

# COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Community's December, 2017 LINK*

**Sundays**

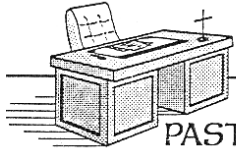
8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship in the Chapel

9:15 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship in C L Hilson Hall

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School and Bible Study

10:30 a.m. - Blended Worship in the Sanctuary

*Pastor Dan Baker*



FROM THE  
PASTOR'S DESK



***Please remember the GOLDEN HEART FUND in your giving!***



## SEASON OF ADVENT

Thought For the season: God offers Hope and new beginnings.

Advent may be the church season of beginnings, but in the northern hemisphere Advent occurs during a cold season in which very little in nature is pointing to burgeoning life. But life is there nonetheless. Deep under the ground, seeds are waiting for the warmth of the sun to bring them to sprout new life. The trees will again put forth leaves as the days become longer and warmer. In the middle of winter we may begin to feel as if spring will never come, but the promise is there.

God promises new life for us as well. In the midst of the dead ends of our lives - those times or places where we feel lost or just tired to think - God reminds us: there is yet time! Those things you dream about are still possible. God can still answer those prayers you have been praying,

No matter whether we are refreshed or tired, peaceful or anxious, hopeful or hopeless, God sends a message we need to hear. The story of Advent is the story of Immanuel, "God with us". Even in the darkest night, even in a hospital room, even on the cross, God is always about beginnings.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to trust in your power at work in our lives when we cannot sense it. Amen. *Pastor Dan*



## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship

Scripture, Message, Singing, Candles

Come celebrate the Birth of Jesus!



## POINSETTIAS

We will decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary with poinsettias on Sunday, December 10 through Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship. You are invited to take your plant home that night.



60 poinsettias have been ordered this year. They are available for \$6 each. Dedicate them in honor or memory of a special person or persons. To reserve a plant and have your information in the Dec 10 bulletin, return the form in the bulletin or contact the church office by Wednesday, December 6. Thank you for paying when ordering.

## YOUTH

### Calendar of Events

- 7- Youth Meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 14- Youth Meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 21- Youth Meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 22- Youth Party at Mark's, 6:30-8:30 pm
- 28- No Youth



Hello Church Family,

Thank you for the gift of serving our youth. It is a blessing to watch them laugh, learn, serve, and grow! Thank you for the blessing that all of you are to my family and myself.

I give thanks to God for you. Merry Christmas! *Mark*

## Book Buddy Ministry



There is nothing to report for December. Check back next month. And keep reading. God Bless!!! Respectively, *Carole Ratliff*, Book Buddy Coordinator



## CHRISMON



What is a Chrismon? A Chrismon is a monogram of Christ. The hand-made ornaments on our Christmas tree represent secret Christian symbols created and used by early believers. Log on to our church website ([communityumfp.com](http://communityumfp.com)) or Facebook to read the article on Chrismons and learn about these ancient secret symbols. Copies of the article will be available in the Narthex for those that do not have internet access.

*Contributed by Donna Ard and Rebecca Shortridge*





Community U M C's

Praise Team Presents  
A Special Holiday Concert  
*The Story of Christ's Birth*  
through

*Narration,*

*Traditional Carols and Modern Classics*

*Sunday, Dec 17 at 5 PM*

*in the Sanctuary*

*Invite a friend.*

*(This is a free performance.)*



**Florida United Methodist Children's Home**

If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. James 4:13 NLT

Thank you all for the good works that you all do in support of the Children's Home. Your prayers and donations to the Noisy Bucket provide a loving and safe haven for children. The following is from an alumnus of the Children's Home : Thank you for making my sister and I feel safe, protected and loved. Our childhood was difficult because of our parent's addiction, but we always felt love, had a nice place to stay, food and friends at the Children's Home.

If you can touch the life of just one person, you can change the world. You are touching the life of every child at the Home. Think of the future of God's kingdom, because you cared enough to pray and donate.

