



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

The beautiful time of Advent has arrived, once again, and with it great anticipation. But I do have to ask, what gift are we expecting to receive? Perhaps more than any gift we may desire this season of the divine birth is the gift of simplicity.

This past October, during the Stewardship Campaign, we were invited to explore what is required to sustain a vibrant life, what we need versus what we want, how to live in simplicity, and what we can do to avoid being pulled into the orbit of materialism. As we get closer to the holidays it is important to remember what we learnt during the stewardship Sundays.

You would agree with me that our lives have become incredibly complex. Our schedules are orchestrated by computers. This time of the year can be challenging to our families, without a doubt. Advent anxiety separates us from the very peace we pursue as we move toward Christmas Day. As United Methodist our resolution on "Greed" states: "God's vision of abundant living is a world where we live out of a theology of 'enough,' a theology based in the knowledge that we are grounded in Christ, that our sense of personal value and esteem grows from our Christ-centered life." (Resolution #211)

So, the question is, how can we find inner peace and clarity of purpose in the midst of our fast-paced days before Christmas? How can we stay grounded in the coming of Christ, when we are constantly urged to buy more? How can we live into a "theology of enough," in which greed is replaced by gratitude?

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We learned in October that one way is through the practice of simplicity and gratitude. Simple living, or "simplicity," has been a part of our tradition as Evangelical United Brethren and Methodists.

It is a spiritual discipline, a way to open oneself to God. It is also a way to respond to the growing inequality that surrounds us, with faithfulness, integrity, and hope.

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

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9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

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and Melinda Taylor

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Jerry Mc Daniel

So, this day, I invite you to ponder in your heart the following questions and reflect upon them as you begin your season of Advent,

É Do I spend more time considering what I don't have rather than what I do have?

É Do I find myself complaining about what I don't have.

É How would others who live in poverty look at my lifestyle?

É How am I blessed rather than how am I lacking?

É How much in my life is concerned with the accumulating of possessions?

É What can I do to alleviate the worries of others who are facing hardships much greater than any I have known?

Think about these questions and commit yourself to free your life from the desire to accumulate more, this season. May the Lord empower you to live a life liberated from the tyranny of this frantic world.

In God's peace,

Pastor Shirley



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



The weather is starting to turn cold and it reminds us that Advent is right around the corner. We need to prepare to worship the baby Jesus. At Our Redeemer one of the ways we do this is by decorating the church with beautiful Christmas Poinsettias. Because of the pandemic it has been a while since we did this and I am excited about helping make the church look like Christmas. And what a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of the most precious and important baby ever born than with a marvelous display of color. These flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary to honor the Christ child, who was born to save us all. Here at Our Redeemer, church members purchase poinsettias and then lend them to the church until after Christmas when they may be taken home. It is an easy process as the church does all the work for you. The flowers will be ordered, arranged and then made available for you to take home after Christmas.

Participation is easy by just filling out the order form below. You may order white, pink or red poinsettias. Simply fill in the blanks below, attach your money or check and place in the beautifully decorated special basket located in the narthex or in the offering plate. The prices of this year's flowers are \$14.50. ***Sunday, December 11th, is the absolute deadline for placing your orders so we may display the flowers starting on Sunday, the 18th. Please order early so that the florist may save us their very best selection and also ensure we receive just what we order.***

Name _____

Phone _____

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

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



Let's celebrate this season of Christmas with this poem:

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is HOPE;

The spirit of Christmas which is PEACE;

The heart of Christmas which is LOVE.

– Ada V. Hendricks

Please make plans to attend our **UWF Holiday Meeting and Potluck** on Tuesday, December 6 @ 6:30 p.m. Please bring a Potluck dish to share, as well as a WRAPPED White Elephant gift. We will provide the plates, napkins, flatware and beverages for the meal. During our Business Meeting we will approve the 2022 Disbursement of Funds, preview events and plans for 2023 and also elect 2023 UWF officers. Our December meeting is always a fun event and your presence will make it extra festive.

