



Missouri United Methodist Church

MESSENGER

Sharing the life-changing love of Jesus Christ

204 S. Ninth Street • Columbia, Missouri 65201-4899 • 573-443-3111 • www.moumc.org • December 22, 2011 • Volume 24, No. 51

Worship Services

Three worship opportunities are offered on Sunday, each with its own special character.

8:00 a.m. McMurry Chapel

Informal worship with a personal touch. Hymns are by request; sharing prayer concerns is welcomed.

8:50 a.m. Sanctuary

Worship that includes a children's time. Agape Singers provide joyful music accompanied by musicians; children's and youth choirs furnish special music on occasion.

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

More formal worship with music from the Chancel Choir. Worship also includes a children's time.

Outside the Box: Christmas at Missouri UMC

This year Missouri UMC is thinking outside the box to offer a variety of worship experiences for Christmas. Choose the one that will be most meaningful to you and be sure to invite a friend!

Wednesday, December 21

- 7pm - Traveler's Christmas Service (*childcare available*)
No Wednesday Night Live on December 21

Friday, December 23

- Noon - Christmas for the City Service (*childcare available*)
This service with service will offer you the opportunity to serve the community by picking up cookies after worship to deliver to community workers who have to work through the holidays.

Saturday, December 24

- 5pm - Christmas Eve Service designed with children in mind—music and children's live nativity (*childcare available*)
- 7pm - Christmas Eve Service with carols & candlelight (*childcare available*)
- 9pm - Christmas Eve Service with carols & candlelight
- 11pm - Christmas Eve Service with carols, candlelight & Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25

- 11am - Merry Christmas Service (*childcare available*)
No 8:00 or 8:50 Worship on Christmas Day



New Members

We welcome the following new members into the Christian fellowship of Missouri United Methodist Church: Laura Loudenslager (sons James and Sam), Kent & Brooke Herbst (children Clayton, Autumn & Madison), Dave Hayden, Grace Hall & Renee Field, Susan McCollegan, Tim & Janet Johnson Scheman, Andrew & Kelli Hansen (daughter Maggie), and Matthew & Meghan Weber (daughter Sophia).

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The clergy and staff of Missouri UMC wish you a Merry Christmas and Joyful New Year!

The church office will be closed Monday & Tuesday, December 26th & 27th, for the Christmas Holiday. The office will also be closed Monday, January 2nd for the New Year's holiday.

A Messenger will not be published next week. The next Messenger will be dated January 5th.

No Perfect People Allowed

January 8-29
Sundays at 8, 8:50 and 11 a.m.
www.moumc.org



The Pastor's Corner by Rev. Amy L. Gearhart

"The Gift of an Invitation"

Here we are in Christmas week. 77% of us haven't finished our Christmas shopping yet. Retailers tell us our spending is up 3.8% over last year. Stores are now open 24 hours a day.

Our hearts are yearning for more. Not more stuff, but more peace and hope. More healing and reconciliation. We don't need the stuff, we need a Savior.

My friend and colleague, Rev. Ken Carter, shared this prayer on his blog. It speaks to the yearning in all of us, and especially those who are waiting on an invitation from you and I to be a part of the worship, singing, lighting and wondering that we will gather to do in our variety of worship experiences at Missouri UMC this week. Find a service for you and your family, and make a special effort to give the gift of an invitation for someone else to worship with you. I have been surprised at the enthusiasm I have met from folks as I have invited them to our Traveler's Service or Christmas for the City service or one of our Christmas Eve services—you will be surprised too!

Prepare room in your heart for the Christ to come—I'll see you this week in worship!

In the joy of Christmas,
Rev. Amy L. Gearhart

A Christmas Eve Prayer For Those Who Don't Go To Church

*Lord, I don't go to church much.
I don't go at all...
Well, I go at Christmas.
I'm home then.
I feel drawn to it.*

*I like the Christmas Eve service,
the coolness of the air.
I feel like a child again...
It's surreal.*

*I know folks make fun of people like me.
What can I say?
I've drifted...
but there is a pull back.*

Are You speaking to me?

