

Beloved friends and church members,

As we gather with our family, relatives and/or friends to celebrate Christmas Eve, as well as Christmas, I want to invite you to join me to affirm the true meaning of Christmas by sharing with your loved ones The Christmas Creed:

CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living

God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

My prayers are for you and your family well-being during Christmas season and for 2012.

Peace and Grace,

Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos

LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

December 4

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1,2,8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 11

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126
I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

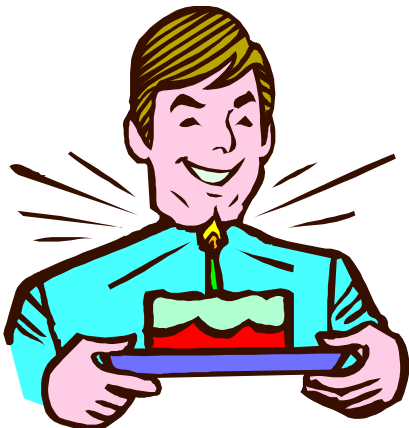
December 18

Samuel 7:L-11,16; Luke 1:47-56
Romans 16:26-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12; John 1:1-14

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HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Beatrice Hanger</i>	3
<i>Steven James Mannino</i>	4
<i>Michael Dziamba</i>	5
<i>Gissela Roberts</i>	10
<i>Robert Long</i>	11
<i>Nicole Scott Vietiello</i>	17
<i>Wayne Hanns</i>	20
<i>Diann Schwankerdt</i>	24
<i>William Chavan, Sr.</i>	25
<i>Debra Loiselle</i>	26
<i>Gay Kulberda`</i>	26
<i>Matthew Keith Mqrtinson</i>	29

.....and many, many more!!!

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INTERFAITH COUNCIL

The Interfaith Council of Linden consists of various churches within the City. They meet in local churches about 5 times yearly. They are asking for additional people to join them as they represent their own church. Some of their projects each year consist of:

1. Crop Walk to feed the hungry.
2. Thanksgiving Common Worship Service for all churches.
3. World Day of Prayer program.
4. Education Dinner and Program.
5. Scholarships for students.

Please consider joining the Interfaith Council and serving your church and the Lord. Carolyn Franz has been our representative for many years, and would be very pleased to have you join her at each meeting usually held on Sunday afternoon. If you have any questions, please contact her at 908-486-3792.

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ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The final meeting this year of the Administrative Council will be **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AT 10:00 A.M. IN ALDERSGATE HALL.** All chairpersons and members of any committees are urged to attend. It is not a long meeting but it is important that we have many members present as we do the work of the church. If you cannot attend and would like a copy of the minutes, please speak to Doris Henel and she will see that you receive a copy.

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BITS AND PIECES

The following note was received from Gail Martin Giuffida following the Memorial Service for Joan Smith, held in our sanctuary on October 15, 2011 and conducted by Rev. Ramos.

“Thank you for all your help in putting together a celebration of Joan’s life. We were pleased that so many of the church ladies were able to attend and come to the luncheon at Big Stash’s. And it was good to have some of the “young” folks with Bill, the Long clan and Ruth’s daughters and family. Mike and I got back to DC around 7:30 – a long day but with very little traffic”.

A special “thank you” to all those who supported the Tricky Tray on October 22nd, sponsored by the Friends of the Linden Library. We are all very proud of our new Library and continue to raise funds to make it even better!

A short email was received from Rev. Dennis Hier who served many years ago as a student pastor with our youth group. He and his wife, Jan, are still in touch with Ethel Steiniger and her daughters and over the years, have visited with them. He is now retired but teaches Sunday School, and this year, Bible School.

They hope to get back this way sometime, and send their love to those who still remain from the years they were here.

Our Head Ushers, Charles Ettel, took some time off from ushering to spend a few weeks in Florida. Because we missed him in church, Carolyn Franz, who lives in the same Senior Citizen complex as Charles, called him to see if he was okay. It was a surprise to have him answer the call from Florida! We are happy to have him back home again!

On Sunday, October 23, 2011, Kathryn Gmitter received her 50 year membership pin. She was pleased to have Debbie Horne, and Aimee

members of her family, present for the happy occasion. Rev. Vern A. Jensen was the pastor when Kathryn and Fred both joined the church on October 8, 1961. That year, Rev. Jensen took in 62 new members. Wish we could do that again!! Congratulations, Kathryn.

How good it is to have Mary Jane Koslosky back home again! She and a friend drove out to visit family in Colorado and toured the country on the way out and back again. They were gone about a month and saw as much as they could and would love to do it again and see whatever they missed. There is so much beauty in this country – every area different from the east coast which is what we are familiar with. If you ever have the opportunity to travel cross-country, take it and enjoy it!



Bobbie Bogard, Doris Henel, Carolyn Franz, NancyJane Baldwin, Gertrude Baldwin, Ruth Schulte enjoy the Columbus Day Weekend at Cape May. They also tried new restaurants in the area as shown below.





THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

NOVEMBER 27 – PUT THE CHRISTMAS TREE UP. This takes a lot of time. We will do this separately this year, and decorate it the following Sunday

DECEMBER 4 – CHRISTMAS TREE WILL BE DECORATED AND ALSO AS MUCH OF THE SANCTUARY AS WE CAN FINISH.

