



The Redeemer

Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December, 2013



Hospitality

Religious traditions observe the practice of hospitality as a sacred call. In the Abrahamic religions, hospitality to others is founded on the divine hospitality that lies at the heart of creation—God having provided us with a home on earth (Genesis 1:1-31). When we welcome the stranger into our homes, worksites, neighborhoods, and places of worship, we model our actions on God’s nurturing impulse. Beyond the gift of creation, the generous image of God as host is found in the Hebrew scriptures when God provides manna and daily quail to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness (Exodus 16:4-14).

Abraham becomes the first biblical model for human hospitality in the book of Genesis (18:1-10). When three strangers appear at Abraham’s tent, he addresses them respectfully and invites them in, welcoming them with water to wash their feet and an opportunity to rest.

With his wife, Sarah, and his servant, Abraham prepares a feast for the guests. The identity of the visitors as messengers from God is only revealed later when they tell Abraham and Sarah they will be blessed in their old age with a son.

Throughout the Gospels Jesus is described as a generous host, opening his heart and his table to all who came his way. He also gave clear instructions to the people as to whom should be invited to their banquets. His listeners are warned against inviting their friends and rich neighbors, who will likely repay them. Rather, he says to “invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you” (Luke 14:12-14).

The hospitable heart transcends dualities and breaks our habit of seeing the world through either/or eyes. In the Buddhist tradition, this process of letting go of old ways and finding a both/and/everything worldview is



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United Methodist Church

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9:00 and 10:30 am and 6:33 pm

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called cultivating equanimity. Equanimity is about accepting and welcoming reality just as it is at this moment.

The spiritual practice of hospitality does not label what is happening in the moment as either good or bad. It allows us to simply open our hearts, inviting all of life to come to visit. Cultivating equanimity is a work in progress. In this practice, we aspire to spend our lives training in the loving-kindness and courage that it takes to receive whatever appears—sickness, health, poverty, wealth, sorrow, and joy. We welcome and get to know them all.

I would like to have all of us welcome at least one thing/person that challenges us the most and place our effort to get to know that thing/person with open hearts in practicing hospitality during this Christmas season. I pray that all of us have a peaceful Christmas this year in the spirit of hospitality.

Merry Christmas~ Ribbit!

~ ***Pastor Sunny***

Need Your Help

Please help the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan and the earthquake AND/OR all those affected by the storms and tornadoes that swept across the Midwest leaving damage in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

You can make a check payable to ORUMC with the memo saying "Philippines" or "Midwest" OR you can donate to The United Methodist Committee on Relief, www.umcor.org, through Advance Special #982450 for Philippines OR #901670 for Midwest.

Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope and Healing

December 17, 7:00 p.m.

For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives, but that are now changed or gone. This worship is a quiet, meditative service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. It is jointly organized by Hospice Service at Alexian Brothers Hospital, Our Saviour's UMC, and Our Redeemer's UMC.

As follow-up programs, we are also encouraging you to attend "Journey Through Grief" sessions offered by Alexian Brothers Parish Services (ABPS, 25 E. Schaumburg Rd., Suite 106, Schaumburg, IL; 847-981-3514; parishservices@alexian.net) as follow:

• **When Option 1:** 01/08, 01/15, 01/22, 01/29, 02/05, 02/12; Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm

• **When Option 2:** 03/18, 03/25, 04/01, 04/08, 04/15, 04/22; Tuesdays, 1pm-2:30pm

• Cost: \$30/person

Blood Drive

Dec 5, 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Our Redeemer's is hosting the community blood drive December 5 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. You can make reservations at church December 1, but walk-ins are welcome.

Advent 2013 at ORUMC

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve.

It is a time of preparation. It is a time to prepare for the great day of Christmas and a time to prepare for the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

ORUMC celebrates this holy season as below:

- 12/15 (Sunday, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.): Christmas Music Service
- 12/17 (Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.): Blue Christmas Service
- 12/24 (Tuesday, Christmas Eve)
4:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
11:00 p.m.- Candlelight Communion Service

UMW Potluck

December 3, 6:30 p.m.