God bless you all. *Cheryl Milam*



## GOSPEL GARDENER



CHRISTMAS 2017. WELCOME JESUS. Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the heavenly heights,  
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

My favorite poem that keeps me focused in our garden. Rudyard Kipling. "Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees that half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees. So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray, For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!"

In our gardens - everyone enjoys a beautiful garden but everyone does not enjoy the work, the digging, watering, fertilizing, weeding - general upkeep. I can't explain the feeling I get when I grab a handful of weeds and pull them out of the ground. It makes a scrunching sound, and makes me feel so powerful. That's the same feeling when I trim a bush or tree. I promise our weeds that they will be going to the landfill and have room to settle in the dirt and grow. Weeds can grow in so many places in a garden, but they tend to take over the space, they strangle the plants. The plant may yell out "I got here FIRST", but the weeds are like my grandson, Ethan, "I don't hear a word you are saying, G.J."

Our garden has such a variety of weeds. It's a fun game searching for the culprit and painlessly remove it. This rain we've been getting really helps the gardener to pull out the weeds, but it also helps the weeds to grow too. Weeding is good exercise. It doesn't take a beginner long to tell the difference between a plant and a weed.

Several months ago I wrote about the Mourning Doves (Garden Patrol) and me talking to the Queen Ant. It worked. I haven't been bit since. (Of course a little Ant spray helps.) I also noticed where the Preschool kids had planted some seeds, and would water. After weeks of waiting, I noticed a bright pink flower blooming so proudly. A Zinnia. I showed the Nursery worker the plant and she was as excited as I was. She said she would show her class the flower and they would be so happy. Bet more seeds will be planted by these kids.

God is so good. He has so much to show us all. Merry Christmas everyone. Know this will be an exciting New Year. God Bless. *Jean Harvey*

### Points to Ponder



There are more good people in the world than bad people. *Lester Holt*  
Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. *Dr. Seuss*  
Rain is God's way of cleansing the earth. *Carol Maxon Sampson*

### A THANK YOU to the Teddy Bear Ministry

This ministry has been a real blessing and outreach opportunity. I have given 5 bears to friends that are battling cancer, infertility, loss of a loved one. The response after reading the note attached was immediate gratitude and a sense of peace. Thank you for such a wonderful outreach ministry.

In God's love, *Cheryl Milam*



## HANDS FOR THE LORD PUPPETS

Matthew 2: 1-2 *Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him."*

Matthew 2: 10 - 11 *When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshiped him.*

You are all invited to come and follow the Star at Community United Methodist Church where the Hands for the Lord Puppet Team will be bringing the musical "Follow the Star" on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Enjoy the celebration of Follow the Star in the Sanctuary and stay for snacks and refreshments after the Service. We are also excited about bringing the musical to Lynmoore Assisted Living on Saturday morning, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. "Follow the Star and bring your heart to the King of Kings!"

In addition to the Musical, the puppeteers will be bringing dowel rod presentations to both Sunday morning services during the Christmas Season. These are short interpretive dances to the Christmas Carols that we love to hear. Thank you to Bob Young for singing the Carols that go with the dowel rod routines.

### December Calendar

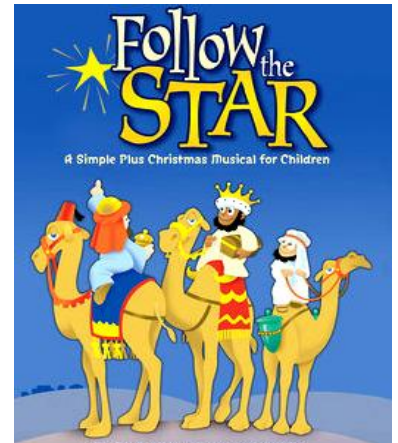
- Sunday, December 3 Dowel Rod 8:30 & 10:30  
"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"  
Puppet Practice 1:00 - 3:30
- Tuesday, December 5 Dress Rehearsal for "Follow the Star"  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

