

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

226 East Main Street, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069
www.uccvermillion.org; uccv@uccvermillion.org; 605/624-3120

December 2009 – January 2010

Special Worship in December

Please come and join us for these wonderful and unique worship celebrations during this holy season!

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| December 6, 2009 | 10:30 am | Advent Taize |
| <i>A special communion service in the manner of Taize, including beautiful bell music.</i> | | |
| December 13, 2009 | 10:30 am | 65th Annual Carol Service |
| <i>Our Adult Choir will share Handel's "Messiah" with chamber orchestra.</i> | | |
| December 20, 2009 | 10:30 am | Children's Christmas Pageant |
| <i>Our sacred story presented by our children.</i> | | |
| December 24, 2009 | 7:30 pm | Candlelight Christmas Eve Service |
| <i>A service of lessons and carols for the whole family.</i> | | |
| | 11:15 pm | Taize Prayer Vigil |
| <i>A quiet Taize service, waiting for midnight bells.</i> | | |

CAROL SERVICE

Our Adult Choir will share Handel's *Messiah* as a central piece of our Carol Sunday worship on December 13, 2009. This exciting work will be accompanied by chamber orchestra. It has become common practice since Handel's death to perform *Messiah* during Advent. Using texts from the Hebrew Bible, this work will help us explore the relationship between Judaism and Christianity during this holy season.

THE ANGEL TREE OF GIVING

Our 2009 Angel Tree of Giving is up in our sanctuary. Please help others in our community by choosing a card, with suggested gift ideas, from the tree. The gifts need to be wrapped and returned to the church on or before Sunday, December 20th at 11:30 am to prepare for delivery the next day. Please remember to attach the card to the outside of the gift. Financial donations will also be accepted and may be dropped off at the church office. Thank you so much for helping to make a brighter Christmas for those in need.

POINSETTIAS

If you have a poinsettia you would like to share this holiday season, you may leave it in the sanctuary. If your poinsettia is in memory/honor of someone, please leave that information in the church office.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who has pledged for 2010. If you have not yet done so, you may still submit a pledge card. The final budget will be approved at the annual meeting in January.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 6

Advent II

“Blessed is the One”

Luke 1:39-55

Micah 4:1-5

Communion

December 13

Advent III

“Messiah”

Malachi 3:1-4

Carol Service

December 20

Advent IV

“Prepare the Way”

Isaiah 40:1-5

Children’s Pageant

December 27

“Mine Eyes have seen the Glory”

Luke 2:41-52

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 3

“Living Truth”

John 1:1-18

Communion

January 10

“The Middle Way”

Philippians 4:10-14

January 17

“Pull Out the Arrow”

I John 4:7-21

January 24

“Still Breathing”

Psalms 46

January 31

“Right Association”

I Corinthians 12:12-26

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, December 3rd at 9:30 am in the Mayflower Room. Hostesses will be Cyndy Chaney and Thelma Raines. Elaine Miller will have devotions and Cindy Lavin will tell about her trip to Haiti.

“ENCOUNTERS”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

Mary Travors, the female voice of the folk-singing trio, “Peter, Paul, and Mary,” died last September after battling leukemia for several years. Why I should bring that up now may seem strange but it’s not if you, like me, start listening to your Christmas CD’s right before Thanksgiving. It’s important to give each one in the collection a good listening to in the limited time we have in the pre-Christmas season. Last night I absorbed the entire program from a PBS production of a Peter, Paul and Mary Christmas show taped awhile back. It has many wonderful pieces but one of my favorites is “Light One Candle”, the story of Hanukah, and the lighting of the menorah candles. It is about the miraculous fight of the Maccabees to win the right to exist, and to worship God in the midst of those who would deny that and destroy them. A very simple explanation to a magnificent tale. The entire song, written by Peter Yarrow, contains moving lyrics like, “Light one candle for the strength that we need to never become our own foe....and light one candle to find us together with peace as the song in our hearts.” But I especially love hearing Mary’s voice rise above the others in a convincing plea in the chorus:

Don’t let the light go out! It’s lasted for so many years!

Don’t let the light go out! Let it shine through our love and our tears.

Light...the light of God in each one of us....God’s light that continues to lead us in the hope of justice, wisdom, love and peace for all in the journey. Shalom my Friends! May the Christmas light shine in you!

