

Sanford United Methodist Church

Messenger



DECEMBER 2011

To You is born a Savior (St. Luke 2:11)

In every civilization human beings tried and failed to create what they thought would be the perfect world. We have achieved significant things, but still our world groans in the pain of guilt and fear. Sometime ago a physician told me about his wife who was afflicted with Alzheimer's. He lamented that we have made such astonishing advances with things such as wireless technology but cannot cure some common human sicknesses. In the same way, it may be asked how much progress have we made in our moral and spiritual development. At times it seems as though we are no less violent than the ancient barbarians.



Each day there are disappointing reminders that all is not well with us. In Romans 8:19-22 Saint Paul said: For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

The message of the Christmas season brings hope. One has come from above to set us free and to make us whole. The Son of man has come to seek and save the lost. But that is not all, in God's good time, he will return and deliver his creation from bondage and fulfill every promise made. The Christ child came, through his death and resurrection, he has put in motion a saving power that far surpasses anything that we can imagine or generate with our own hands. Those who believe his word and trust his grace may confidently look forward to the time when our prayer, "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," would be answered and there would be peace on earth good will to men.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of the United Methodist Church

As we get ready for Christmas and concern ourselves with so much that is passing away, let us take time to honor him and make room in our hearts for him. How may we do that? We may meditate each day on the mystery of God coming to earth in human flesh to live among us (St. John 1). As you read the Christmas story, you may listen for his voice and open your heart to the riches of his grace. When you have the opportunity, tell someone what Christmas means to you, namely that Jesus has come to make you whole and be with you as Emmanuel. This Good News is what the world needs to make it whole, for to us is born a savior who is Christ the Lord.



O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
May all the blessings of the Christ who came be yours this Christmas time and in the coming years.
A Joyous Christmas to you and yours.

Pastor Cutting and Joan

DECEMBER MESSENGER

Santa Express



Santa Express is coming!

December 13, 14, & 15 from 4 to 8 p.m. Everyone is invited so please extend this invitation to all your family and friends with age appropriate children.

The Sanford Historical Society requests help with this year's Santa Express event scheduled for Dec. 13, 14, & 15 in the Society's 1870 railroad depot. The society is in need of volunteers to work those days, toy donations and dozens of cookies. Contact Rick E. Goodwin at 689-4784 if you can help in any way. Everyone is invited so please plan to attend.

This all FREE event will provide the children of the greater Sanford area with the opportunity to visit with Santa, get their picture taken with Santa, receive a gift and then have some cookies and refreshments.

MEN OF MUSIC

present

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE

Sunday Dec. 4th, 2 & 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church and Sunday Dec. 11th 3:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church. Free admission to all 2011 concerts, charitable donations to local food banks.



Men of Music

Friday, Dec. 9th, 6:00 p.m. at SANUMC we will have a potluck and go caroling afterwards. Bring a dish to pass, table service and warm clothes.



Caroling
Potluck

Check out what's happening at www.Sanfordumc.org and Pastor Cutting's blog, Holy Mary Mother of God.

Adult Sunday School

Beginning Dec. 11th adult Sunday school will begin a new study-FaithLink.

This is a study for those who want to apply their

United Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events. This study will cause you to consider your personal views on important contemporary issues and encourage you to act on your beliefs.

Dec. 11th is Occupy Wall Street, other upcoming topics are: The Cost of Freedom, Faith and Government-the Wikileaks Controversy, Advent-A Season of Hope and there will be no class on Dec. 25th.

Adult Sunday School Class



Grief Recovery Group

Wed. Jan. 4, 7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

Location: the parlor at Memorial Presbyterian Church.

There is no fee.

Topics: The nature of the grief process, handling holidays and anniversaries, recognizing and validating losses, coping with anger and depression, grief and one's relations with God, guilt and forgiveness.

Please register at 989-835-6759.


Open Door Opportunities

Volunteers are needed the 3rd Saturday of the month. Open Door has a Bible study every Monday night. Volunteers are needed to help with arrangements and to be a part of the study. If interested in either of these opportunities, please call Sue LaBean @ 859-7694.



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
to All*

DECEMBER MESSENGER



STEWARDSHIP.

Nov. 2011

<i>Date</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Offering</i>
Nov. 6	81	\$3,252.00
Nov. 13	86	\$1,443.00
Nov. 20	68	\$5,304.00
Nov. 27	67	\$637.00

SHUT-INS

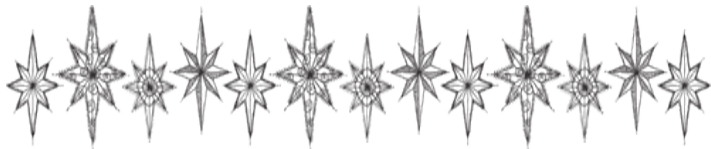
The following are our known confined members and friends. If we have omitted anyone who should also be on this list, kindly let the church office know. Your calls, notes, and visits are greatly appreciated.

Jean Emery	P.O. Box 65, Sanford, MI 48657
Keith Francis	Colonial Villa, 5007 Universal Dr. Midland, MI 48640
Pauline Fink	3606 Sadler Dr., Sanford, MI 48657
Dorothy Joynt	Stratford Village, 2121 Rockwell, Midland, MI 48642
Aletha Maticka	Marshall Manor, 1119 Holyrood, Midland, MI 48640
Bruce Milligan	5822 N. Lake, Sanford, MI 48657
Shirley Renwick	Stratford Village, 2121 Rockwell, Rm. 244, Midland, MI 48642
Arvella Rogers	Tendercare, 4900 Hedgewood Dr. Rm. 2, Midland, MI 48640
Ann Weir	216 Diane Dr., Flushing, MI 48433



A big thank you from Keith Francis for all the cards he received for his 90th Birthday.