All the women of *Our Redeemer's* are invite to the United Methodist Women's quarterly meeting Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.

It's a potluck, so bring a dish to pass. We will share an evening of fellowship and holiday games. Bring a white elephant gift (wrapped) to exchange.



Youth News

by Marianne Rogenski

Youth Group schedule:

Dec 1	Youth Group	6:30-8:30
Dec 8	Youth Group	6:30-8:30

We are also going to have an outing/fun event once during winter break. Please look for emails and flyers about that!

We will resume regular youth group on January 5. Schedule for 2014 will go out in December.

Kickoff 2014

On January 4, 2014, from 5:30-8:00 pm the education committee will be hosting this event at the church. All children and their friends are invited to come. We would love to have youth there helping, so let Marianne know if you can make it!

Appalachia Service Project News:

Our next meeting is January 23, 2014, 7:00-8:15 pm. Please come if you plan on going on the trip. The trip is June 14-21. There are still spots available on the team—especially for youth! If you know someone who would like to go please have them contact Marianne.



Education News

Grow, Proclaim, Serve...One Room Sunday School:

Thank you to all who are helping with our One Room Sunday School. It is going very well and is tons of fun! Our teachers are amazing and we have wonderful assistants and youth working with the children!

Parents

On first Sundays the children's choirs sing and all students meet in the sanctuary EXCEPT December 1 and January 5 the children's choirs are not singing. December 1 all will start in the Wesley Room and then go to the sanctuary to take communion with the whole congregation. January 5 all will begin in the Wesley Room and will have communion together there.

On December 8 and January 12 the children's choirs will be singing so all children will begin in the sanctuary and then head to Sunday School after the choirs are done.

Do you have an idea for family outings or events?

The education committee would love to hear any ideas or suggestions you may have! Please talk to Marianne.

Kickoff 2014!

On January 4, 5:30-8:00 pm we invite all children and their friends to come to church for Kickoff 2014! There will be nail painting, LEGO building, games, Wii games, food, and lots of fun! Look for a sign up in the narthex soon and we look forward to seeing you!



Matthew Young	12/5
Meghan Lowry	12/6
Joseph Dombek	12/8
Chalisa Kulprathipanja	12/14
Abigail Hill	12/21
Jill Murphy	12/22
Brendan Gorvett	12/27
Dominic Gomes	12/27
Nick Pope	12/29

"Unlikely Characters of the Nativity"

Sermon Series 12/01-24

There are some biblical characters who fade into obscurity in our memories, especially in stories that are as vivid as the story of the birth of Christ. Given the way that our imaginations have been shaped by the crucial plotline of the holy family encountering "no room in the inn" followed by the adoration of the grubby shepherds and the splendid wise men from the East, we all too easily forget the many other figures who are not at the manger, yet are central figures in the drama of the nativity. We will give a spotlight and voice to those unlikely characters of the nativity in this sermon series to tell there is no "extras" in God's story.

Gifts from the Heart

Thanks to the generosity of 55 families of *Our Redeemer's* UMC, 85 foster/at risk children will have a brighter Christmas.

Remember that the unwrapped gifts, totaling not more than \$40, are to be returned to the church on Sunday morning, December 8. We will be delivering the gifts to ChildServ after the second service.

Please contact **Carol Hollingsworth** if you have any questions at 847-310-0491 or clh1325@comcast.net. Thank you so very much to all of you who have supported this ministry through the years.



Water Buffalo, Bunnies and Bees

by Jon Montgomery

What do water buffalo, bunnies and bees have in common? I assure you this is not a trick question. What the animals have in common is that they are available to be purchased at Our Redeemer's in December. In fact, these animals, among others, were all purchased last year by members of Our Redeemer's to support those in need through a program called Heifer International (www.heifer.org). And, we will be providing this opportunity to you again this year!

For over a decade, Heifer has been a giving opportunity at Our Redeemer's. Children and adults alike participate, whether it is through the ark banks the children use to collect coins or the purchase of an animal to give to a family in need. The impact of each initial Heifer gift is multiplied as recipients agree to Pass on the Gift by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another person in need in their community.

