



# The Union News

## Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

PO Box 10—401 Lake Avenue East, Hackensack, MN 56452-0010

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey—you are welcome here”*



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PASTOR: The Rev. Michael Small

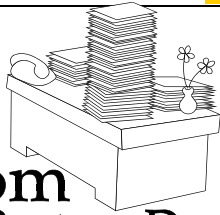
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## January 2012

### A NEW YEAR

## From the Pastors Desk



As I write this we are approaching the First Sunday of Christmas. The Sundays of January will include a celebration of Epiphany (a Christian festival, observed on January 6, or the nearest Sunday, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi; often known as the “Twelfth-day”), the baptism of Christ and the Sundays following Epiphany.

We do not leave the time of Christmas on December 25. I think about all the activities of Christmas for the folk of Union, and what a marvelous season it was! I remember the Sunday Olivia tried to tell me about the Christmas Story, the re-dramatization with angels, shepherds, the magi and even Santa Claus with Mrs. Claus. *From Age to Age* presented a Christmas Concert. We celebrated Winter Solstice with songs of peace. Christmas Eve and Day services celebrated the birth of the Christ. All – a re-telling of the story, a re-living the experience of the Spirit of Christ being somehow, miraculously, born into us, in us. We become the containers that manifest the Spirit of Christ.

Think about that for a while. . . containers of Christ, the manifestation of Christ, Christ to the world . . . As people of faith, is our faith focused on this Christ presence that lives within us? Assuming this to be true, how does this change us, how does this change those we live with and among, how does this change the world and all of creation?

To believe and live out lives that understand the presence of Christ within means that we make different choices. It means we listen for a voice that calls us to be more than just ourselves. A voice that comes from deep within, from past generations, from past experiences, a voice that is informed by generations of the faithful who

have known the Christ within. It means that we live life confidently and boldly.

Think about how Jesus the Christ experienced life. Born in a manger, in utter poverty, but born into a family and a faith, Jewish. Too often we put Jesus on a pedestal, thinking he could not have been anything like us, human with all our warts and foibles. I would ask you to set aside for a moment the deification of Jesus. Imagine him as a child growing up in a family who struggled to make ends meet. Times were bad, unemployment was high, a sharp division between the rich and poor, the insiders and outsiders. Think about his people, his community who remembered well the conquering Roman soldiers, a community who lived under the oppression of a foreign government. And with all of that going on, think about a people who are deeply religious, yet they long for a temple that is gone. Think about Jesus growing up, going to daily religious training, wondering about who he was and who he was to become. Think about him struggling with those issues. Think about him as a person who grew up with strong community ties, deep friendships and longtime childhood friends. See a Jesus who was very real, flesh and blood, with dreams and hopes, fears and questions, times of confusion and clarity. Think about Jesus as one who could have been a friend, an acquaintance, a brother.

Out of this remembering, out of these imagined experiences, we can begin to see the reality into which Jesus was born, lived and died. We can begin to know him as a real person, not very different from us. The power of who Jesus was and what he did becomes even more amazing when we know something of the reality of his existence. Jesus experienced the injustice of his time, his people and others living in poverty with systemic oppression all around them.

**Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School 10:15 A.M. (ages 4-6th grade), 11:30 (Adults)**

**Coffee Fellowship Following Service 11:00 A.M.**

**Communion: First Sunday each Month**





**The following 2012 budget was approved by the Church Council on 12/21/2011 for presentation to the Congregation at the January 2012 Semi-annual Meeting.**