### **Saturday, December 9**

#### ***"Follow the Star" Performance***

**10:30 AM- Lynmoore Assisted Living (1550 N. Lawnwood Circle)**

**6:30 PM- Community UMC – Everyone is invited! All Ages.**



- Sunday, December 10 No Puppet Practice
- Sunday, December 17 Dowel Rod 8:30 & 10:30 - "Away in A Manger"  
No Puppet Practice
- Sunday, December 24 Dowel Rod 10:30 - "The First Noel"  
No Puppet Practice
- Sunday, December 31 No Puppet Practice





## Calling All Angels - Young and Old!



Parents/Guardians of Younger Angels who regularly worship at Community, Thank you for filling out an information sheet for your child age 0 through grade 12. Forms are still available in the church narthex or by calling Patty Surface on or before Worship on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

"Older Angels", Thank you for selecting an Angel from the CUMC Angel Tree. Remember to put your name on the list next to the angel you selected or let Patty Surface know so she can account for all little angels.

Included on the Angel is the information sheet for selecting the gift for the child. Also attached are details about returning the gift. Select/Purchase only one of the gifts from the list. Thanks for keeping the gift at \$20 - \$25.

Please mark which gift you purchased and return the sheet with the gift to Patty or Rick or the church office. Thank you for wrapping the gift and putting the child's name on it. Presents should be returned on Sunday, 17, 2017, or earlier.

Thanks for making one of our little angel's Christmas happier and more blessed.

Lovingly, Patty Surface (772) 464-8526 / [surfacep@msn.com](mailto:surfacep@msn.com)



## LADIES ON A MISSION

Hope your Thanksgiving was a blessed one shared with family and friends! At our November 8th meeting, we had our faithful members plus a new face. Regina, a friend of Eleanor's, joined our group for fellowship, work and a snack. We are still missing Nancy but heard from her and look forward to her return early in 2018. Eleanor had a completed mat to donate and another almost finished. Gail finished 6 beautiful lap quilts for AbbieJean Russell. We put together 15 hygiene kits which along with Eleanor's mat were dropped off at the FPPD to be distributed to those in need. Pew Bears are being adopted from the Sanctuary and the Chapel so we got busy and prepared some additional bears. We also finished 10 fidget quilts that hopefully will be of great benefit to some special students at Samuel Gaines Academy.

Please do not drop off plastic bags at this time. We also do not need purses for SafeSpace. However, we ARE still in need of hygiene products to be used in kits for both the FPPD and Pastor Dan. There is a basket in the Narthex for these items.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 6, at 1:00 and hopefully we'll see another new face or two! As always, we are grateful for your donations and your prayers.

Thank You and God Bless!



Join us for **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**, Sunday, Dec 10. Meet at the church at 1:30 pm to travel to sing for our home-bound friends. It's lots of fun for all. (See Patty for more information. 464-8526)



Are you thinking of **JOINING** Community United Methodist Church? See Pastor Dan or call the Church Office – (772) 461-2499.



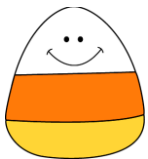
We want everyone in our updated **DIRECTORY** with name, address, birthday, children, phone number, and email contact. Forms are available in the foyer of the Chapel/Sanctuary on in this [LINK](#). Thank you for completing and returning it. One (1) form for each adult please.



Hope's Closet 4 Children ages birth through 17 (at Graceway Village on Hartman Road) is still having a clothing drive. Their biggest need is socks and underwear. Socks can be toddler to adult size. (These are available at Dollar Tree and other places.) The kids like the low ankle or "no show" socks. Underwear needs are boys boxer style, size boy's 6 to 12 and men's S, M, L, and XL. Prints are best. For girls, sizes 6 to 12 with princess or cartoon prints and teen girls - ladies size 5, bikini style. Thanks for placing your donation in the basket in the Chapel/Sanctuary foyer. Call Patty for details. 464-8526



**Community UMC is collecting money to purchase Christmas gifts for 4 children in a family at Fairlawn Elementary,** our neighborhood school. If you wish to help, thank you for giving your donation to Patty Surface or marking it **Fairlawn Family** and putting it in the offering or the church office. We will continue this through Sunday, December 17. Thank you.

