

Ardmore United Methodist Church

Newsletter

Advent 2011



A Word

From the Pastor...

As the days grow darker, we need to "rekindle the flame of the gift within us" to light our way and to provide light to those who still live in darkness. Join us throughout Advent for numerous opportunities for remembering our call and exploring how we are now called to incarnate the light of Christ in the world.

Take time to step away from the demands of the season and renew your spirit as you prepare and anticipate the coming of the light.

Advent, like Lent, is the season before the big Holy Day (Christmas & Easter). It has traditionally been the season of Hope, Expectation and Preparation.

So, beyond all the preparations we make for our family celebrations of Christmas, what spiritual preparations can we make this year? What can we do as people of faith to cultivate a spirit of expectancy and hope? One of the new Advent hymns called "People Look East", encourages us to look "East" toward Bethlehem, toward the birth of Christ.

To all in the Ardmore UMC community, I wish you a Hope-filled and Spirit-filled Christmas.

Joy & Blessings to All,
Pastor Tim

College Students Care Packages

Exam time can be stressful for college students. We like to help alleviate some of that stress and let our kids know that their friends from church are thinking of them by sending them a care package of home-baked cookies!

Thank you to Noni Nelson, who has done this for the past several years. However, this year we have 16 kids in college and Noni could use some help. If you are willing and able to bake a couple dozen cookies for the students, please contact Noni. Noni will be packaging and sending the cookies to each of the students on 12/7/11.



Services Of Christmas Eve



Saturday, December 24th
Children's Service - 4:00 p.m.

This year, our Children's service will be a wonderful blend of special music and a simple "Children's Christmas Pageant". As families arrive, they are invited to take their children to the Parlor, or someone will guide them to that location. There, they will be costumed for the pageant that will take place shortly. In the sanctuary, we will be blessed with special music featuring Sam Christian, trumpet and Patricia Neckowicz, piano. Following the music, the pageant will take place in the sanctuary with the children who are present and costumed. We hope you will join us for a lovely presentation of the Christmas Nativity in music and drama. We especially hope all of our families will participate, even our infants! Come and share in this joy!



Candlelight Service - 7:30 p.m.

Our Candlelight service this year will begin with an extended prelude featuring saxophonist Alec Nelson at 7:15. Our service will then start at 7:30 - a traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with Christmas Meditation. (We're foregoing the pageant this year). We will conclude with the candle lighting service as we usher in the Light of Christ.

Please know that visitors and extended family are warmly welcomed to our service. Invite all you know to either or both services (4:00 & 7:30). We're trying to determine if Nursery service would be useful to families for the candlelight service, so if you think that would be helpful for your family, please inform the church office.

Join us as we welcome Christ into our hearts and lives again this year!



UMW Pecan Sale

UMW will be selling Schermer's Pecans in the Parlor after services each Sunday during the holiday season. We offer a wide variety from which to choose - all wrapped in holiday gift bags. Please be sure to visit us in the Parlor after services!



UMW needs...

Christmas Cookies...

To deliver to shut-ins. If you are able to bake cookies, please bring them to the Parlor kitchenette on Sunday, December 18th.

UMW plans to wrap and deliver the cookies on Monday, December 19th. These cookies delight those who are unable to be with us in person at church for our Christmas activities.



Advent/Christmas Celebration Dinner

Sunday, December 4th
at 5:00 p.m.

This year's Advent/Christmas Celebration Dinner promises to be better than ever!

Everyone is invited to join the fun! Entrée, green salad, bread and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share.

Following dinner, the children may create ornaments and crafts - then we will all gather to sing the Carols of Christmas.

At 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, we will be treated to a Christmas Concert by the Notables of The Haverford School-Directed by Michael Stairs.

Please join us for a fun night of fellowship,
Great food, music and Holiday Spirit!!

Music Notes

On December 11th, our Choir will present a cantata "Joy to the World: A Celebration of Carols" as part of the 11 a.m. worship service.

Jay Althouse has recently arranged beloved Christmas carols into this inspired Nativity Cantata with Scripture.

Althouse has over 600 choral works in print, and his music is widely performed throughout the English-speaking world. He was born in 1951 in Denver, PA and now lives in Hilton Head, S.C.

Our sopranos from the Curtis Institute of Music Kirsten MacKinnon and Anna Davidson will be soloists.



Venturing Crew 176 pictured with food collected for Food Bank

Venturing Crew Launches Adventure from Ardmore UMC

Nearly every Wednesday night, about fifteen to twenty youth from across the Main Line gather in Bailey Hall to make plans, learn new skills, and play games together. They make up what is known as Venturing Crew 176, a co-ed, youth-led group for teens that is one of the fastest-growing parts of the Boy Scouts of America. The "troop" is sponsored by the AUMC.

Venturing also provides opportunities for service to others. This month, the Crew collected over 800 food items that they donated to the Narberth Community Food Bank. This was in addition to preparing six full Thanksgiving dinner boxes, complete with turkeys, to contribute to the Ardmore United Methodist Church's outreach to families in need.

This coming summer, four adult volunteers from Venturing Crew 176 will be taking nine youth on a trip of a lifetime to Colorado and New Mexico. For eleven days, the group will be backpacking in the wilderness of the Sangre de Cristo range in the Rocky Mountains, the largest youth camp in the world known as Philmont Scout Ranch.

The youth in Venturing Crew 176 will be earning part of their own way for their trip to Philmont, which will require travel expenses and backpacking equipment. After the Sunday service on December 4th and 11th, they will be selling holiday "Cookies in a Jar" kits in the Wesley Room.

For further information about Venturing Crew 176, please feel free to visit their website: www.crew176.org, or contact the Crew's adult advisor, Cary Coglianese (610-649-3756). The Crew is open to all youth ages 14 (or 13 and completed 8th grade) to 20 years old. Its members include youth from across the Main Line, including from the Ardmore UMC, as well as surrounding areas.

Mitten Tree

Located in the Narthex - UMW is collecting new hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for the United Methodist Home for Children. Please hang your donations on the tree - the UMW will deliver the items to the Children's Home just in time for winter!

A Message from the Finance Committee

Please....Remember to return your pledge cards.

It's not too late!

As heard in stewardship moments during worship, our mission depends in large part on your financial contributions. If you did not pledge last year, we would very much appreciate it if you would do so this year. Thanks to everyone for considering this important issue.

In Memoriam

Shirley Wheeler

October 17, 2011

Sam Johnson

November 14, 2011

Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets

Thank you to all who contributed to the Thanksgiving Dinner food drive. Shirley and Richard Miller worked tirelessly collecting, packaging and delivering 20 dinner baskets, to individual families and Delaware County Community Action Agency. \$350 in cash and boxes of non-perishables went to St. Mark's Food Bank. It's a good feeling knowing that many families were able to have a nice Thanksgiving dinner due to our generous contributions!



Trunk full of Thanksgiving Dinners



Packed car ready for delivery!

Please consider a generous Christmas gift this season to help us balance our 2011 budget. With your faithfulness we will meet all of our obligations this year!!

Friends in Faith:

Have been busy this season. The altar was beautifully decorated for our Thanksgiving service...



And, they also organized a very successful toy drive collecting close to \$1,000 worth of toys for the Methodist Home for Children!! Thank you to all who contributed!



Mountains of toys donated!!