	<b>Proposed 2012 Expenses</b>		<b>Proposed 2012 Expenses</b>
<b>Council Administration</b>		<b>Communications Ministry Team</b>	
Annual Report	\$0	Advertising	\$100
Assoc. Dues	\$1,800	Computer	\$0
Cont. Ed./			
Prof. & Meeting			
Exp.	\$0	Website	\$240
Council Ministry Teams	\$77	Newsltr BM	\$580
Postage	\$227		
Supplies	\$3,900	Bd of Facilities	
Telephone	\$2,037	Church Ins	\$5,600
		Custodial. S	
		& S	\$500
		Maintenance/	
Bd of Personnel		Repair	\$5,400
Misc.	\$0	Utilities	\$17,000
Pastor Compensation and Expenses			
		Bd of Financial Stewardship	
Annuity	\$7,329	Church Windows Support	\$399
Cont. Ed./			
Prof. & Meeting		Mailings	\$250
Exp.	\$1,840	Pew Envelopes	\$100
HDVDL			
Ins.	\$21,321	Bd of Outreach	
Housing	\$12,870	Outreach	\$200
Salary	\$38,401		
SS& Med	\$3,826	CUE	\$0
Travel	\$4,600	OCWM	\$4,600
Pastor's		Scholarships	
Discretionary		Ministry Tm	\$0
Fund	\$0		

Staff Compensation			
Custodial	\$3,190		
Nursery			
Attendant	\$0		
Parish			
Nurse	\$4,658		
Secretary	\$11,821		
Youth Co-ordinator	\$5,589		
Morning			
Out Director	\$1,815		
Morning			
Out Assistant Director	\$908		
Choir Direct	\$3,105		
Handbell			
Direct	\$0		
Organst/			
Acc	\$2,588		
SS &			
Medicare	\$2,576		
Bd of Christian Learning			
Curriculum	\$250		
Expendable Supplies	\$600		
Food Supplies	\$1,150		
		Bd of Worship	
		Altar Supplies	\$150
		Guest Minister	\$800
		Choir Robes	\$0
		Copyright	\$0
		Music & BC	\$0
		Upper Room	\$0
		Communion	
		Ministry Tm	\$50
		Other	\$50
		Bd of Congregational Life	
		Plastic Name Tags	\$292
		Paper Name Tags	\$30
		Thank You for Visiting Cards	\$110
		Sunday Hospitality Supplies	\$400
		Welcome Center	\$450
		Bd of Leadership	\$0
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$173,779</b>
		<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$172,152</b>
		<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$1,627</b>

## Board of Congregational Life

Carl Larson, chair

As 2011 closes, I have been reminiscing. As a boy growing up in a Scandinavian family whenever some one would visit our family would always have a “little lunch”.....some kind treat and always plenty of coffee. There was plenty of conversation and laughter. We kids learned a lot about family, sometimes things were told not to repeat!

At Union we still practice this tradition on Sundays after Worship. We gather in Friendship Hall, sit around tables sharing coffee and a treat. This leads to the need for host and hostesses for 2012. The new sign up sheets are on the bulletin board as you enter Friendship Hall. Perhaps you could commemorate an anniversary or visiting family so you can show off the

grandchildren. Or, perhaps you just want to contribute to our hospitality.

Each month a different Board or group will take care of the coffee service and clean up. In January the Choir will do those tasks. Sometimes it is those simple things as coffee, a treat and a visit around a table leads a person to want to join in worship with us because, “No matter where you are on your journey, you are welcome here.”

Our next New Member Sunday will be January 15<sup>th</sup>. If anyone wishes to join our church just contact the church office or myself. We can hardly wait for you to join us at our table.

**MEMBERS:** *Anne Broshar, Bud Leines, Virginia Shearer, Jerry Trout, Joanne Walsh, Carl Larson, chair.*

*What surprises will there be  
for us in 2012?*

### Men's Fellowship

John Stefan

As this year comes to an end, we look forward to a new year that will be as productive as this last year. This past year, Men's Fellowship held the 1<sup>st</sup> annual “Walleye Fish Fry” as a fund raising event which was very successful due to the efforts of its members. We were also able to increase the number of food boxes provided at Thanksgiving and Christmas from 24 to 30 due to special contributions from Women's Fellowship, Jerry Bisbee, and Gordon Ford. We also worked on the Christmas Tree Project, and served a pancake breakfast after the youth Christmas program. We hope to present some informative presentations at our monthly meetings this next year. Personally, I hope that we continue to build on the spirit of our fellowship and to be able to keep involved with the needs of the Hackensack community and surrounding areas. The next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 8:00 A.M. **Plan to attend and invite a friend.**