Please consider purchasing an animal as a gift for a family member or friend, especially for that hard-to-shop for person on the Christmas list. By giving the gift of Heifer, we allow others to participate in the spirit of giving with us. Starting December 8 and ending December 22,

after each service, we will have a table available in the Narthex for those interested in supporting Heifer.

If you have any questions about Heifer or want to help with Heifer this year, please contact **Jon Montgomery** (jamnjl@aol.com or at 630-830-6831).

ORUMC 50th Anniversary

Our Redeemer's will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014. We will begin celebrating on Palm Sunday, the 50th anniversary of the first worship service, and complete the celebration on October 12, the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the church.

Previous pastors have been invited to participate through the year, and to attend the October 12 celebration.

We would like to notify previous *Our Redeemer's* members and invite them to participate by visiting and/or sending pictures and remembrances of events in the life of the church.

There are post-card-sized anniversary announcements available in the Narthex. We invite you to include them with your Christmas cards to former members.

We would like to collect email addresses for former members who are interested so we can keep them informed as dates for former pastor visits are finalized. Please forward email addresses to Donna when available.



Open Mic Night



Open Mic Night

Faith in Action

by Jill Wood-Naatz

A new Faith in Action team was commissioned at ORUMC on Sunday, Oct. 20. We are now a member church of the Community Renewal Society, a 130 year old faith based social justice organization located in Chicago which strives to correct injustices related to poverty and racism in Cook Co. and the entire state. Our Faith in Action team is another branch of our Micah ministries. Core team members are **Annette Brown, Jack Denny, Ellen Kobylewski, Nancy Schmidt, and Jill Wood-Naatz**. We thank many more of you who have expressed your support for our work and willingness to take action when possible. We are a work in progress, learning and growing together.

We have already had opportunities to take action. Two training sessions were held at ORUMC on Oct 26 and Nov 23. These trainings provided basic skills to build relationships and expand our justice ministries.

Nov 7 we met with our Cook County Commissioner, Timothy Schneider, to ask for his support as we begin our campaign for **restorative justice peace hubs** in various churches in Chicago. Then on Nov 8 we attended a public event where **Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle** and several commissioners stated their support to work together on this project.

Just what are restorative justice peace hubs? They are an alternative to incarceration. The current Cook County Criminal Justice Sys-

tem is using punitive practices and wasting millions of dollars a year on nonviolent detainees because of an ineffective case management process. The majority of these detainees are in need of mental health support or drug counseling or they cannot afford to pay their bail. Responding to social ills, by criminalizing the people who need help, perpetuates the cycle of “hurt people, hurting people”.

90% of Cook County Jail inmates are pretrial detainees

70% are charged with nonviolent offenses

43% of drug cases are dismissed at preliminary hearings

It costs taxpayers an average of \$143 per day per detainee totaling over \$500 million per year.

Our campaign is calling on the Cook County justice system to reduce violence by funding community based restorative justice hubs and mental health and drug rehabilitation programs through money saved from the release of Cook County nonviolent detainees. We are calling on the Cook County Board, State’s Attorney, Chief Judge, and Sheriff to release nonviolent offenders and re-allocate the savings for mental health and drug rehabilitation (1/3), restorative justice peace hubs (1/3), and for use by Cook County as they see fit (1/3).

We will be reaching out to learn what social justice issues are important to you and why. We each have a story to tell and we hope you’ll share yours as we build our team in the months and years to come.



Community Crisis Center

Gently used heavy winter coats for all members of the family as well as hats, gloves and scarves (even boots) are needed for the Annual Coat Give Away. They CANNOT use lightweight or spring items, sweatshirts, or long trench or dress coats. The Give Away started in October and ends in February.

Bath towels and wash cloths (new or used), ice melt for side walk and driveway are needed as well.

The Crisis Center food pantry is always in need of canned fruit, canned meat meals, beef stew, chili, ravioli, etc. Also cereal/oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, mac & cheese, pork & beans, powdered milk, saltine crackers, soup/ramen noodles, spaghetti/marinara sauce, Spaghetti type canned items, tuna, and hand can openers, applesauce, graham crackers, microwave popcorn, granola bars, fruit and pudding cups.

