



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 love 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 2013.

Peace and Grace,

Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos

Pastor – UMC of Lirlden

LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 16

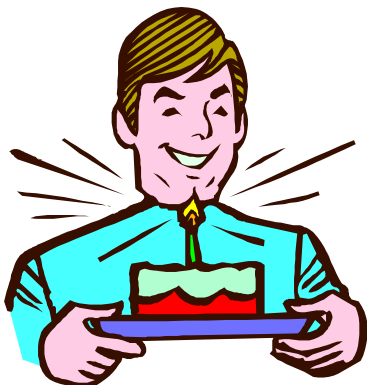
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

December 30

I Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



HAPPY DEEMBER BITHDAY

Beatrice Hanger	3
Steven James Mannino	4
Michael Dziamba, Jr.	5
Gissela Roberts	10
Robert Long	11
Nicole Scott Vietiello	17
Wayne Hanns	20
Diann Schwankerdt	24
William Chavan, Sr.	25
Gay Kulberda	26
Debbie Loiselle	26
Mathew Keith Martinson	29



THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN COVERED DISH
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

WHEN? *Tuesday, December 4*

TIME? *12 Noon*

WHERE? *Aldersgate Hall*

The United Methodist Women will be having their annual covered dish Christmas luncheon as listed above. The women who are members of our society will prepare all the food and we invite the women of the church to join us as our guests. It is not necessary for you to bring any food – we will make sure there is enough to feed everyone... We are planning a Christmas program and hope you will enjoy the afternoon with us. Although we invited the women of the church to join us, we don't want to slight the men – so they are also invited – including our pastor, Rev. Ramos. Come join us as we begin the December holidays and prepare for the birth of our Lord.



YOU ARE INVITED!!

The Reformed Church of Linden is having their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 10-3 p.m. There will be activities for children, handmade crafts, photos with Santa. a bake sale and a delicious luncheon. ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!!!!

A REMINDER!!

At our Church Conference on Sunday, November 11th during our worship service, a recommendation was presented by the Pastor/Parish Committee that the church Administrative Council meet every other month instead of four times yearly as they did in 2012. This will begin with the first meeting in January – Wednesday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m. in Aldersgate Hall. This motion passed unanimously, so we expect everyone that is available, to attend the meeting. If you hold office (or were elected at our recent Church Conference), you are a member of the Administrative Council. The president is Bob Carhart, and secretary, Doris Henel. Mark this date on your calendar!!



THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN LAST SPRING WHEN WE VISITED WITH ETHEL STRAND WHO IS NOW LIVING IN AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY IN CLINTON, N.J.

1st row – Bobbie Bogard, Ethel, Doris Henel
2nd row – Doris Stamer, Gertrude Baldwin, and Ruth Schulte

We'll have to do it again next Spring!

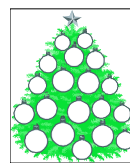
Christmas Letter

The minister's Christmas letter is attached to this December Messenger. Although some receive their Messenger via email, those people can still access it that way, but you are also receiving this issue in the mail. There is no way we can send your Christmas offering envelope through an email, so the best way to do it was to also mail the December Messenger to you. So you get a double delivery this month – and the email copy always has better color and is also easy to read. If you have an email address and still receive your Messenger in the mail, please contact Doris Henel and she will add your name and email address to the list.

Djhenel@aol.com

PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN LISTED ON OUR PRAYER LIST IN THE SUNDAY CHURCH BULLETIN OVER THE LAST MONTH:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Janet Pavlinic | Leona Parker |
| Doris Stamer | Bill Forster |
| Ethel Steiniger | Dan Ajuka |
| Doris Henel | Family of Steve Lutz |
| Dobrynski Family | Nancy & Joe Kielar |
| Family of John Markus | Carol & Jonathon Jones |
| Joy Hinko's Mother | Mycroft Laryea |
| Pam Humphries's Daughter | Kime Smith |
| Robert & Dina Long | Ruth Schulte's sister |
| Carolyn Franz Nephew | Ethel Bethea |
| All those who lost so much during the Hurricane | |



DECORATING THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS

Please plan to stay after the church worship service on Sunday, December 2nd at 11:30 a.m.