### January Birthdays

January 1.....	Evelyn Jones
January 2.....	Jack Shaffer
.....	Sue Peterson
January 3.....	Irene Schires
January 4.....	Geri Broberg
January 5.....	Myra Damm
January 11.....	Todd Shaner
January 12.....	Jerry Trout
.....	Jack Nissly
January 13.....	Micah Hunter-Small
January 14.....	Betty Nye
January 15.....	Jean Spring
January 16.....	Lois Anderson
.....	Joey Wallin
January 17.....	Jim Grove
.....	Libby Freeman
.....	Michelle Wallin
January 18.....	Gabriel Knutson
January 19.....	Mary Jo Towne
January 20.....	Don Patterson
January 21.....	Michael Rubitschung
January 22.....	Jenny Holle
.....	Sue Wignall
January 23.....	Elizabeth Bair
.....	Margaret Brown
January 25.....	Norma Skaug
January 26.....	James Cowie
.....	Mary McKinney
.....	Susan Welter
January 28.....	Oral Rubitschung
.....	Rick Hughes
January 29.....	Charlie Tauber
January 30.....	Lee Viskar

## Church Council January 8 Semi-annual Meeting

By Tom Cox, Chair

At our Semi-annual meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, The Board of Leadership Recruitment will move congregational approval of amendments to Article VII of our church Constitution. Article VII describes our Board structure and stipulates the number of persons on each of our nine Boards and their terms of office.

Your Board of Leadership Recruitment has recommended, and the Council has approved, reducing the membership of certain boards from six to four, as follows:

Christian Learning: (unchanged)	Six members
Communications: Team	Becomes a Ministry
Congregational Life: (unchanged)	Six members
Facilities:	Four members
Financial Stewardship: (unchanged)	Six members
Leadership Recruitment:	Four members
Outreach:	Four members
Personnel:	Four members
Worship (unchanged)	Six members

In addition, the terms of office of Board members is changed from three to two years, but the number of con-

secutive times a member may be reelected increases from one to two, which means the maximum length of time a member may serve on a given board without taking a year's sabbatical from that board remains the same at six years.

And finally, the term of the Clerk changes from three to two years, but the number of consecutive times the Clerk may be reelected changes from one to two, which means that the maximum length of time a Clerk may serve without taking a sabbatical year from office increases from four to six years.

The Board of Leadership Recruitment has proposed these changes because experience has revealed that not all boards can effectively use six members, and because it is increasingly difficult to recruit church members who are willing to serve as board members. The proposed changes will reduce the number of church members serving in elected office from 57 to 44.

This announcement appeared in greater detail in the December Newsletter, and copies of the proposed changes to Article VII are available in the church narthex to members who are interested in seeing the form these changes take in writing.



## Celebrating the Past: Historical Footnotes

Myra Damm, historian

Girl's basketball and the question of Equal rights figured in the history of this church in the winter of 1925-1926. The undefeated girl's teams played boys rules and discarded bloomer and middies in favor of newer and briefer models. This scandalized a conservative and vocal segment of the community. The Reverend Emil Hermann made this issue the subject of a sermon, which greatly pleased the girls, and settled the question once and for all. Three of those girls were Alice (Miell) Fleisher, Margaret (Thomas) Poore and Bea (King) Burnson. Information for this footnote comes from the girls, not the Church Register.

## BOARD OF OUTREACH MISSION FOR THE MONTH One Great Hour of Sharing

Lois Anderson, Chair

The Mission of the Month for January, 2012, is One Great Hour of Sharing. Sharing brings Joy to us, to others, to God. "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8) One Great Hour of Sharing has been in existence for over fifty years. It is an offering that makes the love of God real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada, and all use their OGHS funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more. The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing gives each of us the opportunity to share with people from around the world. When we help others improve their lives, we change their world and ours. Please consider making a donation to One Great Hour of Sharing during the month of January. There will be special envelopes in the pews for your convenience. You can make your check payable to UCC and designate it for OGHS, place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. Thank you for your generous contribution.



## BOARD OF WORSHIP

Orv Broberg, Vice Chair

Our "Little Town of Hackensack" sprung to life this past week with the Children's Christmas Program followed by a pancake breakfast, the Age to Age Concert, the Solstice Concert, a full house on Christmas Eve and a joyous service on Christmas Day with many Christmas carols and special music by Jim Sewell.