Also, we're starting to plan for 2023:

Coming up early in the year we will have more information about a possible Trivia Night fundraiser and Retreat in 2023.

2022 List of UWF Events (add this date to your calendars):

- o **Tuesday, December 6 @ 6:30 p.m. ó UWF Holiday Meeting and Potluck.**
Program: Holiday Happenings and **White Elephant gift exchange**



Gifts from the Heart

Thanks to all who have signed up to be part of the Gifts From The Heart program.

Please bring gifts to church Sunday, Dec 4 between 9:00am - 11:00am.

Contact **Carol Hollingsworth** if you have any questions, 847-508-1111.

UMM Monthly Meeting **Dec 10, 8:00 a.m.**

The UMM will have its regular monthly meeting Saturday, Dec 10 at 8:00 a.m.

Check your email for location.

Staff Christmas Gifts

If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas gifts for our dedicated staff, the deadline is **Sunday, December 11.**

Please make sure you put "Staff Gifts" in the memo line of your check and **mail it** to the church **or deliver it** to the church office no later than Sunday, December 11. If you would like to give on-line, just designate it as your Gift to Staff.

We will be presenting these gifts from the congregation on **Sunday, December 18.**

Thank you,

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

CALLING ALL PING PONG ENTHUSIASTS

Did you know we have a ping pong table and accessories in Wesley Hall? Would you like to play or learn to play?

A few of us have been playing on Thursday afternoons, but that could change. If you're interested, contact **Jill Wood-Naatz** and your name will be added to our email group. Jill's contact information is 857-507-9724 or jill.woodnaatz@gmail.com.

UWF Heavenly Treats

Thank you to all the bakers who brought a variety of wonderful homemade cookies and treats to the 9th annual Heavenly Treats event on November 20th.

We are especially grateful to all of you who enthusiastically supported our efforts, buying lots of cookies and goodies for the upcoming holidays.

Thanks also to the women (and men) who helped to set up, run the event, and clean up.

Since there was no Rummage Sale this year, the proceeds from Heavenly Treats are even more valuable in giving us funds for the ministries and missions we support.



Invitation to Celebrate Christmas in Special ORUMC Services

What a special time of year at ORUMC!! Here are all the Advent and Christmas Services that will happen at ORUMC.

They have been lovingly prepared for you by the Worship Team, Music Team, and Book of Acts.

We hope they fill your hearts with the love of Baby Jesus, your church family and remind you of the true meaning of Christmas.

Sunday, December 4, 10:00am –

Hanging of the Greens Sunday

(Don't forget to attend the church potluck afterwards)

Sunday, December 11, 10:00am –

Advent Music Sunday

All our Music Groups will perform music of the Christmas Season

Sunday, December 18, 10:00am

A Visit from John the Baptist

Guess Who's coming to Advent!

Saturday December 24, 4:30 pm

A Family and Children's Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Don't miss this opportunity to bring your whole family to this service where the story of Jesus's birth comes to life as seen through the eyes of a child.

Sunday, December 25, 10:00am

Christmas Morning Worship
Merry Christmas Morning, Baby Jesus!

BLOOD DONATION AS A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

Our church had a long tradition of annual blood drives, initially organized by Mary Greiner, and more recently by Brenda Raffaelli. Various factors, including the COVID-19 Pandemic, put an end to them. Over the past year, however, we have had two "virtual blood drives", each lasting about a month. Both times we encouraged participation by competing with Our Savior's UMC for the most blood donations. Remarkably (and suspiciously) both competitions ended in a tie!

The fact remains, however, blood donations are very much needed! Although I've been a physician for over 40 years, it was not until this endeavor that I realized that only half of the population qualifies to donate blood. Much more concerning, of that remaining group, only 5% choose to donate - 25 blood donors to meet the needs of every 1,000 people! And blood donations have been especially low since the beginning of this pandemic.

Meanwhile, we often wonder how we can help meet the needs of areas affected by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, mass shootings, and other tragedies. Not only do they desperately need blood, but these catastrophes disrupt their own blood drives and donations. Our blood can be sent to them!