We will be decorating for the Christmas holidays, putting up our tree and the lovely, large wreath over the choir loft. We need all your help!!

LINDEN INTERFAITH COUNCIL



On Sunday, November 18th, the Linden Interfaith Council hosted the Thanksgiving Common Worship Service at the Calvin Presbyterian Church. Music was provided by a few of the member churches of the Interfaith Council and it was lovely to see and hear the Bell Choir during the service.

There were readings from Plymouth Plantation (1620-1647) and Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation (1789)

It was a beautiful service and delicious refreshments were served following the worship. We would have liked it if more people came from our church. Please try to attend the Thanksgiving Service next year. It is a lovely way to start the celebration of a time of giving thanks.

knowing we would have to deal with Hurricane Sandy. For the weeks before our Fair, we had no communication with our members, and although, articles had been written to put on the local channel of TV and the newspapers, we were not successful in having that happen. Family, friends, church members, TV, public and private businesses, telephones, were all without power. There was no way to get our message out and so we knew that the only thing we had was a sign on the front of the church for the weeks preceding the Fair. Even our church was closed because we, along with most of the community, had no power! But we said we would have a church fair – and we did! Maybe not as many people came as usual, but those that did really enjoyed the day, enjoyed talking with each other and seeing some old friends that had not seen in a long time. We thank everyone for helping and we are pleased to list the profit below:

CHRISTMAS ITEMS	33.15
BAKE TABLE	352.40
NEW ITEMS	154.40
WHITE ELEPHANT	118.06
3 TABLE RENTALS	75.00
KITCHEN	<u>625.40</u>

TOTAL DEPOSITED 1,358.41



ANOTHER YEARLY CHURCH HOLIDAY FAIR!!

We knew this would be a difficult time to have our annual Fair, but plans had been made, not

Thank you to Lorraine Carhart and Louise Beyer, who chaired the Fair this year, and spent some frustrating time trying to get through to everyone. Let's hope we never have another Hurricane like this one again!! And we have so much to be thankful for when you consider the terrible damage that some suffered. We pray for those that need help and urge everyone to try and do their share in helping others in need!

DON'T FORGET OUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9TH AT

10:00 A.M. IN ALDRSGATE HALL.

THE LINDEN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1942
CELEBRATE THEIR 70TH REUNION

On October 13, 2012, the Linden High School Class of 1942 had a very special 70th reunion at the new Linden Free Public Library on East Elm Street. The graduates attending are shown in the picture below. A total of 50 people were present, including some spouses, family members and friends, some of whom graduated from Linden in other years. These are the "survivors"!



Linden High School Class of 1942
70th Reunion --- October 13, 2012

2nd row, left – Mayor Richard Gerbounka, who also graduated from Linden, welcomed everyone back where they all started!

2nd row, right – Antoinette Modrak, the new principal of Linden High School who spoke of her years in Linden and how much was owed to the Class of 1942 for the example they set.

Bernice Bedrick, a retired teacher, and husband of Emmanuel Bedrick, a former Superintendent of Schools in Linden also was a guest and greeted everyone, but arrived too late for the picture.

REUNION COMMITTEE (seated in front row)

2nd person-Bobbie Hammer Bogard, 3rd – Doris Mellor Henel, 4th – Bill Palermo, 7th – Edna Stewart Kastner

The Committee was very pleased to have some of their children help them before, during and at the close of the reunion. A special thank you to Robin Bogard Mower, Valerie Kastner Boyle, Jeanne Henel Moore and Tom Henel. We could not have done it without them! The above picture was taken, developed in one hour and before the program was completed, we were displaying the framed picture that each graduate received at the close of the reunion along with a booklet about our class, and a placemat with all their pictures taken when they were 17 that appeared in our school Cynosure. A wonderful luncheon was enjoyed by all. Three short DVD's were played that were very appropriate - "What will you be doing when you turn 100?" "Send in the Clowns – for Seniors" and one taken at our 65th High School reunion. If we never have another reunion, we will always remember this one and the friendships we formed 75 years ago as we began our journey through Linden High School and beyond.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LINDEN
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

On Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve, let us remember and honor the following loved ones.