Among issues discussed at our Board of Worship meeting was the topic of the length of our worship services. Two items were discussed – 1) possibly having only one anthem per service – i.e. either the Bell Choir or the Sanctuary Choir – not both in one service and 2) reinstating the procedure of giving the moments person a note of any special event not in the bulletin and not pass the microphone around for individual comments. Michael will also discuss with the Worship Planning Committee for other time saving solutions.

A special thanks to Margaret Zieffler for her continued help in organizing the acolytes on Sunday mornings – she enjoys this task and the children enjoy "reporting" to Margaret.

The Supplemental Hymnal revision is still a work in progress. In last months' Newsletter, we requested the congregation to submit changes/additions they would like to see in the Supplemental Hymnal. We have received a few responses and found three of the requests are already either in TNCH or the present Supplemental Hymnal. Two additional items to be added will be the hymn – Children of the Heavenly Father and the "old" versions of Christmas Carols.

We will keep the request opportunities open until February-2012. If you have a favorite hymn which is not in the New Century Hymnal and you would like to have it in the Supplemental Hymnal, please write down the name, the hymnal it's found in (if known), and your name and telephone number. Place this information in the SUGGESTION BOX in the narthex or give it to Orv Broberg. Your suggestion will be considered by the Board of Worship in the update process.

## Look Out Your Window

Lee Moren

Last October, Joanne, Buddy, and I drove down to the cities to attend the yearly reunion of faculty members from the school where I taught for most of my career. Joanne helps me with the driving and Buddy helps with the eating. We have met on the third Thursday of October for over forty years. Until this year it has been a breakfast meeting but this year we convinced them to change to a lunch. We still leave home in the dark but not at 2:00 AM like before.

The first year we met at the Marigold Ballroom in St. Paul but since then have always met in Highland Park. It is always fun to see them all. After the meeting we always drive through the old neighborhood, just across the Ford Bridge, where I grew up.

This year we drove past Hiawatha Elementary School where I spent seven years under the care of some very capable teachers. Hiawatha was probably built around 1930 and was quite unusual for that era. It is a one story building located on two full blocks of land. The school takes up slightly more space than one half of one block so the playground is huge. The grounds include the usual swings, sandbox and monkey bars but also tennis courts and horseshoe pits. In the winter, a large area was flooded for a skating rink complete with a warming house. There was enough space so each room could have their own ball diamond.

One thing it did not have was a student lunchroom. We were expected to walk home for lunch and then back again for afternoon class. I lived eight blocks from Hiawatha, about as far as one could get without crossing the boundary for another elementary school. That meant that I walked 32 blocks each day or 2 ½ miles.

I started in kindergarten after Labor Day in 1939 and finished at Hiawatha in June of 1946. I spent all of WWII there.

Kindergarten was only half days. One half the school year in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. My teacher, Miss Beeler, was elderly and very nice. Our room was large and had tall windows and a cloakroom where we hung our jackets and left our overshoes. About all I can remember about kindergarten was that I got in trouble for playing guns in the cloakroom with two other boys and we had to sit in the corner for a while.

First grade was all day and we were expected to really learn something important: how to read. My teacher, Miss Lindholm, was younger. A few years ago I read in our retirement newsletter that she was the oldest member at 107. By first grade, I could double numbers up to 16 so math was not a problem but colors had me stumped. I could see different col-

ors but I had no idea what they were called. This really worried me and I was afraid I would have to repeat the grade. I did what any kid would do, I cheated. The girl sitting behind me lived down the street near home. She knew the names of the colors and she whispered them to me so I could get it right. I never confessed this to Miss Lindholm and I hope she doesn't read this.



Miss Blodget was my second grade teacher and she liked me. She thought I could do something and encouraged me.

Miss Horkey wasn't so sure of my ability but I made it through third grade. Here we learned multiplication and division. We used flash cards and had to memorize. Mostly, I remember

that I got hit in the head with the softball bat while playing catcher. I never liked playing catcher after that.