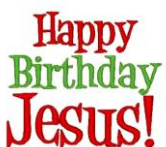


Again, thanks to all who hosted the Fall Festival. We had 161 guests register. About 100 children (and youth) visited our trunks for treats. It was so much fun. Thank you for providing this Christian activity for our friends.

*Thank you to all who participated in **Operation Christmas Child SHOE BOX MINISTRY**. We "dropped off" 25 shoe boxes so they could begin their journey to other parts of the world. Thank you from the child or youth who received your box.*



Friday, December 1 at 5 PM: Meet at Community to travel by bus to Hobe Sound Bible College for **"ADORE – The 2017 Hobe Sound Singing Christmas Tree"**. The College and Church are located at 11298 SE Gomez Avenue, Hobe Sound. See David Ard for details.



**"Birthday Party for Jesus"** is Sunday, December 17 during Children's Church. Age 4 through grade 5 won't want to miss it. Come to Worship at 10:30. Bring a friend. **FUN!!**

## DECEMBER FLOWER MINISTERS

Dec 3 – Valerie Banks  
Dec 10 – Melisa and Annette Triplett  
Dec 17 – Rob and Cleo Robinson  
Dec 24 – Thank you for taking them.  
Dec 31 – Thank you for taking them.



Please call the **CHURCH OFFICE** at **461-2499** if you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of a special person(s) or event. The cost is **\$37.00**.



Flower Ministers: PLEASE e-mail or call Sylvia/Church Secretary a follow-up report for flower deliveries.

*Wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

*Nancy Calkin*/Flower Ministry Coordinator

**RECYCLING:** The Church continues to collect aluminum. Nancy Calkin, with Rob Robinson assisting, deliver the aluminum to the recycling facility, on Tuesdays if there is a sufficient amount. Thank you. *Nancy*

## COMMUNITY's NEWSLETTER

Thanks for submitting items for the LINK by Wednesday, December 20 by emailing them to [surfacep@msn.com](mailto:surfacep@msn.com). Our "folding date" is TBA. Thanks. Patty Surface (772) 464-8526.



## PRAISE TEAM PRACTICE

Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Please join us.

## COFFEE HOUR

We are seeking people to host Coffee and Donuts on Sunday mornings. Contact Rick Surface at (772) 464-8526 or refer to the sign-up sheet in the kitchen window in the Fellowship Hall.



**UMW** is having a Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m. in Hilson Hall. We are inviting Church Women United and Women from other UMW units. Thanks for arriving by 2:30 with 2 dozen cookies to share.

There is no **Administrative Council Meeting in December**. The next meeting is **January 22** at 6 pm. Chair people, Ministry Leaders, all are welcome.



## CHURCH NURSERY

Is available at 10 a.m. to Noon each Sunday for children under 4 years of age.

Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Preschool  
Director: Mrs. Carol Hilson  
Weekdays 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Phone: (772) 465-3414  
[cumcpreschool@bellsouth.net](mailto:cumcpreschool@bellsouth.net)

Community United Methodist Church  
3114 Okeechobee Road  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34947  
Phone (772) 461-2499; FAX (772) 461-2865  
Church e-mail: [cumc\\_ch@bellsouth.net](mailto:cumc_ch@bellsouth.net)  
Church Website: [www.communityumfp.com](http://www.communityumfp.com)  
Pastor's Office Email: [dbaker@flumc.org](mailto:dbaker@flumc.org)  
Home Email: [bannerdan01@comcast.net](mailto:bannerdan01@comcast.net)  
Pastor's Cell: (772) 882-8134



One per Adult -

Thank you for completing this and returning it to the BOX in  
Community United Methodist Church's Chapel/Sanctuary  
foyer, the Church Office, or the Preschool. (2017)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Attendee \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor \_\_\_\_\_

Community United Methodist Preschool Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren) and birthday(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Other information such as "summer address, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

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Chapel/Sanctuary foyer, the Church Office,  
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