

The Circuit Writer
Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



Pastor's Page

Fellow disciples,

The world wants to tell us that we don't have to wait for anything anymore. With the Internet, we can find information on anything at any time. Fruits and vegetables of all kinds are sold in supermarkets regardless of the season. Credit cards let us buy things with money we don't have yet. Even when we do have to wait, we are surrounded with ways to occupy ourselves: magazines, elevator music, video games on a host of devices and on and on. In many ways, waiting seems at best like a lost art and at worst like an old annoyance.

The season of Advent teaches us how to wait. In the Scriptures and songs of the Advent season, we are told to make ourselves ready for Jesus as we remember his birth long ago and wait for his return in the future. We are to do more than twiddle our thumbs during this season - Advent has something to teach us in its own right. Instead of ignoring the 'not yet' qualities our ourselves and the world - where we have made mistakes, how the world needs to be healed, etc. - Advent invites us to prepare ourselves and act in the world so that we can all enjoy the coming of Jesus together. Instead of getting impatient and trying to do things our way, Advent teaches us to live within God's sense of time and grace. Instead of numbing our feelings by keeping ourselves busy, Advent helps us to put our need for restoration into focus so that we can rejoice all the more when we remember the birth of our Savior.

Give yourself and others a great gift this season - learn how to wait. Use this season to give glory to God as you examine your life so that you can be ready for all the blessings God has in store for you!

Living in abundant grace,

Rev. Michael Dettmer

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

November 3, 2011

Betty Luse called the meeting to order with 12 members present.

The October 6th minutes were accepted as read.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

TREASURER: Shirley Hackenbracht read the report for October.

SUNSHINE Report for September and October: Sympathy to Terri Dent and family; Get Well to Larry Ambrose, Mike Showalter, Wanda Middleton, Roland Walters; Birthday to Owen Larrick (92); Thinking of You to Louise Dellinger, Ann Hockman and Ethel Garber.

KITCHEN: Jean Estep reported that the October 31 Mason's dinner was a success and we received good comments. The Mason's will have only two dinner meetings next year.

November 16 UMM's dinner will be fried pork loin, white beans, greens, oven fried potatoes, cornbread and apple crisp.

The December 13 Ruritan's dinner was discussed. We will serve approximately 90 this year with the same charge of \$12.00 and the same menu of turkey, dressing, gravy, etc. Red velvet cake with cream cheese icing will be the dessert.

OLD BUSINESS: Joan Towe reported that GY Sgt Heather Brown is no longer stationed overseas, so the UMW will send a box to a female soldier in Afghanistan. A number of members brought items to fill the box. The new address is:

Sgt. Tiffany R. Brown
ATTN: Any Soldier
Task Force Saber
1/17 CAV
APO AE 09310

Freddie Forster discussed the Apple- Bluegrass Festival. The post-festival meeting minutes from the town office indicated that many vendors have already requested and paid for their same location for next year, and it was decided we wish to do the same; Freddie will follow-up.

NEW BUSINESS: Shirley H. brought up District UMC pledge for next year, UMCOR, and Camp Overlook. Discussions followed; Joan Towe made a motion we increase UMCOR to \$500; seconded by Pat Sperry, all approved, motion passed. Jean Estep made a motion that annual pledge remain at \$650 and Camp Overlook \$100; seconded by Joan Towe, all approved, motion passed.

Our successful fundraising at the Apple-Bluegrass Festival was discussed. Since many members of the church contributed baked goods to that portion of our sales, it was decided we would contribute those funds to the church general fund. Pat Sperry made a motion we contribute \$500 to the general fund; Margaret Harris seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Funds to be earned from the upcoming Ruritan's dinner on December 13 were discussed. Since this dinner is a church-wide project, it was decided that all the money earned from the dinner will be given to the church general fund; Jean Estep made a motion to such, Brenda Driver seconded, all approved, motion passed.

The November 13 baptism of Hannah Dettmer was discussed. It was decided that following the church service, the UMW will provide lunch for the Dettmer family and relatives. Bonnie and Jean will plan the meal.

Jennifer H. discussed the Apple Tree gifts for this year. The tree will be ready for picking on Sunday, November 6. Gifts are due back to Jennifer by November 27 for distribution to children of incarcerated persons by December 7.

Jennifer H. reported a few more cakes are needed for the Spaghetti Dinner to be held November 5; setup will be at 2:00 p.m.

UMW will distribute Christmas baskets, a SEARCH box, and gifts on December 10, at 8:00 a.m.

Lebanon-St. Stephens Choir will be performing at MJUMC on Sat. Dec. 3, 7:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet to bring food.