*I hear something in the sermon, sometimes,
but mostly it's the music and the candles.
What is it about those candles?
And the darkness?
The darkness...
or maybe it's the light, I suppose.
Light and darkness.*

*I know about light and darkness.
I live in both.*

*I've got some of both in me.
I'm basically a good person, I think,
but I struggle...*

*I know about light and darkness.
But I want to be closer to the light.
I want to light that candle and sing those words:*

*"And in the dark street shineth,
the everlasting light..."*

*I would like to live in that light, Lord.
I would like to come home.
I would like to be born again.*

News & Notes

Sympathy

- Our prayers and sympathy to Robert & Holly Heidlage and family on the loss of Robert's father, Walter Heidlage, on December 13th.
- Our prayers and sympathy to Nollie & Julia Moore and family on the loss of Nollie's father, Nollie Sr., on December 16th.
- Our prayers and sympathy to Steve & Cathy Yoakum and family on the loss of Steve's brother, Scott Yoakum, on December 16th.

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Jessica & Andrew Bach on the birth of their daughter, Molly Anne Bach, on December 19th.

Thank You

- Dear friends, Thank you for the lovely poinsettia plant which was delivered to me on Sunday by a very gracious couple. Your act of thoughtfulness will be remembered. Many thanks to MUMC for their flower ministry. God Bless You, Edie Cooper
- Thanks to all of you— Amy, Molly, Keith & David Jones— for the lovely poinsettia that arrived last Sunday. What a lovely special young lady by the name of Kate that brought it out, and we do live a ways out, and visited with us for quite sometime... Love, Norris & Janice McDaniel

Christmas Day Service

We need a few volunteers to help with Christmas morning breakfast. Breakfast will be at 10am, and the service on Christmas Day is at 11am. If you are available to help, please contact Sandy Ward at sandy.ward@moumc.org, or call the church office at 443-3111.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIVE

Wednesday Night Live kicks off Wednesday, January 18th, with a catered meal at 5:30pm and fresh programming at 6pm for children and youth and 6:30pm for adults. Adult programs for the semester include, Strengthsfinder, MU@MUMC, UMW Mission Study, Worlds Apart Book Study, and a Lenten Study on Extravagant Generosity. Join us as we fellowship and grow in discipleship together!

Missions Outreach

Room at the Inn Winter Shelter

Missouri UMC will once again assist with the Room at the Inn Winter Shelter, this year located at 804 S. Old 63. Our church will staff the first two weeks of the shelter starting January 1st. The shelter will remain open until at least the end of February. You can now signup at www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/651032/login (registration required). Due to the time that Loaves and Fishes closes, the leadership team has decided to open the shelter at 7pm instead of 8pm to limit the amount of time people are in the cold. Because of this, the evening shift will now be 6:30pm-midnight.

We are also asking for donations of blankets, socks, gloves, and used coats, as well as instant oatmeal, Cup-a-Soup, granola bars, peanut butter, jelly and cocoa. Donations can be brought to the church office during the week or placed under the Sanctuary Christmas trees on Sunday mornings. Additional food will be needed after the shelter opens, such as fresh fruit, hard boiled eggs, string cheese and sandwiches. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up or given supplies.

More Mentors Welcome

The Koinonia college-age ministry will begin a new Mentor Program in the Spring Semester of 2012. To kick it off, we will hold a one-hour training session for Mentors at 5:30pm on Tuesday, January 10th, in the Parlor. We are asking Mentors to prepare for the training by reading three articles, which we will send you by email when you sign up. We also recommend reading the book "The Slow Fade" (copies of this book are available at the college-age information table in the Connector). Mentors will commit to one semester at a time. Each pair of Student/Mentor will have one initial meeting for conversation, after which they will decide together how often, when and where they will meet throughout the semester. To become a Mentor, please contact Heather Morgan at 573-443-3111 or heather.mccainmorgan@gmail.com.

Visioning & Planning

Everyone interested in college-age ministry is invited to attend a lunch-time gathering for visioning and planning on Sunday, January 22nd. This will include both college-age persons and older adults interested in a successful, college-age ministry. We will gather in CLC 106-110 from 12-2:30pm. Lunch will be provided. Together, we will envision how to live out God's call to college-age people here at MUMC in the spring semester of 2012. Please RSVP to Heather Morgan at 443-3111 or heather.mccainmorgan@moumc.org.