Instead of holding any further blood drives - virtual or otherwise - let's think of blood donation as a New Years resolution for 2023! Those who qualify to donate blood can typically donate as often as every eight weeks. Let's resolve to see how many units we can donate in the coming year. Rather than competing with Our Savior's, let's join forces to count how many units of blood we can donate together!

During this expensive Christmas season, isn't it nice to realize there's a charity that we can contribute to for free? In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul says "We are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do." If our health allows it, donating blood is indeed a good work God has prepared for us to do!

Let's help those needing blood transfusions in 2023 have a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Bruce Bedingfield (Dr Bruce)

CARING MINISTRIES—2022

Our church's Caring Ministries Program is not unique—every church has caring ministries. But our Caring Ministries Program or Council goes back over 30 years and was first organized by Pastor Heather Hasto, our associate pastor at that time. She recognized that each ministry required at least one "passion person", someone called, willing, and able to organize and champion that ministry—often over many years, and occasionally over decades.

Our Caring Ministries Program was deflected, but not defeated by the pandemic. Some ministries had to be put on hold. Some may be gone forever. But many of them have thrived and flourished over the past 12 months.

We have three Caring Ministries, new this year. Pastor Shirley is getting us involved in the Midwest Distribution Center as a means of supplying UMCOR and the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Just recently, Jill Wood Naatz stepped forward to lead a ministry providing supplies to asylum seekers arriving into the Chicago area from areas that threatened their safety. This year we also had two Virtual Blood Drives and a good-natural competition with Our Savior's UMC down the street to see which church could donate more blood. For various reasons, both competitions seemed to end in a tie!

The Wonder of Christmas Time

Do you remember being a little kid at Christmas time and being in your church Christmas pageant? How magical and mysterious it all seemed! If you would like to return to your childhood to those special moments - - here is your opportunity.

ORUMC will be having a Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 pm on December 24. If you are 16-90 years young, you are invited to be a member of our Angel Choir for that service. Here is what you need to do:

*Email Peggy Gire at pgire4@gmail.com and let her know you would like to participate.

*Be prepared to dress like an angel and sing an angel song with other choir members

*Bring your best hand-held, working flashlight

*Attend a rehearsal at **7:30 on December, 21** in the sanctuary and the worship service on Christmas Eve.

If you contact Peggy Gire more information will be emailed to you.



Creating holiday centerpieces to beautify Wesley Hall under the artistic supervision of Mary Zalay and Pastor Shirley.

December, 2022

A Very Merry Christmas to Our Church's Neighbors!

We are the pastor and congregation of Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church. We are located right in your neighborhood, at the corner of Schaumburg and Springinsguth Roads.

Christmas is a very special time for us at Our Redeemer's. If you celebrate Christmas, we imagine it's very special for you and your family as well!

If you already have a church home this Christmas, God has certainly blessed you! We encourage you to worship there this wonderful season. If, however, you do not yet have a church home, we cordially invite you to come celebrate the Christmas season with us. We hold worship services each Sunday at 10 AM.

Church School at 9:00 A.M.

Special events this Christmas season include our Music Sunday Service at 10 AM on December 11th. We are sure you will enjoy this wonderful showcase of Christmas music. Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:30 P.M. This service will be especially geared toward children, although children of ALL ages are most welcome!

We will have our usual 10 AM worship service on Sunday, December 25. We especially encourage you to join us then if that appeals, and you would otherwise be alone at home on Christmas morning.

We will also have our 10AM service on Sunday, January 1. This service will feature the annual John Wesley Covenant Communion Service - a wonderful opportunity for guidance, direction, and renewal into the new year.

Finally, if you do not feel inclined to come visit our church, please know that we are here, and that YOU will always be welcome!

**Pastor Shirley Pulgar Hughes
and the Congregation of
Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church**



Personal Notes



There have been several reports of concern:

- An elder relative with cancer.
- A younger relative with back pain.
- A grand child in an accident.
- A younger relative with surgery coming.



Two relatives came through a Covid encounter without problems.