Place the money, \$10.00, and this form in the offering envelope found in the pew holder. Mark the outside "Christmas Flowers", and put it in the offering plate. You can also mail a check to Gertrude Baldwin, 609 W. Elm Street, Linden, N.J. 07036. Any checks should be made out to the United Methodist Church of Linden.

IN HONOR OF GIVEN BY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GIVEN BY

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ABOVE SLIP WITH THE INFORMATION FOR ORDERING A CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA. THEY WILL BE ON THE ALTAR IN OUR SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23rd AT 10:30 A.M. AND CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24th AT 10:00 P.M. YOU CAN TAKE YOURS HOME AT THE CLOSE OF THE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE. PLEASE MAIL THE ABOVE TO GERTRUDE BALDWIN, 609 W, ELM STREET, LINDEN, N.J. 07036 OR GIVE IT TO HER ANY SUNDAY MORNING AT THE WORSHIP SERVICE.



HOLY BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

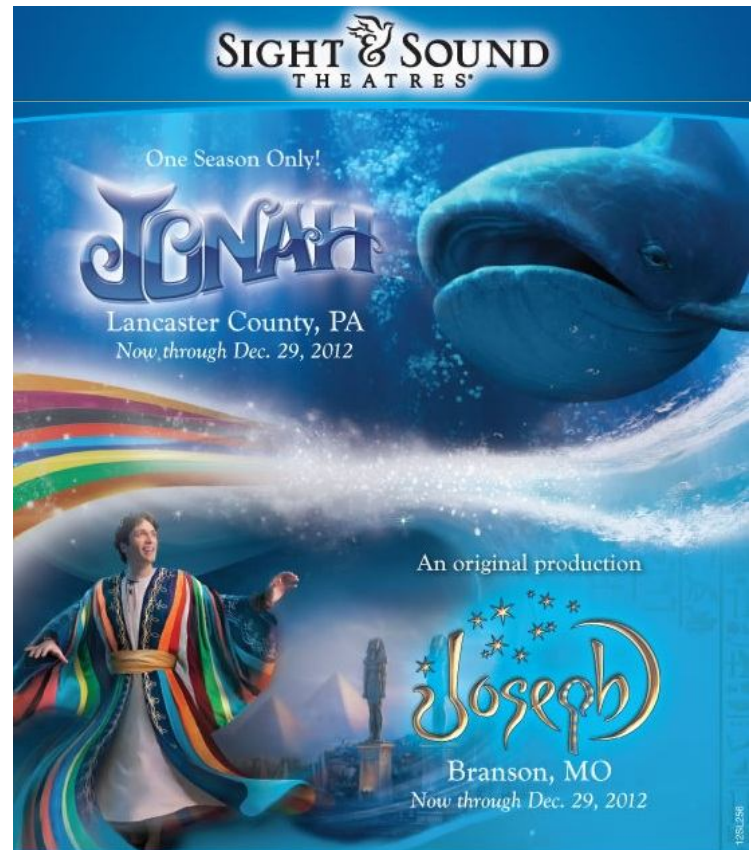
Sunday, November 18, 2012 was a very special day for members and friends of the United Methodist Church of Linden.

Baptized by Rev. Ramos was Victoria Hazel Cavezza, daughter of Latasha and Anthony Cavezza. Victoria was born on May 22, 2012 and the godparents are Christina and Cesar Crespo. She smiled at everyone when the

pastor walked with her in his arms, down both aisles of the church.

Following the baptism, Alexander Cesar Crespo, son of Christina and Cesar Crespo, and Drew Wayne Hanns, son of Elizabeth Hanns, were confirmed by Rev. Ramos. They had been meeting with the pastor for a few weeks and he presented each of them with a Bible. The parents of Victoria also received a Bible designed for a very young child. Following the worship service, the family invited all members of the church to attend a luncheon in Aldersgate Hall.