~ Elaine

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the United Church of Christ, Congregational of Vermillion, is set for Sunday, January 31, 2010 following our morning worship. There will be a simple soup lunch served by our youth and then we will move back to the sanctuary for this annual gathering. Please join us as we review the past year and begin to look ahead to our mission and ministry for 2010. Board chairs are reminded that annual reports are due in the office by Monday, January 11th. You may email your reports to uccv@uccvermillion.org or leave them in the church office.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will not be meeting in December. Cyndy Chaney has yarn, pattern, and needles for anyone interested in joining the group. Just give her a call at 624-6260 or talk to her at church.

VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY

Food items most needed at the Food Pantry (located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark Street) are: canned peas, soda crackers, jelly/jams, scalloped potatoes/instant potatoes, hot and cold cereal, creamed corn, chili and chili beans, tomato soups, pasta/spaghetti noodles, family size spaghetti sauces, popcorn, cans of fruit juice, toilet paper (wrapped 4 pkg), motel soaps, shampoo and conditioner, diapers, peanut butter, mixed vegetables, beef stews, rice meal packages, cake and muffin mixes, boxes of stuffing mix, bath size hand soap, tooth paste and new wrapped tooth brushes, tuna fish, pancake mix and syrups, Hamburger/Tuna Helpers, Jell-O and pudding mixes.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

<u>Tuesday, December 1</u>	10:30 am	Worship
6:00 pm BC	11:30 am	Coffee Hi
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)		Cabinet
<u>Wednesday, December 2</u>	5:00 pm	Confirmation
3:10 pm Jolley LAF	6:30 pm	V – III (High School Youth)
5:30 pm LAF	8:00 pm	Taize
6:00 pm Bell Choir	<u>Monday, December 14</u>	
7:00 pm Adult Choir	7:00 pm	Mayflower Mondays
<u>Thursday, December 3</u>	<u>Tuesday, December 15</u>	
9:30 am Women's Fellowship	6:00 pm	B.C.
12 noon PALS	<u>Wednesday, December 16</u>	
<u>Sunday, December 6</u>	3:10 pm	Jolley LAF
9:00 am Adult Bible Study	5:30 pm	LAF
10:30 am Worship	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
11:30 am Coffee Hi	<u>Thursday, December 17</u>	
	4:00 pm	PALS
	<u>Sunday, December 20</u>	
5:00 pm Confirmation	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm V – III (High School Youth)	10:30 am	Worship
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship	11:30 am	Coffee Hi
8:00 pm Taize	5:00 pm	Confirmation
<u>Monday, December 7</u>	6:30 pm	V – III (High School Youth)
7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays	7:00 pm	Unitarian Fellowship
<u>Tuesday, December 8</u>	<u>Wednesday, December 23</u>	
6:00 pm BC		NO LAF
6:30 pm Orchestra Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
<u>Wednesday, December 9</u>	<u>Thursday, December 24</u>	
3:10 pm Jolley LAF	7:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service
5:30 pm LAF	11:15 pm	Taize Service
7:00 pm Adult Choir	<u>Sunday, December 27</u>	
<u>Thursday, December 10</u>	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm MOPS	10:30 am	Worship
<u>Sunday, December 13</u>	11:30 am	Coffee Hi
9:00 am Adult Bible Study		

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 3

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Diaconate meeting
5:00 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm V – III (High School Youth)
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship
8:00 pm Taize

Tuesday, January 5

6:00 pm BC
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

Wednesday, January 6

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, January 7

4:00 pm PALS

Sunday, January 10

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
5:00 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm V – III (High School Youth)
8:00 pm Taize

Monday, January 11

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, January 12

6:00 pm BC

Wednesday, January 13

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, January 14

6:00 pm MOPS

Sunday, January 17

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Cabinet
5:00 pm Confirmation

6:30 pm V – III (High School Youth)
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship
8:00 pm Taize

Monday, January 18

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, January 19

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, January 20

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, January 21

7:00 pm Trustees meeting

Sunday, January 24

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
5:00 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm V – III (High School Youth)
8:00 pm Taize

Monday, January 25

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, January 26

6:00 pm BC

Wednesday, January 27

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, January 28

9:30 am PALS
6:00 pm MOPS

Sunday, January 31

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Soup Lunch and
Annual Meeting
5:00 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm V – III (High School Youth)
8:00 pm Taize