



Orting United Methodist Church

The Messenger



A neighborhood church in the heart of the community

Our Mission is to serve God, the Church, and the Community by raising the Christian awareness of every individual by caring and sharing God's Love.

December 2008-January 2009

Advent Events

November 30th

HOPE

First Sunday of Advent -- Hope

Lighting of First Advent Candle

Hanging of the Greens in Worship

Special Music by Choir: *"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"*

December 3rd

United Methodist Women 12:00 pm

December 7th

PEACE

Second Sunday of Advent -- Peace

Lighting of Second Advent Candle

Special Music by the Choir: *"The Lone Wild Bird"*

Holy Communion, Holiday Potluck

December 14th

JOY

Third Sunday of Advent -- Joy

Lighting of Third Advent Candle

Special Music by Sunday School Children

Special Music by the Choir: *"Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice"*

Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins 4:00 pm

Soup Supper and Christmas Sing-A-Long 6:30 pm

December 21st

LOVE

Fourth Sunday of Advent -- Love

Lighting of Fourth Advent Candle

Special Instrumental Prelude

Christmas Pageant

Food Baskets and Adopt-A-Family Gifts given out

December 24

A Service of Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

December 25

Christmas Day! Rejoice Christ our Savior is born!



Thanksgiving Baskets were very much appreciated by the recipients. I would like to thank you all for participating. We are now gearing up for Christmas and hope you will come through for us once again...

Christmas Baskets

It is time to bring food to fill the Christmas Baskets for families in our community who need our help. We are collecting various food items weekly in order to be ready to put the donations together to be picked up on Dec. 23, the Sunday before Christmas. Here is a list of items we would like to have donated:

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Bottled salad dressing, canned vegetables and canned fruit.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Gravy mix, canned cranberries, hot chocolate or spiced cider mix.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Stuffing mix, Jell-O (in fruit flavors), canned yams and olives.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Hard candy (bagged), 10 lb. bag of potatoes, fresh apples.

Please feel free to bring any items at any time. The above list is simply a guide for your donating.

Giving Tree

Again this year we will adopt families for Christmas and buy gifts for them. Gift tags listing what to buy will be placed on the small white tree in the fellowship hall. You may take a tag and buy what it says. Bring the item back, wrapped, with the tag attached so we will know whom to give it to. **Thank you for your generosity.**

Charge Conference

You will have the opportunity to meet our new Tacoma District superintendent, Sharon Moe, at our

annual meeting Dec 9, following worship. Everyone is invited to attend the dinner, prepared by Janet Bjork and the United Methodist Women, and the meeting. This will be a time of celebrating the work we have done this year at Orting UMC. We will also elect officers, adopt budget items and make recommendations concerning the running of our church. Please join us on this joyful day!

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

Come one, come all! On Sunday evening, **December 16.**

There will be a dinner for the returning carolers at **6:30 pm** in the fellowship hall and then we will have a jammin' evening of Christmas music--everybody welcome--bring your musical instrument and/or your voice. Let's have a good time sharing Christmas music!

Happy Birthday to you...

December

- 2 Sharla Bode
- 10 Eloise Schinnell
- 18 Kim Kalina
- 30 Janet Langowski

January

- 2 Pastor Carol
- 15 Kaelin Zirkle
- 19 Shirley Olson
- 19 John Downs
- 23 Mary Lou Lewis

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| \$ | |
| FINANCIAL UPDATE | |
| Budget for 2008 | \$79,962 |
| Needed monthly (avg.) | \$ 6,664 |
| Income for Nov. | \$ 6,602 |
| Disbursements in Nov. | \$ 6,676 |
| \$ | |

December 4, 2008

*Dear Friends and Members of
Orting United Methodist
Church,*

Here we are getting ready for Christmas again, preparing and waiting for that special day. Yet if we are not observant, we may get through Christmas and not notice how it has come.

Christmas comes in the smiling grateful faces of those we give holiday baskets and Christmas gifts from our Giving Tree. It comes in the glow of candle flames burning brightly as we recognize that the dead wood of our lives can be transformed, through fire, into warmth and light. Day by day as we give of ourselves and our gifts, we come ever closer to Christmas.