Filling the "Gap"

All graduate students and young professionals will be invited to a lunch right after the 11am service on Sunday, January 29th, in CLC 111, from 12-1:30pm. They will meet with Andrea Hall, a graduate student at Mizzou, who used to attend a church that had an active "GAP" class – which stood for Graduates And Professionals. Keith Vessell and Heather Morgan will also be present at this gathering, to hear what the group's desires are for ministry next semester. Please bring your ideas, suggestions, enthusiasm, energy and friends!

Epiphany Party

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 4th, at 5:30pm, and join us for an Epiphany Party! We will meet for a light supper and then busy ourselves with UN-decorating the church and putting Christmas décor away. Keep the Christmas spirit in your heart as we prepare the church facility for another season of ministry! To aid in supper planning, please RSVP to Rev. Molly Moore (molly.moore@moumc.org) if you plan to attend.

Offering Envelopes Are Here

Offering envelopes can be picked up in Whittler Hall over the next few weeks. If you ordered envelopes and do not find them, please contact Lois in the church office, 443-3111, or put your name and either weekly or monthly envelopes on the sign up sheet on the envelope table.

MUMC Coffee Shop

Plans have been approved and we are moving forward with the development of a coffee shop at the west end of the Connector. Please take a few minutes to check out the drawings and help us decide on a name. Look for the postings in the Connector.

MUMC's Youth are Moving UP!

It's an exciting time in the life of the church – specifically in the life of the youth ministry. As the ministry continues to grow and deepen, their need for space also grows. As we continue to find ways to use our space in the best ways possible, our youth ministry program is planning to move from their current location in the CLC to the third floor suite of rooms that currently sits empty. Missionally speaking, this move will allow for continued growth of the youth program in new and exciting ways as they use it for large group and small group break-out space, while also making available to the church CLC 103, which will be available for multi-purpose use for larger groups of our own and from the community. CLC 104-105 will then be available for additional college and adult small group space, keeping them easily accessible from the entrances to the church. The third floor suite has received a much needed face-lift prior to the youth moving in over the holiday break this December. I hope you will join in their excitement as they make this move and as we continue to grow into and deepen our many ministries at MUMC. Stop by during a MUMY Open House on Sunday, January 8th, during the 10am hour and see what's new!

MISSOURI UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Upcoming Events

Sign up now for WOW 2012 and Summer Mission to Joplin July 28-August 3!

Wednesday, December 21

No Wednesday Night Live

Sunday, December 25

No Sunday School or SNL - Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, December 28

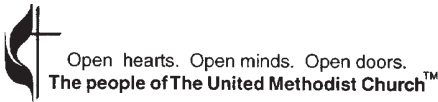
No Wednesday Night Live

Sunday, January 1

No Sunday School or SNL - Happy New Year!

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204 South Ninth Street
Columbia, Missouri 65201-4899
573-443-3111

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Worship Attendance on Sunday, December 18 - 746
We invite you to join us for Worship: Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in McMurry Chapel;
8:50 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Sunday School for All Ages - 10:00 a.m.

Required Minimum Distribution Reminder

The federal law that allows RMDs to be allocated to charitable causes without income tax consequences expires December 31, 2011. Persons who still have RMD withdrawals for the 2011 tax year who wish to direct those resources to the church should consult their financial advisor and also notify Bob Elliott or Lois Anderson in the church office. Towards the end of the year we receive a number of investment related donations, so it's very helpful to know you have something coming. RMDs must be made payable to the charitable institution from the financial institution where they are held in order to be eligible for the 2011 income tax deduction.

Watch for the Congregational Survey!

As we continue to grow in our understanding of our mission and vision as a church, we need your input of ideas and thoughts. Throughout this month, and the coming months, you may be asked and invited to share your thoughts about our ministries, focus areas, and upcoming activities in your church. Please participate in these surveys and help us grow in our faithfulness and fruitfulness as a congregation. This month of December, our newsletter email subscribers will receive a survey concerning the values of our congregation and our mission as a church. Please complete the survey when you receive it. This survey will help our church leaders to develop a clear mission statement and marketing resources as we share who we are with our congregation, community and region. If you are not a regular email subscriber to our Messenger, but would like to join in the survey, please find it on our church's website at www.moumc.org. Thanks for participating and sharing your thoughts and love for your church!