The slate of officers for 2012 was discussed. Jennifer H. made a motion that we accept the slate of officers listed below and Pat Sperry seconded; all approved, motion passed.

President - Joan Towe
Vice President - Betty Luse
Secretary - Freddie Forster
Treasurer - Shirley Hackenbracht

The 2011 UMW Charge Conference report will be prepared and submitted by Freddie Forster.

Joan closed the meeting with a prayer.

Freddie Forster,

Secretary

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## **MT. JACKSON UNITED METHODIST MEN**

### Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2011

The United Methodist Men of the Mt Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, November 16, 2011 in the church social hall with 20 members and 1 guest present.

The invocation was given by Pastor Mike.

Following a delicious baked pork tenderloin dinner served by the women of the church, the business meeting was called to order by the President, Steve Forster.

Ken Hackenbracht presented devotions entitled "Giving Thanks" based on 1 Thess. 5:15 followed by prayer.

The evening's program chairman, Joe Williams, introduced J. D. Fadely, Police Chief for the Town of Mt. Jackson, who gave a

very interesting talk on the daily workings of a small town police force. Chief Fadely outlined several ongoing programs aimed at reducing the crime rate, making the police department more accessible and visible, and involving the community through programs such as Neighborhood Watch. A bicycle patrol will be instituted in warmer weather.

The minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,272.74.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PRESIDENT** Steve thanked everyone who helped make 2011 a successful year for our organization and our church, including help with fundraisers, getting programs, presenting devotions, ushering, and supporting the Fellowship Breakfasts.

Ken Hackenbracht will serve as head usher in December.

Doug Estep reported the cost of the meal for the annual UMM Christmas Party will be \$14.00. The caterer, entertainment, and gifts are all set. The dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Showalter reported he and Sabrina hauled a load of wood to Terry Dent recently. He also bought an 8 foot wood rack and a kettle for humidity. Mike will inform the UMM about future wood deliveries for her.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- President Steve announced he had contacted each of the current slate of officers and all are willing to serve another year but the floor was now open for nominations of anyone willing to serve. Richard Orndorff moved all the current slate of officer's be re-elected to serve another year. Motion seconded by Billy Fiske. Motion carried unanimously.

- The President asked if there were any further donations or contributions to be made this fiscal year. There were none.

- The President asked if there were any fundraisers or events to be considered this fiscal year. There were none.

There was no other new business.

Before proclaiming the benediction, Pastor Mike reminded the group of the Community Thanksgiving Service at the Union Church at 4:00 pm, Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting then closed by singing the doxology.

Ken Hackenbracht  
Secretary



*We would like to thank the church choir for their service to the Lord this past year. Your dedication and voices are appreciated more than you will know.*



**Happy December Birthdays!**



- 12/01 Terri Dent
- 12/01 Karey Rexrode
- 12/10 Andrew Reynolds
- 12/13 Carolyn Henry
- 12/16 Tracey Hepler
- 12/18 Brian Hepler
- 12/19 J.W. Good
- 12/19 Connie Hepler
- 12/20 Katelyn Hackenbracht
- 12/21 Charles Towe
- 12/31 Lucas Ryan

**Early January Birthday's**

- 01/04 Brenda Driver
- 01/07 Rhea Jett
- 01/08 Teresa Ryan



**REMEMBERING THOSE OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY WHO HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD THIS PAST YEAR.**

- January 6th Merle Thorpe Sr.
- March 26th Jack Sperry
- May 19th Gene Harris
- August 28 Harry Tusing
- September 7 Ted Dent
- September 16 "Boots" Garland Frye

## A CALL FROM HEAVEN



Things were tight financially for my mother after my dad's long illness and his death. All of us children helped in anyway that we could, but Mom always figured out a way to make ends meet.

Since I lived long distance from my mom we figured out a plan.. When she wanted to talk with me she'd call, let the phone ring once, then she would hang up. I would call her back, saving her the long distance charge. Of course if I didn't call her back she knew that I wasn't home and would try again later. The one ring call became a part of our life. Often in the evenings if the phone rang once my children would rush to wherever I was, anxious for me to call Grandma back so they could talk with her.

My mom passed away five years after my dad, in October. Thanksgiving just wasn't the same without her. I missed going to visit her or her driving over to see us. I even missed the one ring phone calls.

Christmas morning arrived. The children had opened their presents and I was getting ready to start breakfast. The phone rang once and stopped. Mom had called this way every Christmas morning after the children had opened their presents to find out what they had gotten.

