



***The Day After Christmas***

The presents have been examined and safely put out of the way. The dinner has been consumed and leftovers safely stored. The guests have gone back to their homes. Thoughts of taking the tree down begin to emerge in our holiday tired brains. Maybe a few football games remain for the day after Christmas. We begin to think ahead to the New Year’s celebration and then to the long, cold months of winter ahead. Another holiday has come and gone. And tucked between Christmas and Easter we have a few celebrations: Presidents Day, Valentine’s Day , Martin Luther King Day.

But the thing about Christmas is that the day itself should be just a beginning. The day after Christmas is when Christmas truly begins. If Christmas means nothing more than one day of celebration, then we have lost a valuable piece of faith. Many of the early events in the life of Jesus took place for months after the birth. A mother was able to celebrate day in and day out the birth of her son. She was constantly reminded of the miracle that had just happened every time the baby cried or needed changed or wanted something to eat. Her reaction to this miracle of birth was to take care of and nurture her child day in and day out.

It seems sad that the day after Christmas we drop the ball. It’s over, another Christmas has gone by. It’s time to move on. But Christmas should be just a beginning for us as believers. In a very real sense we too have to nurture the baby! Our response to Christmas can be to nurture our faith, to show the baby off to the world, to feed our faith when hunger for God surfaces, to proclaim the greatest gift God has given us. Christmas is not just a one day event each year. It’s an everyday event that must be celebrated as we mature in our faith and as we witness to the world the light that has been given.

May the Christmas Day be a wonderful event for us, but may the true first day of Christmas emerge this year as we try to live out the true meaning of the beginning of the events that unfold following that day.

Merry **CHRIST**mas to all!

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# Pastors Ponderings

By Pastor Kathleen Groff

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December 2014

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| **Christmas by Candle Light** |
| Tuesday, December 9  6:30pm  All Are Welcome  This is a great family night of Christmas carols, children’s story and delightful goodies. Please mark your calendar and start your CHRISTmas out with great fellowship and fun. |



**Sunday School**

For all ages every Sunday at 11am

Children’s Christmas Play

December 14 @ 9:30am

Christmas Collage

Please join us in celebrating the real reason for the season JESUS birth through the eyes of the children.

Please bring a basket or box to hold approximately 50 pounds of food. Open to all who are in need of food assistance.

* Monday, December 1- 5pm @ Fremont United Methodist Church - FREMONT
* Friday, December 5 - 10am @ St. Joseph Catholic Church - WHITE CLOUD - Sponsored by Local Area Churches
* Saturday, Dec. 6 - 10am @ Pine Grove Comm. Church- CROTON/HOWARD CITY
* Wednesday, Dec. 10 - 5pm @ Hesperia Community Education – HESPERIA - Sponsored by Local Area Churches
* Thursday, Dec. 11 - 3pm @ Amazing Grace Acres Church - BROHMAN
* Saturday, Dec. 13 - 9:30am @ First Christian Reformed Church - FREMONT
* Monday, Dec. 15 - 3pm @ Big Jackson Church of God - PARIS
* Tuesday, Dec. 16 - 4:30pm @ Northland Church of Christ - GRANT/NEWAYGO
* Wednesday, Dec. 17 - 10am @ First Baptist Church of WOODLAND PARK
* Wednesday, Dec. 17 -4:45pm @ All Saints Catholic Church – FREMONT
* Saturday, Dec. 20 - 1pm @ Grant Assembly of God – GRANT
* Tuesday, Dec. 30 - 5pm @ River Valley Community Church -NEWAYGO

**\***Changes may occasionally occur. Please check the Hi-Lites notice published weekly to confirm accuracy.

**Tree’s of Hope and Caring**

“CHRISTMAS TREES”. Newaygo UMC will be having a display of Christmas trees during the Christmas Walk which will be Friday, December 5th . Organizations and churches from the Newaygo area will be decorating trees and displaying information regarding their organization. We will need your help with several things:

* Greeters/Host/Hostess on December 4th & 5th
* Persons to help during set up on December 3rd and tear down on December 6th
* Extension Cords, extension cords, extension cords (put a piece of tape or something to clearly mark your cord so it can be returned)
* We can still use some help with organizing the event also.
* There are sign up sheets in the coffee area at church or you can call the church office to sign up.

If you have any questions please contact Jan Fisher at 231-652-6581 or Deb Prins at 231-335-8737



Newaygo County Mobile Food Pantry

***Sunday, June 22, 2014***

***Following Sunday Worship***

***(approximately 11:30am)***

***At the Henning’s Home***

***(438 Emerald Lake Drive)***

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Enjoy some great food, good fellowship and soak up a little sun while you are at it. Bring your swim suit too!



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Wednesday, December 24 @ 7:00pm

All persons are welcome. Please come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us.

Merry **CHRIST**mas

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Men, come join us on **Wednesdays at 8:30am at the City Limits Restaurant**

(next to McDonalds).