Fourth grade was Mrs. Dahl. She is the only one I was sure was married. She was elderly and I can remember her reading us the newspaper on June 7, 1944, the day after D Day. Mrs. Dahl was also my piano teacher for a while until she wrote my folks a note and advised them to save their money and let me play ball instead. A wise lady.

Fifth grade was a very good teacher, Miss Rudd. She was middle aged and had a very old fashioned hairdo. Her room had a storage closet in the back and in there she had stacks of books for general interest reading. Any time we had our work done we could go back and take one of those books and keep it at our desk until we had finished it. The one I remember most was "King Arthur."

Miss Massa taught grade six and I remember the indoor picnics. The food was great and different from home. It was prepared and served by the PTA mothers and we ate at our desks. We thought that being able to eat lunch in school was like the big kids so that was a treat too. It was at the indoor picnic that I discovered a wonderful baked hot dish with meat and noodles and tomatoes. It was wonderful but not on the Swedish menu that I lived with at home. I carefully picked through my serving and memorized what it contained and when I got home I told Mom. Mom would fix anything I asked for so she tried the hot dish and with her wealth of experience, duplicated that wonderful dish. Dad seemed to like it too and soon it became one of Mom's standards. Joanne makes it now and I still think it is great.

Now that I am older and taught school myself I realize what a good, professional job those teachers did with a bunch of probably rather ignorant kids. Thank you very much.

## Ground Floor Coffee House



OPEN Saturdays, 6-9pm

- January 14 - Gaming night- bring your X-box
- January 21 - Open Gym at Community Building
- January 28 - cooking chili to sell next day at church
- Feb. 4 - special movie night with pop corn!
- Feb. 11 - making candy to sell next day at church
- Feb. 18 - Open Gym at Community Building

### Donate for chili making project:

- 1 lb or more of ground beef.
- onions.
- cans of tomatoes/tomato sauce.
- chili powder, garlic powder, cumin powder.
- sharp, cheddar cheese.
- Help make chili on Jan 28 - 6:00-8:00 PM
- \* Cook for Family Table on Jan. 11 or Feb. 8.

### HOT CHILI - January 29 - 11:00 - 1:00 PM.

Plan to eat in or take home a container of hot chili for lunch on fifth Sunday, January 29 in celebration of Back to Hack weekend! Children and Youth will make and serve chili after worship in Friendship Hall. Invite your friends.

**THEN - Candy Sale on Feb. 12! Orders will be taken!**

## MOVIE NIGHT RETURNS

Monday Movie Night will resume on January 9. Soup will be available at 5:30 PM and all are invited to bring a sandwich and join us prior to viewing the movie selection of the month. The January movie will be "The Help" and will be shown on the BIG SCREEN on the lower level of the church. This movie, adapted from the book, is praised by movie-goers across the country. If you've seen the movie, come and see it again. If you haven't seen it, take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see a real classic on the big screen. If you would like to come and need a ride, please call the church office with information and we will make arrangements for transportation. Join the fun and fellowship.



## YOUTH SCHEDULE

Wednesdays-- Gifts of the Heart (K-4th, 5th-7th) & Hand bells for 5th - 7th graders; Family Table 6pm; Youth Group (8th - 12th):

- \* Jan. 11 - Beginnings & Bells
- Jan. 18 - Bouncing Balls & Bells. Cooking for Family Table - Karen Holle
- Jan. 25 - Balance & Bells Cooking for Family Table - Kristi Bodalh, Linda Suvada, Deb Holloway
- Feb. 1 - Lifting Spirit & Bells. Cooking for Family Table - Connie Grage
- Feb. 8 - Candy making & Bells.

Fridays-- Morning Out (infants to preschool), Jan 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb 3 & 10, 10am

**Thank you Thank you Thank you! - for Dec. 18! Children, adults, Mr and Mrs Santa, Men's Fellowship, Age to Age and WHA Choir, Crafts help. It was ALL wonderful!**

## Board of Christian Education

Marty Mann, Chair

The Monday morning reading group has taken a recess and will begin meeting again on January 9 at 9:30 in the church library. We will listen to a taped interview which aired on Minnesota Public Radio early in December, of Bishop John Shelby Spong, as he discussed his recently released book, "Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World". Spong has authored many books and is regarded as one of Christianity's frontier twenty-first century thinkers. The interview will allow us to understand some of his reasoning regarding this new book. Those in attendance will decide if they wish to purchase the book and become a part of the weekly discussion.

