Manger Musings

December 2011

PEMBERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 45 Hanover St., Pemberton, NJ 08068 609-894-8015 email office@pemberton-umc.org





This Sunday, Dec. 4 at 10:45 AM Worship

The story of Christ's birth in Scripture and carols with choir and congregational singing. After worship, we will decorate our sanctuary and have a fellowship lunch with pizza. Family friendly!

Service of Light in the midst of Darkness

Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3:00 PM, chapel

An intimate service for those who are experiencing a loss of a job, loved one, depression, loneliness and/or disappointment during the holidays and seek a time of quiet reflection with God.



Here We Come to Bethlehem



Christmas Eve, Dec 24 4:30 PM Family Service,

Come to Bethlehem with Mary, Joseph and LIVE ANIMALS. Candle lighting service with music sing-a-long, and a children's surprise. Come worship with donkey, Ilama, sheep, and goats in our sanctuary petting pen. Family friendly!

Candle Light Communion & Choir Canata

Christmas Eve, Dec 24 at 8 pm

"Joy to Bethlehem" a new choir celebration of Christmas will be our worship service. Caroling, candle lighting and communion for all.





Poinsettias- Christmas 2011

Poinsettias are available in red at a cost of \$6.00 each.

We will have them on December 18- But you cannot take then home yet!

Return this form to Sue Conover or to the church office PO Box 282; Pemberton, NJ 08068.

Name:	Quantity:
In Honor Of:	In Memory Of:



Christmas Candy from UMW

CONNIE'S DELICIOUS HAND-DIPPED CHOCOLATE PRETZELS

	3 -	\$3.00
	6 -	\$6.00
Bakers dozen w/tin	13-	\$12.00

Your preference:

Milk Chocolate: #_____

Dark Chocolate:#_____

White Chocolate:#_____

Assorted:#_____

Homemade All Natural Apple Butter (no sugar, only honey): \$5.50_____

Homemade All Natural Apple Chutney (no sugar, only honey): \$5.50_____

To order, contact any UMW member, December 1 thru December 15 or call 609-894-2348 (Louane Haines)



CAROLING

It's that time of year again, when we bring the joyful sounds of Christmas carols to those unable to come out and hear them during



worship times. On **Wednesday**, **Dec. 21** we will meet at the church **at 6:00 pm** and drive from house to house. Afterwards we will have refreshments at pastor Jere's weather permitting. Any questions please contact Pastor Jere for more information.

ADULT RETREAT, Saturday march 24

This year we are having a ONE DAY RETREAT at America's Keswick. The cost is only \$30. For lunch and dinner and materials, so mark your calendars.

Angel Tree-



Proclaim the Good News! Share the gift of Christmas neiahborhood with some families through Nesbitt Center at Sunbury. The need is for hoodies to keep warm (hooded sweatshirts). We have pledged 35 boxed and wrapped hoodies: 10 large girls'. 10 medium woman's'. 10 men's small and 5 men's

large. A small Christmas tree with angel tags is in the back of the sanctuary. Please take a tag, purchase the gift, wrap it and place the tag

describing the gift on the back of the present. Or if you prefer, you can just bring a hoodie to the church with the size marked on it but please do not donate money because we are not able to purchase and wrap



extra gifts. You can bring the present to our church anytime; but **the deadline is Sunday Dec. 18**.

Crossroads Party

The UMW will once again have Christmas presents with Crossroads Youth Home. Contact Judy Misner for dates & times. *From the pastor...* The Advent season is not merely a build up to "O Holy Night" on Christmas Eve. Advent is intended to help pew pilgrims like you and me, make our yearly journey to Bethlehem *AND* to look beyond Bethlehem and Calvary to the day when Christ will return. This is a time of flashbacks and previews: reminding us that Christ has already come and that Christ will come again in glory.

The incarnation, the birth of Jesus has already happened. Christmas is NOT your birthday – it's Jesus'! So besides trying to find the perfect gift for loved ones, what if we consider what Jesus would want as a gift. Among other commandments that God tells us in the Bible, I think these things might be on Jesus' wish list:

- ✓ Faith: John 11:25 Jesus yearns for us to have everlasting life in Him.
- ✓ Worship: Matt. 22:47 Jesus calls upon us to love the Lord that we may give God our praise and thanks in worship with other believers.
- ✓ Good News: Matt 10:7 8 The mission of the disciples is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, including curing the sick.
- ✓ Feed the poor: Matt 14:16 Jesus tells us, his disciples, to give the people something to eat, to feed them in body, soul, and mind.

Jesus' wish list takes time and love just like my gifts to loved ones - some of them are practical (and predictable) actions, some of them are serendipity presents. Surely, Christ is my most beloved one and I want to give him my most special, best and even sacrificial gift. So I ask myself, did I take the time, the effort the money and the love to answer Jesus wish list? Or did I invest all my efforts on myself and those I know? The question I invite all of us to ask ourselves is: **What do I give Jesus on His birthday**?

I have received the wonderful gift and privilege of serving as your pastor during 2011. Michael and I thank you for this joy and your generosity. I pray each of you finds a worship service that accommodates your family celebrations so that we do place Christ at the center of our Christ – mass! At PUMC, we will have 4:30 PM candlelight service with LIVE manger scene and 8:00 PM candlelight communion with choir cantata and 10:45 AM worship on Christmas Day. Pastor Jere

		D	ecember	2011		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Bible Study closing	2 Christian Brothers	3
4 10:45 Worship and Sunday School Service of Lessons & Carols decorate church & Pizza	5 Choir practice 6:45 p.m.	6 Surflight meet at church at 10:45	7	8 Community Luncheon 12:15	9	10
11 10:45 Cantata Worship and Sunday School	12 Choir practice 6:45 p.m.	13	14	15	16 Christian Brother	17
18 10:45 Worship and Sunday School 4:00 pm Service of Light in the midst of Darkness 3 pm	19 Choir practice 6:45 p.m.	20	21 Caroling Meet in parking lot at 6 PM	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm Family Service 8:00 Communion
25 10:45Worship and Sunday School Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

