



## FRUITA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2011

[www.fruitaumc.org](http://www.fruitaumc.org)



from the  
Pastor's pen

December 2011

This is an invitation...to unwrap the story of Christmas...see the un-usual, the extra-ordinary...and the un-forgettable...and to consider "what if THIS Christmas is the one that redefines it all?"

What's amazing is that you might find YOURSELF in the story!

Jesus came to us as a weak baby, to an ordinary family without power. The manger that cradled him was as far "outside the box" of the expected as one could imagine. ~ As we expect the unexpected Jesus this Advent, we are also called to get to the work of building the kingdom that Jesus announced in body and in word. We are called to **become the unexpected body of Christ in the world.**

In 1 Corinthians 12, we read that we are a body made up of many diverse members. And if "the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable" (v. 22), we should seek to make this body of Christ whole—one "weak" member at a time. One step is to **reach out** beyond our own boxes, to invite folks with varied abilities *and* disabilities to gather in the same space, at the same time. Can't you just see the beautiful diversity of members of the Body of Christ?

With the printing of this newsletter we are already through the First Sunday of Advent. However, there is plenty of time, for you and those you invite to join you, to hear more about the theme for the season, when we prepare for the arrival of the Messiah, of "*Outside the Box, The Gift That Can't be Contained.*" We will "unwrap" the story of Jesus' birth and experience, in fresh ways, Love personified. We'll contemplate ancient Scriptures, dig into Christmas traditions and learn to relate to experiences of transformation brought through Christ's birth.



The Advent season will finish with our Christmas Eve service, December 24 at 9 p.m. My pastor/husband, Gene, will join me to serve you Holy Communion during our worship with candles and carols. It is our prayer that you'll take Christmas **out of the box** this year as you experience this special time of the

year.

Be sure to read through the WHOLE newsletter as it is filled with news of our ministries and committees AND events coming in the life of our congregation. *Be sure to mark your calendars* for the **Charge Conference** on December 17 at 7 p.m. after the Community **Christmas Cantata** at 4 p.m.

Until then continue to be...

...Abiding in Him,

Pastor Dea

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*“God with Us, EMMANUEL”*  
*A Christmas Musical*

Saturday, December 17 @ 4 p.m.  
Sanctuary of Fruita UMC



The annual Giving Tree with gift-idea-ornaments is on the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. There are 9 families (A through I) organized by school, and each school has a specific color ornament. The family's requests have come from the three elementary schools (Loma, Shelledy and Rim Rock) and Fruita Middle School.

Choose an ornament and remove it from the tree to do your shopping with. Sign up on the corresponding family's sheet so that we know you've got an ornament. **PLEASE RETURN THE UNWRAPPED GIFTS** you've chosen by **Sunday, DECEMBER 11**. You can help, along with other volunteers, wrap the gifts, do extra shopping that might be needed, and deliver the gifts to the schools.

*If shopping is not in your schedule or something you'd care to do you can contribute with gift cards and/or money that will be used to do the shopping for you. This is especially helpful for the older kids☺ Our goal is for each child to have 2 presents, for instance, an article of clothing and a toy. Also, if you would like to just donate new toys, books, games, etc. that is also most welcome, as we can always find a place for any contributions. For more information or gift ideas please talk to **Michele Potter** after worship or she can be reached at 234-3190.*

## Trustees

We have finished the first section of new sidewalk to the back door, next step to build the fence extension during the Thanksgiving break. Plans are working to have a power chair installed down the East wall of the ramp to the Fellowship hall. Quotes are in process for a new outside weather proof chair lift to the front entrance, with an extended roof to front door, funding badly needed to accomplish this project. Other planned projects: complete side walk from back section to city walk and redo old apron at East entry. We badly need to replace most of the irrigation piping system, as we do the cement side walk work as the walkway needs to be wider for wheel chair use.

I will be happy to explain these proposals, if you have any questions.  
Your Trustee team, Nick Calhoun Trustee chairman



## Sunday School News

Samantha Baker invites all children (up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade) to come down for Sunday school during service. They have been studying Joseph and his colorful coat and doing a craft. We have started Christmas program practice too.