It was a lovely afternoon – wonderful to see young children running around and enjoying themselves. The food was delicious and the three different kinds of cake made it easy to choose one that each person especially liked. We thank the families for inviting the congregation to join them for this very special occasion. Many pictures were taken to remember and celebrate this day forever!



Call 800-377-1277 or go to sight-sound.com

WORKERS HOME - AWAY FROM HOME



People came from all over the country to help New Jersey and those residents that lost so much. Most of the people staying in this Tent City built on the empty General Motors property were experienced workers in repairing our power systems throughout the state. So many came to help, not only repairing our broken system, but helping with the clean-up, providing food, clothing, and basic needs of so many people. We are grateful for the help and listed below are ways you can also help:

1. **The Conference project for all UMC's is to provide Cleaning Buckets and Supplies. to people in need. Further information can be provided by Gertrude Baldwin. She has fliers that give all the things required. Please call her and she will see that you receive a flier – 908-862-9473.**

2. **The Linden Police Department is collecting non-perishable items for the 7 Linden Food Banks to use locally and to pass on to the areas that need help the most. Items needed – peanut butter, jelly, crackers, soup, cereal, baby food, diapers and batteries. Donations can be made at the police station at 301 N. Wood Ave. 24/7**

3. **Rob Long, who was brought up in this church, served as minister of the UMC in Sea Bright for a number of years, His wife Dina became involved in the political system in the town and is now serving as Mayor. You might have seen her on TV or articles in the paper about the devastation in Sea Bright. They had damage to their home just as most people did in the town. Help has been coming from all over the country and if you would like to help, please contact**

a nonprofit relief organization – seabrightrising.org to help rebuild the borough.

4. **UMCOR, the Methodist relief organization is continuing to accept donations toward helping those hurt from Hurricane Sandy. You can make a check out to UMC of Linden, mark it Hurricane Sandy, and we will make sure it is directed to UMCOR.**

5. **There is a small UMC in the Brick area that has been giving out clothing and serving meals to those in need. We have a contact in that area and sent two shopping bags of scarfs left from our church Holiday Fair for distribution before the really cold weather sets in. (We thank Vivienne Merrill for making so many scarfs while she was still living home, and her daughter, for giving them to us at that time.) If you have small clothing items, (gloves, socks, hats,) please deliver them to Doris Henel and she will see that they reach the UMC.**



The Starlite Chorale

An 18 voice **singing ensemble**
Dr. Anthony Godlefski, Director; Dr Laura Bell, Accompanist



Christmas Show!

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas!"

A Family Christmas Celebration of Music and Joy

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012 – 4:30 pm

Centenary United Methodist Church, Metuchen, NJ

Sunday, January 6, 2013 – 4:30 pm

St. Matthew the Apostle R. C. Church, Edison, NJ

Adults \$12; Seniors & Students \$10; Children, Free

DECEMBER, 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT-please remain after service to decorate sanctuary for Christmas 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30 – Worship Service</p>	<p>3 7 pm –Board of Trustees (D.Beyer, T.Henel, J. Stamer, G.Baldwin, B.Losyk, C.Ettel, W.Hanns) 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School</p>	<p>4 12 Noon-U.M.W. Xmas Covered dish luncheon All welcome! 10:30- Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.</p>	<p>5 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.</p>	<p>6 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 9:30-1:30 Fencing School 8----- 9:30-1:30 Fencing School</p>
<p>9 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30Worship Service</p>	<p>10 4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</p>	<p>11 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</p>	<p>12 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.</p>	<p>13 4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9:30-1:30 PM - Fencing School</p>
<p>16 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship</p>	<p>17 4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</p>	<p>18 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</p>	<p>19 4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</p>	<p>20 4:30-9:30 PM - Fencing School</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30-1:30 PM - Fencing School</p>
<p>23 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship Service <u>CHRISTMAS SUNDAY</u></p>	<p>24 10 PM – CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</p>	<p>25 MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10-Church School 10-Worship Service</p>	<p>31</p>					