In his thorough, substantive guide, Spong explores the origin and essential meaning of each of the individual books in the Bible, examining the background, the context, the level of authenticity and even the trust - worthiness of the messages found there. He explains why these particular books, written between two and three thousand years ago, came to be regarded as authoritative and preserved as sacred; he traces the pathway that biblical religion has traveled as it evolved through the centuries, and he shows how people have misused many of these texts in the service of their prejudices.

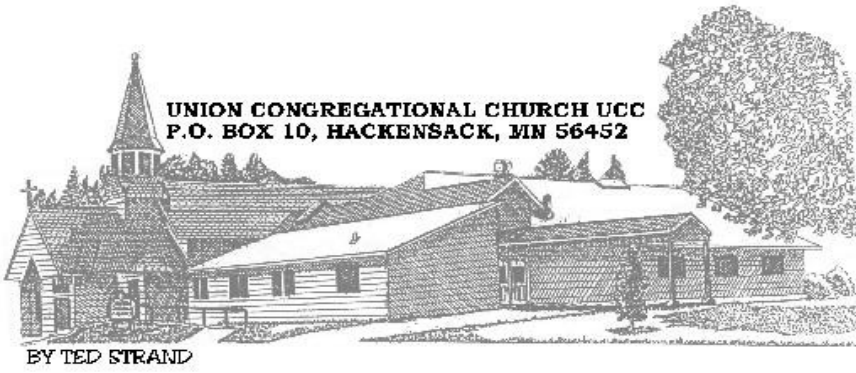
All are invited to join in this group, whether they wish to read the book or not. Bring a friend or neighbor and join us beginning January 9.

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Church Office: 218-675-6300**  
**Mission of the month: One Great Hour of Sharing**

**January**  
**2012**

**Bone Builders**  
**M-W-F 1:30PM**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Worship 10am Fellowship 11am	2 Book Study 9:30-11am Worship Planning 11am	3 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon Men's Fellowship 8am Women's Bible Study 9am @ Sr Class Handbell Choir 10am	4 Secretary in Office 8-Noon Gifts of Heart 3:30p Family Tab 6pm Youth Group 7pm	5 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon	6 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon Pastor's Day Off Morning Out 10am	7 6p Coffee House
8 Worship 10am Semi-Annual Meeting Fellowship 11am	9 Book Study 9:30-11am MOVIE NIGHT— <i>The Help</i> Soup at 5:30pm	10 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon Women's Bible Study 9am @ Sr Class Handbell Choir 10am	11 Secretary in Office 8-Noon Gifts of Heart 3:30p Family Tab 6pm Youth Group 7pm	12 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon NO Women's Fellowship	13 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 10am Morning Out	14 6p Coffee House
15 Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Adult Sunday School	16 Book Study 9:30-11am Worship Planning 11am	17 Secretary in Office 8am-noon Women's Bible Study 9am @ Sr Class Handbell Choir 10am Council Meeting 7pm	18 Secretary in Office 8am-noon Gifts of Heart 3:30p Family Tab 6pm-Turkey Dinner Youth Group 7pm	19 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon	20 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon Pastor's Day Off 10 Morning Out	21 6pm Coffeehouse
22 Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Adult Sunday School	23 Book Study 9:30-11am	24 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon Women's Bible Study 9am @ Sr Class Handbell Choir 10am	25 Secretary in Office 8am-noon Gifts of the Heart 3:30pm Family Table 6pm Youth Group 7pm	26 Secretary in Office 8a-noon	27 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 10am Morning Out	28 6pm Coffeehouse
29 Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Adult Sunday School	30 Book Study 9:30-11am	31 Secretary in Office 8a-Noon Women's Bible Study 9am @ Sr Class Handbell Choir 10am				



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**FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED**

Monday Movie Night re-  
sumes Monday, January 9.  
Soup at 5:30 PM  
bring a sandwich

