context of both the first century and the twenty-first century. They successfully show that the Christmas story, read in its original context, is far richer and more challenging than people imagine. This book is available in the church library and copies are available for loan from members who have previously studied the book.

Alternative Market and Forest of Giving Trees

Sundays, November 27- December 18

Fellowship Hall

9 a.m.-Noon

Make this a merry and meaningful Christmas!

During this Advent and Christmas season First Church can help you:

- Give yourself the gift of extra time.
- Give our planet the gift of less fuel consumption and less pollution.
- Give struggling individuals and families the support they need to lift themselves out of poverty.
- Give family and friends unique gifts that honor the spirit of the One whose birth we celebrate.

How can you see all this come to pass? By visiting the Alternative Gift Market and Forest of Giving Trees in Fellowship Hall. Gifts that make a difference in this world will be available from the Getsemani Community in El Salvador, Equal Exchange, Heifer International, Plant-A-Tree in Palestine, Pilgrims of Ibillin, First Church Food Pantry and First Church Youth Ministry groups. Making all your Christmas gift selections in one place will save you time and energy; but even more importantly, you'll be supporting ministries that bring glimpses of peace and justice to our world. The Alternative Market will be held each Sunday morning beginning November 27 and concluding December 18. Cash and checks will be accepted. We hope you enjoy this special way of selecting gifts while "gifting" various ministries in our church, our community and around the world. Merry Christmas!

Gift options include:

- Handcrafted bracelets made by members of the Getsemani Community in El Salvador
- Equal Exchange coffees, organic teas, cocoa and chocolate bars, and gift baskets comprised of these items
- CDs of traditional Cuban folk music by Jorge Luis Fernández Collazo and his band, Peña Cristiana, from their music ministry in Havana
- Gift Cards for animals and seedlings to fill a \$5,000 Heifer "Gift Ark"
- Gift Cards for plantings of olive trees, almond trees and grape vines in support of Christian Palestinian land owners
- Handmade olive oil soap and olive wood figurines and crosses made by people of a small Palestinian Christian village
- Porchlight Products made with local, fresh and seasonal ingredients which also help support local, sustainable agriculture
- Local fair trade foods assembled by Family Farm Defenders include honey, mustard, popcorn, wild rice and maple syrup
- Food Security Gift Cards supporting our FUMC Food Pantry
- Gift Cards for Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Israel/Palestine
- Gift jars of ready-to-make food mixes or bath salts, created by the Confirmation class
- Gifts of tools for Appalachia Service Project (ASP)

Additional giving opportunities in our Forest of Giving Trees include:

- Men's Drop-In Shelter – Financial donations for gift bags of personal items
- YWCA – Gift baskets of personal items for women staying at the YWCA
- Hats and Mittens – Warmth for children who don't have these winter essentials
- Thoughtful Christmas Messages – Addresses and handmade cards to send to our homebound members
- FUMC Mission & Outreach – Financial gifts to support this ministry area



Sunday Morning Advent Study
A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in
Word and Art – A DVD-based study
Sundays, November 27 – December 18
Room 203, 11 a.m.
Facilitated by Tina Lang

This study presents the familiar story of Christmas as told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each scripture passage is illustrated and interpreted in the stunning artwork of John August Swanson along with commentary by some of America's premier biblical scholars, names such as Dr. Thomas A. Long, Dr. Michael Joseph Brown, Dr. Carol A. Newsom and more. The study is divided into six chapters, each one featuring a passage of Scripture, commentary by the scholars, and a Swanson work of art based on that passage. Included are: A Visit (Luke 1:26-38), The Nativity (Luke 2:1-7), The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20), Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12), Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:21-40) and Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15).

Advent and Christmas Art in the Chapel
Sunday, November 27 – Sunday, January 8

Visit the Chapel during Advent, where you will see a gallery of John August Swanson artwork. Swanson paints in oil, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media, and is an independent printmaker of limited edition serigraphs, lithographs and etchings. His art reflects the strong heritage of storytelling he inherited from his Mexican mother and Swedish father. His work includes many Bible stories, optimistically embracing life and one's spiritual transformation. Swanson's unique style is influenced by the imagery of Islamic and medieval miniatures, Russian iconography, the color of Latin American folk art, and the tradition of Mexican muralists. His art is detailed, complex, and elaborate. Swanson's serigraphs (limited-edition screen prints) have from 40 to 89 colors printed, using transparent and opaque inks to create rich and detailed imagery. Several of Swanson's prints are part of one of the Sunday morning studies during Advent.