All men are welcome to join us!!! Great food!

Great fellowship! Awesome storytelling!

Join us when you can!

Joe Groff

Opportunities to Help!

 Soups needed for Soup’s On—Wednesday, December 3rd—Contact Carline Knoll

 December 3rd—Extension Cords needed

 December 4th & 5th - Greeters for Trees of Hope and Caring - Contact Jan Fisher or Deb Prins

 December 4th & 5th—help needed to prepare soups for soup supper during Christmas walk—contact Stan Fisher

 December 9th—table decorators and snacks for Christmas by Candle Light—Contact Dianna Weaver

 December 14th—2 greeters and 10 dozen cookies needed for Community Christmas Concert @ Grant Fine Arts Center—Contact the church office

If you have any questions or can not reach the person organizing any of the above opportunities, please contact the church office at 231-652-6581 or debprins@sbcglobal.net.

*THANK YOU!*

Thank You!

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Merry **CHRIST**mas

****Soup’s On Will Soon Be Here**

Newaygo Area Ministerial Association sponsors weekly soup lunches during Advent. Cost is by donation and the money’s collected are given to local area agencies who work with persons in Newaygo County. Lunch is each Wednesday at noon. All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 3

@ St. Bartholomew Catholic Church

(599 West Brooks, just down from Wesco)

Wednesday, December 10

@ New Community Church

(409 South Mundy, on the curve by Woodview Apt.)

Wednesday, December 17

@ Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

(432 Quarterline)

***Newaygo United Methodist Church will be helping provide soups for the December 3rd soups on. Please contact Carling Knoll at 652-1147 ASAP if you are willing to provide soup.***

* **Longcore Circle –** Tuesday, December 2nd @ noon @ Dorothy Sibley’s home. All are welcome. This will be our Christmas celebration.
* **UMW-Christmas by Candle Light** –Tuesday, December 9th @ 6:30pm – Great family evening for everyone. Please invite your friends and neighbors.
* **Mary Martha Circle –** Tuesday, December 16th @ noon @ Barb Deitz home. Come celebrate Christmas with us. All women are welcome.

# United Methodist Women

**United Methodist Student Day**

The noisy offering we take on Dec. 21, will supplement United Methodist scholarships and loan funds at the District level.

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**December Christmas Tree**

This year, instead of collecting gifts for a needy family or our Sunday school children, we will be collecting money which will go to purchase farm animals, seedlings, or to provide wells for water to third world countries through Heifer International. All of these items allow the families to raise their own herds to provide food for them and others in their villages. After the herd is established, the family also donates one animal to another family to pay it forward. We are reaching out to those in need around the world. Thank you.

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**Can you help us?**

We are preparing for the Christmas Walk on Dec. 5th. We are in need of extension cords in order to exhibit the trees that community organizations and churches will be bringing in. If you have cords that you are willing to loan for our display, please let Jan Fisher know. (Please put your name on the cords so we can return them after the event.) Thank you.



**2014 Mission Giving**

Accident Victims Fund $ 192.09

African Dresses $ 906.00

Bible School gift bags $ 100.00

Camp Scholarship $ 100.00

Camp Sunday $ 91.50

Christmas Family $ 200.00

Coats for Kids $ 461.00

CROP Walk $2,504.00

Day in the Park $ 801.56

G. R. Tornado Relief $ 250.00

Habitat for Humanity $ 173.00

Heifer International $ 88.00

Hoovers $ 101.50

Human Relations $ 90.00

Love Food Pantry $ 332.03

Mel Trotter Meals $ 114.50

Native American $ 92.00

No More Malaria $ 198.29

One Hour of Sharing $ 76.50

Peace with Justice $ 66.50

Scholarship Fund $ 100.00

School Kits $ 326.47

Thanksgiving Bags $ 240.00

Toys for Tots $ 200.00

UMCOR for U.S. $ 200.00

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$8,001.94

**Upcoming Mission Concerns**

Dec. 21 U. M. Student Day

Dec – Christmas Tree for Heifer International

*“Give and it will be given to you. …For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38*

**Join us on Sunday Mornings for Worship at 9:30am with fellowship following. Sunday School for all ages at 11am.**

**If you have any questions or would like more information regarding worship services and activities at Newaygo United Methodist Church please feel free to call the church office Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm.**

**Sunday School – Learning to Give**

Recently, our Sunday school children and their parents went shopping for toys that they could give to the Toys for Tots program. They learned several valuable lessons; giving is better than receiving, small inexpensive items go farther than one larger gift, and there are others not as fortunate as themselves. The money for this project was donated by the U.M. Women. Thank you for making this possible for our children.



# Mission Minutes

*Treasurer’s Report*

To date we have paid 90% if our ministry shares and are on track to pay 100% for 2014. Please prayerfully consider how you can help support the ministries of Newaygo United Methodist Church. If you have any questions or would like to see a more detailed report please call Deb Prins at 231-652-6581 or see the copy of the reports posted on bulletin board in the church office.