Christmas comes in the one legged man who struggles to pull himself out of his wheelchair and scrambles down the rocky bank to spend the next few hours fishing in the river. Such is Christmas that we go beyond what might be expected of us to accomplish things even we never thought possible in a way that encourages hope in ourselves and others.

Christmas comes in a world where people are hurting financially as they look for new ways to give gifts of love to their dear ones, gifts that keep on giving, as the saying goes, because they unbind cords around the heart, cords that have held us captive in our own souls. A smile, a song, a word of encouragement, a listening ear, the gift of time and attention.

Christmas comes when people gather to worship God and to honor Jesus Christ and are uplifted by the prayers, the music, the presence of each other. Don't let Christmas pass you by. Come and worship with us.

*Shalom,
Pastor Carol*

Please Pray for:

- Keith Dyson and Markus Dennis for preaching while Pastor Carol and Sulmo were vacationing in Turkey.
- Frank Shride and George Bauman for guidance in the stained glass window project.
- Cheryl Dyson for leadership of the Windows of the Soul study.
- To the United Methodist Women for putting up the Sukkoth booth.
- All who brought food for the Thanksgiving baskets and to Greta Gleydura for overseeing the distribution.
- To the choir for singing at the EPCC Thanksgiving Service, and to Cheryl Dyson for directing and Denise Mabry for accompanying them.
- Worship leaders in November-- Keith Dyson, Cheryl Dyson, Denise Mabry and Mike Bettis.
- To the United Methodist Women who provided and served the meal for our Annual All Church Conference November 23.
- Dave Lillie and Arnold Olson for yard work.
- Rosalie Gronka and Bob Gardella for supplemental church cleaning.
- Arnold and Shirley Olson for attending the small church workshop in Yakima on our behalf.
- Sue Fletcher and Stacey Straughn for office help.
- Shirley and Arnold Olson for mailing the newsletter, Emma Ford for mailing label preparation, and Sharon Starr for editing.
- Youth Coffee House workers in November--George Bauman, John Downs, Mark Gleydura, Patty Chouery and Pastor Carol.
- All church officers and leaders who served us so well in 2008. Welcome to our newly elected officers for 2009--we are looking forward to your leadership.

A Big Thank you:

- The Shride family in the death of Frank's daughter.
- Don Stebbins, Pastor Carol's brother is hospitalized with pancreatitis, intestinal blockage and melanoma.
- Bob Gardella is home and recovering well after his scare relating to medication overdose which required hospitalization and time in nursing care.
- Shut-ins: Margaret Eilers, Harrison Ford, Helen Larson, Howard & Jean (Webster) Pitts, Anne Spangler, and Rosemary Todd.

Are you interested in a church New Year's Eve Party?

Informal music, board games, maybe a movie, snacks to welcome the coming of 2009? Let Pastor Carol know your thoughts and your availability.

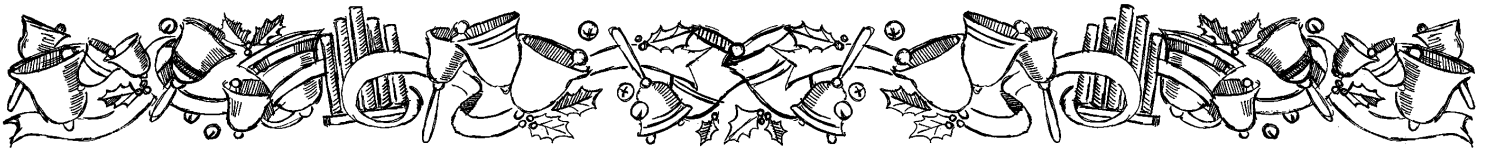
Church Planning Meeting set for January 17.

All the new officers, all the continuing officers, anybody who would like to be a part of the conversation about our plans for the coming year....

You are all invited to a church planning session on Saturday, Jan. 17, 11:30 am to 3:00 pm

Church in Mission

We are looking for people to go to Centralia January 3 to help Heather put up drywall and paint and anything else that might need doing, Lunch will be provided, If you need a ride let pastor Carol or Greta know we will try to help.



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