Chancel Choir Presents
"How Sweet the Sound" by William Cutter
Sunday, December 4
Sanctuary
9:30 and 11 a.m. Worship Services

On this Sunday the Chancel Choir will be joined by three professional wind players (flute, oboe and bassoon) and Ross Cowing, organist, to present the major choral work "How Sweet the Sound." Using traditional carols in unique and contemporary ways, composer William Cutter inspires all of us to take fresh new looks at what have become the most traditional of melodies. This fresh look at familiar carols is a perfect complement to our Advent discussion about the many names we have for Jesus and who he will be for us. The carols include "Let All Mortal Flesh," "Personent Hodie," "Angels We Have Heard On High," "Sweet Was the Sound," and "We Three Kings." We hope these new and exciting arrangements will breathe fresh life into our Christmas traditions.



Isthmus Brass Concert
to Benefit Porchlight
Monday, December 12
Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.

This large brass ensemble will play a holiday concert that doubles as a fund raiser for Porchlight. Members include John Aley, UW-Madison professor of trumpet, and other UW alumni and college brass professors from around the state of Wisconsin. Under the direction of John Stevens, professor of Tuba and Euphonium at UW-Madison, this group plays at a level equal to any other nationally recognized brass ensemble. Admission is free with a freewill offering taken to support Porchlight.



Annual Christmas Pageant & Reception
Sunday, December 18
Sanctuary, 11 a.m. Worship Service
Reception at Noon – Fellowship Hall

This worship celebration is built around a traditional Christmas pageant including prophets, angels, shepherds, wisemen, and a very special baby. Most will choose to enjoy the pageant “from the pew,” but people of all ages are welcome to participate by taking roles in the pageant. People interested in participating are invited to contact Tina Lang at 608-256-9061 or tlang@fumc.org. After the pageant, enjoy Christmas treats and fellowship at the reception in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Candlelight Vespers
Service on the Longest Night
Wednesday, December 21
Chapel, 7 p.m.

This special service of candlelight and music held on the longest night of the year offers an early celebration of Christmas for those leaving the area for the holidays and those wishing to celebrate the wonder of Christmas through music in the intimate setting of the Chapel.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 24
Sanctuary
7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
(Childcare at 7 p.m. only)

Once again, we will offer traditional services of Word, Music and Candlelight on Christmas Eve. On this evening, you will walk along a candlelit sidewalk into a sanctuary of candlelight, Christmas music and the warmth of Christmas love and peace. Bring the family and celebrate this holy night.

Christmas Day Worship Service
Sunday, December 25
Sanctuary, 10 a.m.

Recognizing the many family observances on this day, the church will host just one worship service. Come together with friends for a special celebration this Christmas morning. *No Sunday School classes.*

Christmas Community Meal
Sunday, December 25
Fellowship Hall
12-2 p.m.

On Christmas Day, we expect to welcome over 350 guests for our free community holiday meal in Fellowship Hall. This will be the 27th year that we open our doors and our hearts and extend our hospitality to neighbors, friends and families from the Madison area community. All First Church members and friends are cordially invited to join the feast.

New Year's Day Worship Service
Sunday, January 1
Sanctuary, 10 a.m.

Recognizing the many family observances on this day, the church will host only one worship service. A Low Brass Ensemble in the Moravian tradition will help us welcome the New Year. Come early and enjoy a cup of fresh coffee or hot chocolate and conversation before the service. *No Sunday School classes.*



Ken Lonquist and Friends Present
“Old Befana”
Sunday, January 8
Sanctuary
9:30 and 11 a.m. Worship Services

First Church will once again welcome Ken Lonquist and his talented cast of performers in the beautiful and poignant musical “Old Befana.” This has become one of our happiest traditions to hear the story sung and spoken of the old woman who keeps her front walk swept and her cookies fresh while she awaits that “special child’s” return. That special child could be you! This is a family favorite and a Sunday that sees many guests and friends coming to enjoy this beautiful story told in a way that touches both children and adults. *There will be no Sunday School classes this day so that families can attend worship together. Classes will resume on January 15.*