Holiday Gifts: (NEW)

Women- wristwatches, clock radios, steam irons, sofa throws, journals and pens,

Children - trucks and cars, action figures, games, puzzles, dolls, a variety of non-violent toys for ages 1-12.



United Methodist Men District Advent Breakfast *Saturday, Dec 7, 8:00 a.m.* *Barrington UMC*

All men of the church are invited to attend the UMM district advent breakfast at the Barrington UMC on December 7 commencing at 8:00 am. There will be a meal with a short business discussion to follow and then we will move to the chapel for songs to get in the holiday spirit and a communion service.

Please contact **Steve Miller**, 630-837-5205, by December 4 if you plan to attend.

United Methodist Men *Monthly Meeting Dec 14,* *8:00 a.m.*

Holiday Snacks *Dec 15 & 22 after both services*

The UMM are taking orders for holiday snacks: puppy chow (good stuff for people) and killer garlic pretzels. Try a sample and place an order on December 1 or 8 for delivery on December 15 and 22.

Our regular monthly meeting on December 14 will be devoted to assembling snacks. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. for a continental breakfast and then start assembling.



Personal Notes



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year From the Staff

It has been our honor to serve Christ by serving you this year as your staff. We appreciate all the help so many of you have given us to make our church more effective.

We wish for you a spiritual Christmas and a New Year full of deep joy.

Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn, Senior Pastor
Marianne Rogenski, Youth Director
Catherine Scott, Chancel Choir Director
Ron Zemke, Contemporary Music Director
Karen Moore, Redeemer Ringers Director
Sue Zimberoff, Children's Choir Director
Colin Drozdoff, Keyboardist
Sophie Byrnes, Nursery Careperson
Kimmy Echtner, Nursery Careperson
Jenna Edwards, Assistant Nursery Careperson
Donna Echtner, Administrative Assistant

With Sympathy

The congregation extends sympathy to **Danilo Victoria** and his family on the death of Danilo's brother.

UMW Heavenly Treats

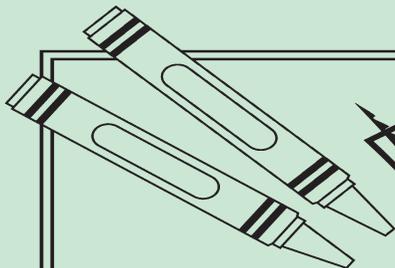
UMW says a big THANK YOU! to the 30+ bakers who brought a wide variety of cookies and sweets to the first (hopefully annual) Heavenly Treats event November 24.

THANK YOU to the congregation, who enthusiastically supported our efforts, buying lots of cookies and goodies for the upcoming holidays.

Thanks also to the many women who helped to set up, run the event, and clean up. We were able to send some goodies to the soup kitchen after everyone bought their treats.

We made just over \$1,000 to support UMW missions.

Happy Thanksgiving!



PUZZLE

A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY
NAME IS

gyhMti

dGo

MY NAME IS

lerWnofud

esnruooCl

MY NAME IS

vrelEnsitga

eahFrt

MY
NAME IS

niPcre

_____ of

aPcee



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace



Christmas Flowers



Advent is upon us. As a church family we need to think about our yearly display of Christmas Poinsettias. What a wonderful way to celebrate new life with the addition of flowers to the church.

These flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus born to save us all. We invite all who love to celebrate Christmas with the beauty of flowers to help us adorn the church with beauty in celebration of our savior's birthday.

Here at Our Redeemer's we purchase flowers and then "lend" our flowers to the church until after Christmas when they may be taken home. It is easy as we do all the work for you. We order them, arrange them and then make them available for you to take home.

To participate, you may order a white, pink or red poinsettia. Fill in the order form below and place with your payment in the beautifully decorated special basket located in the narthex or in the offering plate. The prices of this year's flowers are \$11.75.

Sunday, December 15 is the absolute deadline for placing your order. Please order early so that our florist may save us his very best selection and also ensure we are guaranteed to receive just what we order.

Name _____

Phone _____

Choose: White (\$) _____ Pink (\$) _____ Red (\$) _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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DECEMBER



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