Contributions through

November 23, 2014 - *$ 6,781*

Expenses through

November 23, 2014 - $ 6,726

**Total $ 55**

When looking at the church finances, please keep in mind we still have one Sunday’s offerings to enter and there may be a few more expenses for month end also.



Pledge Sunday

Sunday, December 14th

You will be receiving letters in the next few days with a copy of your giving to date. Please prayerfully consider how you will use your treasures to support the ministries and committees of Newaygo United Methodist Church. Fill out the pledge card that is included with your statement and put it in the offering plate, mail it to the church or bring it in on Sunday, December 14th where we will receive the pledges and bless them. Your leaders use your pledges to create a budget and help plan the ministries and committees for the coming year.

*May God bless you and your family in 2015.*



Nancy Ferguson

Jean Bumstead

Wayne Bumstead

Bill & Freda Corrigan

June Wade

Al Winchel

Marilyn Dawson

Peace in the World

Chuck Suess

*If you have a prayer request or person you would like added to the monthly prayer list, please let Deb Prins know and we will add them to the newsletter each month.*

**Psalm 41:3**  
*The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.*

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**Letter To Kids Hope Mentors**

Hi...welcome back to another year of kids hope...hope everyone is having a good year so far....we ...as kids hope have been invited to decorate a Christmas tree for the Christmas walk December 5...we have accepted this invitation  & are very excited to get kids hope awareness out there....I'm pretty sure we all have favorite Christmas decorations to make with your kids, if not we can help you come up with something &/or supplies...December 3 evening we will make arrangements to meet down at church to decorate our tree. I'm going to print up info/ permission slips for our kids to be a part of the decorating. Let me know if you have any questions LeeAnn Hesse at 2312252973





**December 7**   
**Liturgist**: Carline Knoll

**December 28**   
**Liturgist:**  Joe Groff

**Acolyte:**  Blake Larsen  
**Inside Ushers:** Jean Reynhout & Ruth Merritt  
**Outside Ushers:** Deb Prins & Jen Larsen

**Projector:** Taylor Prins

**Sound:** Need Volunteer

**Acolyte:** Elizabeth Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Millie Stine & Dolores Cook **Outside Ushers:**  Dianna Weaver & Janet Fisher

**Projector:**  Elizabeth Brooks

**Sound:** Need Volunteer

**December 14**   
**Liturgist:**  Ron Pardonnet



**Acolyte:**  Morgan Pope  
**Inside Ushers:** Joan Faulkner & Ruth Merritt  
**Outside Ushers:** Harriet Kiper & Carline Knoll

**Projector:** Deb Prins

**Sound:** Need Volunteer

**December 21**   
**Liturgist:**  Brenda Huckins Bonter

**Acolyte:**  Saria Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Ron & Kay Pardonnet

**Outside Ushers:** Vern & Carolyn Boose

**Projector:** Jen Larsen

**Sound:** Need Volunteer



*12/10 Bill & Lois VanDyke*

*12/23 Ken & Kathy Cain*

*May God bless you and your family on this day and every day.*

**December Birthday’s**

12/1 Nancy Ferguson (100yrs young)

12/3 Irene Johnson

12/7 Jillian Wright

12/11 Danielle Clark

12/13 Dorothy Besemer

12/17 Melven Carr

12/18 Dolores Cook

12/21 Taylor Prins

12/26 Dave VanderHyde

12/30 Marilyn Dawson



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  | 1 | 2  Noon– Longcore Circle @ Dorothy Sibley’s Home | 3  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  Noon – Soup’s On @ St. Barts  7pm – Choir Practice | 4  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off  noon-4pm – Trees of Hope & Caring Display open to the public | 5  10am-9pm – Trees of Hope & Caring Display open to the public | 6 |
| **7 2nd Sunday of Advent**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages – play practice | 8  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study  6:30pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study | 9  6:30pm – Christmas by Candle Light Celebration | 10  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  Noon – Soup’s On @ New Community  7pm – Choir Practice | 11  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 12 | 13 |
| **14 3rd Sunday of Advent**  **Pledge Sunday**  **Children’s Christmas Play**  9:30am – Worship | 15  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study  6:30pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study | 16  Noon – Mary Martha Circle @ Barb Deitz Home | 17  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  Noon – Soup’s On @ NCUCC  7pm – Choir Practice | 18  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 19 | 20 |
| **21 4th Sunday of Advent**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 22  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study  6:30pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study | 23 | 24  Church Office Closed  7pm – Christmas Eve Candle Light Service | 25  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  Merry CHRISTmas | 26 | 27 |
| **28**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 29  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study  6:30pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |

Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities –2014

*We’re on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.newaygoumc.com](http://www.newaygoumc.com)

or check us out on facebook: Newaygo United Methodist Church

We are God’s Dream Seekers who seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ in ways that show love, respect and service to our community.

Mission

Newaygo United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 366

Newaygo, MI 49337

##### Newaygo United Methodist Church

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