January Newsletter

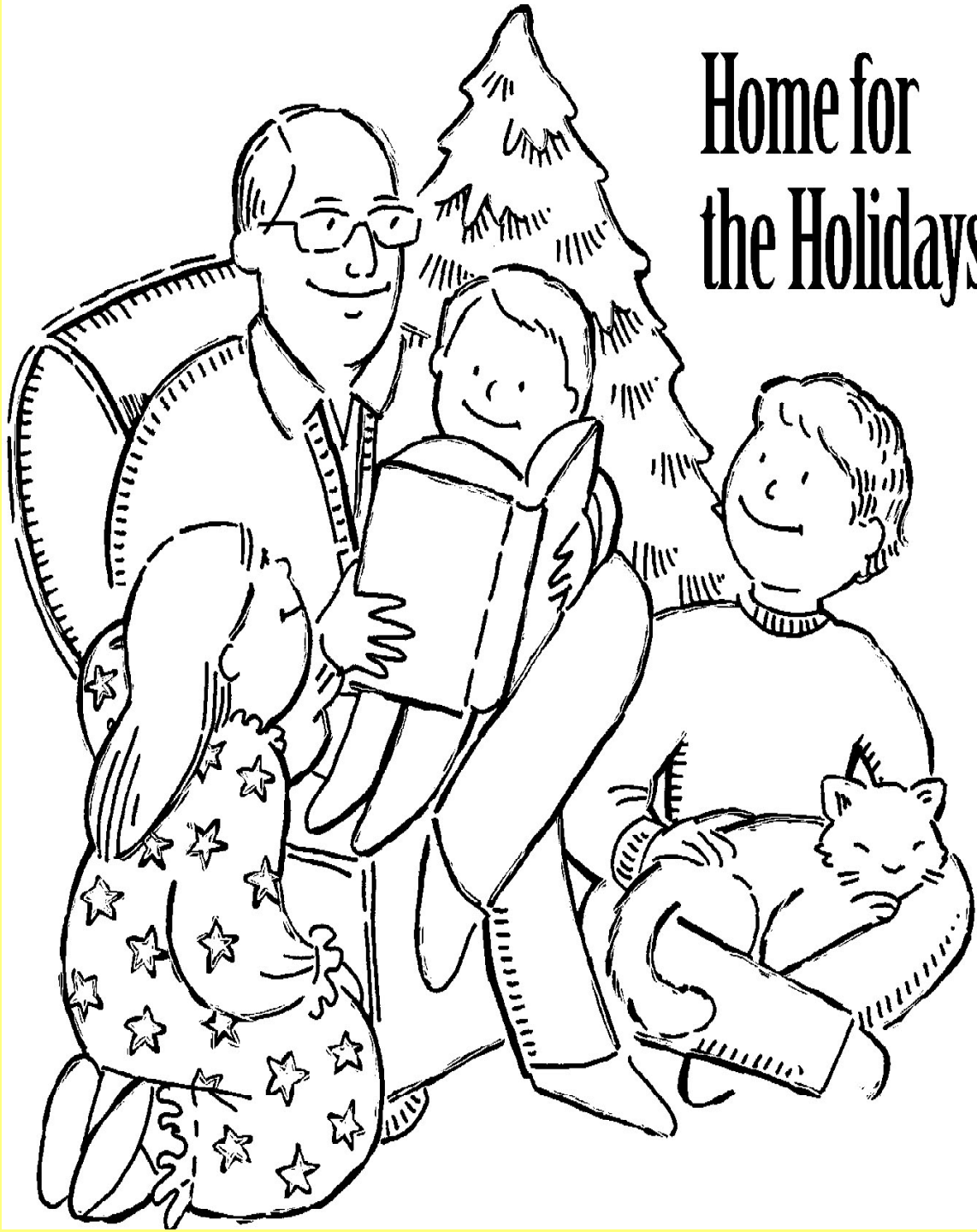
The newsletter staff will be away over Christmas. The January newsletter will be a little late. Please consider your January events and send your newsletter info as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Jer

email to jerryamcdaniel@gmail.com

Home for the Holidays



Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Visit our web site: www.orumc.org