# Fruita United Methodist Women

## UMW Christmas Party!



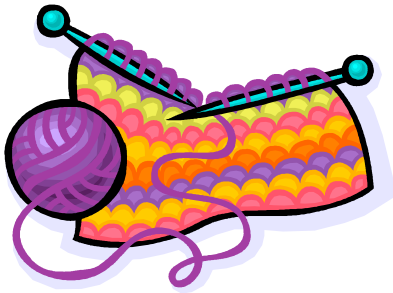
**What:** Fruita United Methodist Women Christmas Party

**When:** Monday December 5th at 6:30 PM

**Where:** Fruita UMC Fellowship Hall

**Details:** Fruita United Methodist Women and their spouses or a guest are invited to celebrate the Christmas season with a party! UMW will provide a ham. Members will bring side dishes, salads and desserts. Please bring a wrapped Christmas gift to the church, needs include: coffee, 39 gallons garbage bags, and toilet paper. **We hope to see you there!**

**All women who attend Fruita UMC are invited to join United Methodist Women. We meet the first Monday of the month for fellowship and a timely program. What a great way to start the New Year. Won't you join us on January 2nd?**



## Chix with Stix/Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will not have a meeting in December, as Michele and I are trying to get our own Christmas presents done at this time. We will, however, start up with renewed vigor in January on the 3rd Sunday and possibly the 5th Sunday, if there is enough interest.

So get your yarn, hooks/needles and patterns ready. Come in if you want to learn to knit or crochet. Bring in a project that has just been sitting in that basket nagging you to "get me finished." We will help you however we can. If you let me know a little ahead of time, I can bring in some suggested patterns for you to work on.

Those of you that quilt, do needlework, cross-stitch or craft can bring you projects, too. We have tried our hands at most of them and love to see what you are working on and may be able to help if you are stuck.

See you in January! Judy Van Dahm and Michele Potter



Saturday, December 17

7:00 p.m.

Presided by Rev. Steve Goodier

District Superintendent

## News from the Pews



**THANK YOU** from the Stewardship Committee for a successful campaign to support our church with your gifts of talents for mission and ministry and financial support for our programs and budget. Your prayerful consideration about what and how you can give is confirmation of your commitment to Fruita United Methodist Church and God's Church. You've shared your blessings and shown that you've "harvested YOUR best fruit." Blessings to you!

\*\*Welcome new church members Fleeta Arnold, Cal and Dana Smith on Nov 6, 2011. Cal joined on profession of faith, Dana transferred from First UMC in GJ and Fleeta (Dana's mom) transferred from Woodinville Community UMC in Woodinville, WA. We are very happy they have joined our church family!

\*\*Prayers are needed for two of the Farley men, Jim & Tom were in an Artic cat accident on Wed. Tom has a broken neck and fractured vertebrae in his back. He was scalped by the barbed wire fence he landed in. He was in St. Mary's but was suppose to go to Jim's

today to start recovery. Jim was thrown from the car but his foot got tangled in the steering wheel and he was dragged about 90 ft. He went home after a short visit at the hospital. Ruth can use some prayers also!

\*\*Continued Prayers for Doug Burford's Dad who had to be returned to St. Mary's from Mesa Manor for more testing.

\*\*Vi Searcy called and said that Dale is much improved. They will keep him at the hospital for a while and then back to the Oaks as he gains strength. This is an amazing turn for Dale your prayers mean so much.

### **Navajo Taco Dinner Bazaar and Cookie Walk**

Many thanks to:

- ❖ Lorie Gregor and Winnie Storm for heading up the Taco kitchen
- ❖ Nancy Yeckley and Paula Hammon for coordinating the Bazaar
- ❖ Charlene Longhorn (and family) for providing guidance at the Cookie Walk table
- ❖ AND to everyone who contributed goodies and time to the entire event – or just ate there.

On behalf of the organizing committee for the Navajo Tacos and Holiday Bazaar Lorie Gregor et al want to thank each and every one of you who contributed to this event. As you know this is our major fundraiser for the year and we are happy to report a total of \$2,842 which is \$356 more than last year! We certainly have a wealth of talents in our congregation and we appreciate you sharing them. It is exciting to see this event grow each year and we could not have done it without each and every one of you!

Gratefully Yours

### **Pastor Deanne Sharp Sermons Fruita United Methodist Church December 2011**

December 4 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Service with Holy Communion

Series: Outside the Box: The Gift That Can't Be Contained

"Open Up: Acceptance"

Isaiah 40:1-6a

December 11 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Series: Outside the Box: The Gift That Can't Be Contained

"Open Up: Family"

Isaiah 61:1-4

December 18 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Series: Outside the Box: The Gift That Can't Be Contained

"Open Up: Yourself"

2 Samuel 7:1-3

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Series: Outside the Box: The Gift That Can't Be Contained

"Keeping Christ in Christmas"

Luke 2:1-14

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

"Four Reasons Why Christmas Matters"

John 1:1-14



## Newsletter NEWS

This newsletter gets better and better with

YOUR contributions.

What is your ministry or mission or committee doing? The congregation should hear about it!

Email articles to [lauri.baker@d51schools.org](mailto:lauri.baker@d51schools.org)

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