We will gather together to bring Christmas to our church sanctuary, Bring a sandwich and dress comfortably to help us with the decorating after joining together for lunch. Beverage will be provided.

DECEMBER 6 – UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, at 12 noon, the United Methodist Women will have their annual Christmas covered dish luncheon. Each member will bring a covered dish – dessert and beverage will be provided. Guests will include those women who have helped us over the past year with our rummage sales and other programs. We will have a special Christmas program.

DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 P.M.

Last year we changed the time from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m. and it was very successful. Please try and join us for this very special Candlelight Service.

DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

There will be no Sunday School. We hope the children will join their family in the sanctuary. We will meet at our regular time, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary for our Christmas Day worship service. It does not happen very often that Christmas Day actually falls on a Sunday. Please take the time to worship with your church family today.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

As we have done previously during the Christmas season, we ask you to send one Christmas card to the church instead of separate ones to individuals. It will save money, time and writing, and will express your Christmas wishes to all your friends here at the church. All cards will be posted on the lovely stand at the rear of the church and in the January Messenger they will be listed so that all will know who sent them "best wishes" for the Christmas holiday.



PRAYER LIST OVER THE LAST MONTH

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Mary Barnes | George Barnes |
| Leona Parker | Janet Pavlinic |
| Sophia Meolia | Sharon Lutz |
| Vivienne Merrill | Kime Smith |
| Charles Lamont | Marge Varga |
| Paul Diljak | Hanns Family |
| Larry & Dottie Diaz | Family of Joan Smith |
| Maria Yupa, daughter, children and son-in-law | |

Please continue your prayers for all.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It seems impossible that we have been waiting so long to have the church parsonage repaired and back in good condition. We are still waiting for the check from the insurance company for the charges to remove the additional asbestos found in the building after the original bid was submitted. Until that asbestos is removed no work can proceed. The amount requested has been approved and we are waiting for the money for the asbestos company.

A claim has also been submitted to the insurance company for damage done to the roofs of the church office and vestibule of the sanctuary. That has not been approved yet, and we are hopeful we will hear something very soon.

We will keep you posted as plans advance. We certainly need to start and finish the repairs before the low temperatures of the winter are upon us.



WHICH ONE IS COPYING THE OTHER?



STARLIGHT CHORALE

The Starlight Chorale, directed by Rev. Tony Godleskie, will be presenting their Christmas Concert on November 27th at 4:30 p.m. in Metuchen at the United Methodist Church. All are welcome!

PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE PAGE IN THIS MESSENGER ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN OUR CHURCH THIS YEAR.

TO ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVE THEIR MESSENGER THROUGH THE INTERNET

You will notice that you also are receiving this Messenger through the mail. As happened in November, we also sent our newsletter by mail even though you received a notice that it was posted on the Internet. We have special letterhead and offering envelopes for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas and there is no way the envelope can be attached to an email.

So the month of each of those holidays, you will receive a notice about the posting of the Messenger on line and also a mailing to your home. Since you can receive the internet mailing in color and it is usually very clear, you might still like to see it that way.

We realize there are many people who receive the Messenger and are not members of the UMC of Linden, but it is easier to just send everyone the newsletter through the mail then try and figure out who should get it and who does not need it since our lists are already printed on labels. So enjoy the part of the Messenger you read and ignore what does not apply to you!

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TITHE IF YOU LOVE JESUS! ANYONE CAN HONK!!

CROP WALK

Recently Carolyn Franz announced in church the following names of people who took part in the Crop Walk:

Joy Hinkle Vera Horsch
Lorraine Carhart Joanne Marosi
Carolyn Franz

They were pleased to turn in \$287.00, which was pledged by their friends for the walk. A further report, when the money from all the churches of the Interfaith Council, is turned in, will be made in the next Messenger.

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On Tuesday, December 6th at 12:00 noon the United Methodist Women will have their annual Christmas Covered Dish luncheon.

The members of our organization will each bring a dish (beverage and dessert will be supplied) and a short program and singing of Christmas hymns will complete our day.

We are inviting those people who have helped us over the year with our rummage sale and other projects. to be our guests.

We wish members of our church family a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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LIFE IS FRAGILE
HANDLE WITH PRAYER!

**DECEMBER
2011**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	2	3 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
4 9 AM - Choir Rehearsal 10:30 - Worship Service & Sunday School STAY TO DECORATE XMAS TREE & SANCTUARY	5 7 – <u>Board of Trustees</u> (D.Beyer,T.Henel, B. Losyk,G.Baldwin, W. Hanns,C.Ettel,J.Stamer) PLEASE ATTEND! 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing Sch.	6 10:30-Bible Study in Youth Room 4:30-Weight Watchers 12 NOON – U.M.W. CHRISTMAS COVERED DISH LUNCHEON 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	7 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	8 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	9	10 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
11 9 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship Service and Sunday School	12 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	13 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	14 10 AM ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEET IN ALDERSGATE HALL- All chairmen & members of committees attend 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch.	15 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	16	17 9:30-1:30- Fencing School in gym
18 9 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship Service & Sunday School	19 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	20 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	21 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	22 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	23	24 10:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE- LIGHT SERVICE
25 9:00 - Choir 10:30 AM – CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE	26	27 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight watchers In Aldersgate Hall	28	29	30	31