Photo Disclaimer: *Services and events hosted by the church are considered public. The church has permission to use images of church members for promotion, publicity and outreach materials unless advised through a non-consent form. The church will not attach names to the photographs of individuals or groups unless prior permission is given. To obtain a non-consent form, please contact the church office.*

December 23Darran Alberty, Hannah Mees, Anne-Marie Pickard, Mary Dunlap Smith **24**Tom Atkins, Sarah Calhoun, Tami Gallaway, Donna Hennigh, Elizabeth Mendenhall, Danny Paul, Jacqueline Robinson **25**Jacob Futrell, Erick Irvin, Grant Maledy **26**Maurine Brown, Ed Curtis, Kyle Smith **27**Kristine Ballensky, Hannah Blackmore, Ellen Clithero, Jim Glennon, Don Schilling, Michelle Woodson **28**Tyler Bales, Lorinda Cruikshank **29**Carla Jerome-Beckmann, Lydia Rautman, Jordan Reeves, Claire Troutwine, Margie Woods **30**James Candri, Scott Griffin, John Haralson, Kerry Kroeker, Woody Neal, Carl Orazio, Gary Tegerdine **31**Holly Andrews, Jean McClure
January 1Louis Boettcher, Karen Byerly, Melissa Cunningham, Tina Johnson, Noel Premkumar, Zoe Smith, Vivian Spear **2**Caitlin Adams **3**Barb Bogard, Ron Mooney, Evette Nissen, Josh Wagner, Anna Zacherl **4**Neil Cathro, Emily Gaunt, Ben Likos, David Melegrito, Lily Shearer, Amy Woods **5**Sandy Ashley, Anders Calhoun, Charles Davis, Josh Murray, Andrew Sadowski, David Schuppan, Lauren Steffens **6**Grace Dyer, Emerson Fowler, Zackary Irvin, Paige Kissel, Ryan Rippel **7**Billye Adams, Kathy Brady, Steve Charton, Hannah Dressler, Braden Fleming, Gretchen Harl, Gabe Holloway, Beverly Roemer **8**Patrick Bryant, Milt Harper, Melanie Knocke **9**Jennifer Myers **10**Kathy Felts, Sheila Rentfrow, Mike See, Betsy Vicente **11**Lydia Burnam, Selene' DeBoe, Patricia Epple, Daisy Grossnickle, Adrienne Hartley, Leonard Wiegand **12**Connie Dorflinger, Patricia Hoehle, Clara Learner

Want to get the Church Newsletter via email? Have you changed email addresses?

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/messengersignup> to subscribe or update.

The church provides bus transportation to the 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship service.
Call 443-3111 before noon on Fridays. Bus service is available to all.

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MUMC Staff: Amy L. Gearhart, Senior Pastor; Molly Moore, Associate Pastor/Pastor of Discipleship Ministries; Keith Vessell, Associate Pastor/Pastor of College Age and Community Ministries; David Jones, Parish Visitor; Sarah Kurre, Director of Youth Ministries; Laura Wilsdorf, Asst. Youth Director; Rachel Diemler & Jon Curtis, Youth Leaders; Heather McCain Morgan, Coordinator of College Age and Community; Sandy Ward, Coordinator of Connecting & Belonging Ministries; Ann Merrifield, Coordinator of Hospitality Ministries; Marty Hook, Interim Director of Music; Natalie Moore, Children's Ministry Coordinator & Elementary Music; Craig Datz, Organist; Rochelle Parker, Associate Organist; Todd Oberlin, Youth Choir Director; Marilyn Rowe, Serendipity Choir; Bob Elliott, Business Manager; Lois Anderson, Financial Secretary; Tamra Redburn, Administrative Assistant/Messenger Editor; Amanda Armistead, Administrative Assistant; Teressa Gilbreth, Communications Specialist; Julie Davis, Nursery Coordinator; Dave Crooks & Will Robinson, Church Caretakers. Discovery Days: Courtney Gaunt, Director; Julie Davis, Asst. Director. Perry G. Parrigin, Organist Emeritus