Joe Sharpe says thank you for about 50 birthday cards. It made his 21st Birthday a success. Thank you Roger & Vicki



See what's happening @
www.sanfordumc.org
 and Pastor Cutting's blog,
 Holy Mary Mother of God.

Midland Mentors Needs Caring Adults
 Show a teen you care! The Midland Mentor program is looking for caring adults who are willing to spend some time with a youth. Make a difference in the world - help a child. Sue Dexter is willing to speak to you of her experience with this program. Contact Liz Kapla @ 837-6255 or lkapla@co.midland.mi.us

Caring Corner



Our sympathies to the family & friends of: Tamara Gandy Chew

Healing: Sharon Hilgers, Mary McCormick, Dan Ranck, Rachel Skinner, Lois Young, Patricia Linton, sister Linda, Mary.

Travel: All the snowbirds heading south or west for the winter. Those traveling to family and friends for the holidays. Armen Weinrick will soon be going to Afghanistan.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

Sharon Wishowski (MS)	Jake McJames	Pauline Fink	Doug Hall
Bob Beatty	Bob Anderson	Kim Wood	Ted Eisenberger
Aletha Maticka	Ann Weir	Gary Moe	Oline Robinson
Janet Eisenberger			

DECEMBER MESSENGER

SANFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2560 N. West River Road
Sanford, Michigan 48657
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Anthony Cutting, Pastor
Church Office: (989) 687-5353
Worship: 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School: 9:10 A.M.

PERMIT NO. 4

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE
SANFORD MI 48657



October 2011 Food Pantry Report

People served 54
Households 16



Gift certificates given: 29
Items in: 2,348
Items out: 1,651
Items donated:

\$+149 Sanford UMC
\$+173 St. Agnes Catholic
\$+ 38 St. Paul Lutheran Church
830 Food Bank of Eastern MI
\$ Community of Christ Church

Current Needs: cereal, hamburger helper & toothpaste

The Sanford Pantry has averaged 54 clients/month so far in 2011. Thank you for your donations of both food and money. Checks may be made out to the Sanford Food Pantry.

Please keep our volunteers and the clients they serve in your prayers.

Peace!

Earl and Kay Crawford

UMW news for December

The end of 2011 is fast approaching. Come and join us for our last UMW meeting of the year, December 20 at 1:00 p.m. Bring that special treat to share with us or just come, for a special holiday program provided by the members.

Please bring seat covers (socks, underwear, etc) to this meeting. All items received go to the House Of Mercy, a women's transition home.

Merry Christmas to all!

Submitted by
Jeanne Sturm



*Women
of Our Church*

DECEMBER MESSENGER

SCHEDULE

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 4	Worship
Dec. 11	Worship
Dec. 18	Worship
Dec. 25	Worship

USHERS

Dec. 4	Bob Raymond, Earl Crawford, Leonard McJames, Ron Vandenberg
Dec. 11	Earl Crawford, Ron Vandenberg Don Decker, Leonard McJames
Dec. 18	Leonard McJames, Earl Crawford Keith & Alecia Bauerle
Dec. 25	Bud & Gayle Swanson Sandy Houtman, Sue Dexter

GREETERS

Dec. 4	Jan Biggs
Dec. 11	Mitch & Ronda Bowen
Dec. 18	Carolyn Maynard, Becky Bastuk
Dec. 25	Phyllis Seloom

TRUSTEE FOR DECEMBER

Bob Raymond (back-up Carol Becks)

COMMUNION STEWARDS FOR DECEMBER

Brenda Boots and Ruth Ann Wrona

COUNTERS

Dec. 4	Sharon Arvidson, Verna Gould, Ruth Ann Wrona
Dec. 11	Bob & Sharon Raymond, Curt & Beth Moe
Dec. 18	Gary & Brenda Boots, Bob & Sharon Raymond
Dec. 25	Leonard & Lois McJames, Ruth Sutton
subs	Mike & Judy Gorthy, Ira & Sue Thumma

LITURGISTS

Dec. 4	Keith Bauerle
Dec. 11	Ira Thumma
Dec. 18	Sue Thumma
Dec. 25	Jim Brozzo

COFFEE HOUR

Dec. 4	
Dec. 11	Phyllis, Vicki, Luella
Dec. 18	Ronda, Jeanne, Gayle
Dec. 25	

The sign-up sheet is in the copy room.

SNOW REMOVAL

Dec. 5-11	Gary Boots
Dec. 12-18	Curt Moe
Dec. 19-25	
Dec. 26-Jan. 1	

*Join us Sunday, Dec.
18th, 10:30 for our*



Ernie Wallace Blood Bank Schedule for December



Fri.	12/2	8:00 a.m.	to 3:30 p.m.
Sat.	12/3	10:00 a.m.	to 4:00 p.m.
Tue.	12/6	Noon	to 7:00 p.m.
Fri.	12/9	8:00 a.m.	to 3:30 p.m.
Tue.	12/13	Noon	to 7:00 p.m.
Fri.	12/16	8:00 a.m.	to 3:30 p.m.
Tue.	12/20	Noon	to 7:00 p.m.
Fri.	12/23	8:00 a.m.	to 3:30 p.m.
Tue.	12/27	Noon	to 7:00 p.m.

Hospital blood drives call
839-3490 for appointment