Goose bumps ran up my arm and tears filled my eyes as my son said, "That was Grandma calling from Heaven wasn't it mom?"

There was not a doubt in my mind when I answered my son, "Yes, I am sure it was."

God was letting us know that Grandma was doing fine.

c v.j. towe 1995

We will always remember those that have gone on before us. That special smile, that certain look or that wink of love. Their memories will linger in our hearts forever.

## WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS



Santa lives at the North Pole. Jesus is everywhere. Santa rides in a sleigh. Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year. Jesus is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies, Jesus supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited, Jesus stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited. You have to wait in line to see Santa, Jesus is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa let you sit on his lap, Jesus lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what your name?" Jesus knew our name before we were born...Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...Jesus has a heart full of love. All Santa can offer is HO HO HO. Jesus offers health, help and hope.

Santa says, "You better not cry." Jesus says, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys. Jesus makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but, Jesus gives you joy that is your strength. While Santa puts gifts under your tree, Jesus became our gift and died on a tree.. THE CROSS.

Unknown Author



**SPECIAL EVENTS**

December 4th, Sunday. The UMW's Christmas Party. 5:00PM in the Social Hall. All the women of the church are invited, bring a friend. Please bring a covered dish. Secret Sister's are revealed at the party.

December 9th, Friday, the UMM's Christmas Dinner at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall. This year the price of the dinner will be \$14.00 for each person. It is a catered dinner so please let Ken H. know so the UMM can have a head count for the caterer. The fellowship is great the food delicious and the Entertainment this year is "The Acapella-Bella" group. This is an event that we all look forward to so please RVSP as soon as you can.

December 10th the UMW's will be putting together the annual Christmas Baskets that they take to the shut-ins and those in elderly care, plus food items to the Search Home in Mt. Jackson. Items needed for baskets: Apples, Oranges, Pears, Individual wrapped little cakes, cans of small fruits or veggie's. Items needed for Search are Simple Puzzles, Mac and Cheese, Hot Chocolate anything that will feed six people. These items can be dropped off at church on the morning of the 10th or to any UMW member.

December 13th, the UMW will be feeding the West Shenandoah Ruritan's club, 90 plus people will be attending the dinner. We need all the help that we can. There will be a sign up sheet in the Social Hall for items needed and help needed. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year, so do what you can to participate. Thank You.

December 17th, Parsonage Open House. 2-5 PM.

December 25th. Christmas Day Worship Service at 11:00 AM.

**Church Calendar  
For December 2011**

|       |       |                                                         |                |                      |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 12/04 | Sun.  | <b>2nd Sunday of Advent (Yr. B),<br/>Purple or Blue</b> | 9:45 AM        | Sunday School        |
|       |       |                                                         | 10:00 AM       | Children/Youth SS    |
|       |       |                                                         | 11:00 AM       | Worship              |
| 12/05 | Mon.  | 7:00 PM                                                 | PPR Committee  |                      |
|       |       | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |
| 12/6  | Tues. | 7:00 PM                                                 | Choir Practice |                      |
| 12/09 | Fri.  | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |
| 12/11 | Sun.  | <b>3rd Sunday of Advent (Yr. B),<br/>Purple or Blue</b> | 9:45 AM        | Sunday School        |
|       |       |                                                         | 10:00 AM       | Children/Youth SS    |
|       |       |                                                         | 11:00 AM       | Worship              |
|       |       |                                                         | 2:30 PM        | Nominating Committee |
| 12/12 | Mon.  | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |
| 12/13 | Tues. | 7:00 PM                                                 | Choir Practice |                      |
| 12/16 | Fri.  | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |
| 12/18 | Sun.  | <b>4th Sunday of Advent (Yr. B),<br/>Purple or Blue</b> | 9:45 AM        | Sunday School        |
|       |       |                                                         | 10:00 AM       | Youth/Children SS    |
|       |       |                                                         | 11:00 AM       | Worship              |
| 12/19 | Mon.  | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |
| 12/20 | Tues. | 7:00 PM                                                 | Choir Practice |                      |
| 12/23 | Fri.  | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |
| 12/25 | Sun.  | <b>Christmas Day (Yr. B)<br/>White or Gold</b>          | 9:45 AM        | Sunday School        |
|       |       |                                                         | 10:00 AM       | Youth/Children SS    |
|       |       |                                                         | 11:00 AM       | Worship              |
| 12/26 | Mon.  | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |
| 12/27 | Tues. | 7:00 PM                                                 | Choir Practice |                      |
| 12/30 | Fri.  | 8:00 PM                                                 | AA, Library    |                      |