



# The Messenger

Newsletter of University Place Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Champaign, Illinois 61820-4503

December 2018

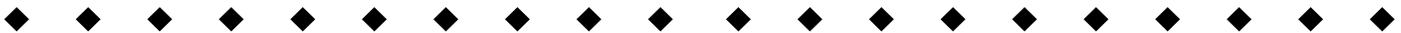
Volume 90 No. 12

## The Gifts We Bring

Our stewardship theme for this season is “The Gifts We Bring.” Hopefully you received a mailing, around Thanksgiving Day, inviting you to join with others in our congregation in pledging your financial support for 2019. As the letter details, our impact in this community grows month by month: Creating a safe and welcoming place for children after school Monday through Friday, an Open Door to the Community on both Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings to share nutritious food with our neighbors in need, a hospitable table for the hungry every Wednesday night at Community Dinner, family-friendly events for children of our congregation and community, and the wide welcome of the communion table every Sunday. This is a congregation which knows how to feed body and soul.



If you did not receive the mailing, please contact the church office by emailing [secretary@uniplace.org](mailto:secretary@uniplace.org) or calling 217-352-5118 to request a letter and pledge card. Through the sharing of your estimate of giving, we can budget responsibly for the coming year. Thank you for supporting Christ’s work in Champaign-Urbana!



### Daily Bread Backpack Give-Away

UniPlace is joining with others in the Champaign-Urbana community to fill backpacks as Christmas gifts to those who are homeless or otherwise struggling this Christmas season. The backpacks are a “gift of warmth,” filled with all the things you would want to have at hand this winter: Chapstick, warm gloves and hat, sweatshirt, good socks, new t-shirt, long underwear, scarf, etc. General toiletry items are also welcome. Please bring NEW items to donate for the effort and place them in the large woven basket at the front of the sanctuary by December 5<sup>th</sup>. We will fill the backpacks and get them to Daily Bread before their give-away on December 14. For more information about the project, follow this link:

<https://dailybreadsoupkitchen.com/2017/01/30/backpack-project/>

***Musically Speaking***

The sounds of Advent are upon us, almost. The postponed gratification of the celebration of good news, the inherent longing for it (spread over three weeks and four Sundays) inform the UPCC music experience as well.

Nostalgia for the ineffable historical beauty of the First Coming forms a transhistorical arch with the imagery of eschatological hope. The sublimated expectation of Advent, in the liturgy of the ongoing year, sits high at the center of that arch, in our present.

Within the mundane (rather than heavenly) experience, perpetual, unbridled expressions of joy would defeat authenticity. Advent is thus an opportunity to meditate on the vulnerability of the human condition and the delirious felicity of one babe embodying humanity's hopes.

This and more will be expressed, in Pastor Kris's searching or uplifting sermons, in seasonal events (carols singing/communal gatherings, mark the morning of December 8th among others), as well as (we hope) in the music we prepare as a team for the Advent Sundays and the Christmas service... music blending the familiar and the unexpected.

**Cookie Exchange /Christmas Sing**

**Sat. Dec. 8**

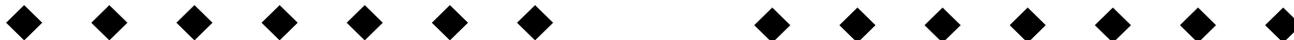
**9:30 am in Parlor**

Come and join the bakers of UPCC while we share cookies, enjoy brunch and then sing Christmas Carols in the parlor. Bring three dozen cookies to share. We have containers for storing the delicious Christmas treats. All are welcome! No age limit! Come, eat and drink and sing!



**First Sunday Lunch will return on Dec. 2! Join us at Sammy's at 1206 N. Mattis Ave., CH for breakfast or lunch after the service.**

**Samir**



**Serving Schedule for December**

Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
Liturgist-Ed T.	Liturgist-Vicki S.	Liturgist-Bill Strutz	Liturgist-Renee	Liturgist-Jim T.
Elders-Jim T., Kevin	Elders-Nancy, Dorie	Elders-Jeff, Jane F.	Elders-Eric, Ed	Elders-Judy R. Delre
Hospital-Kay	Hospital-Renee	Hospital-Jim T.	Hospital-Nancy C.	Hospital-Jeff D.
Flower Del-John H.	Flower Del-AJ J.	Flower Del-Cara	Flower Del-Ann S.	Flower Del-Lucas
Communion-Emily	Communion-Judy L.	Communion-Molingo	Communion-Jeremy	Communion-Joelle
Sound-Jeremy	Sound-Fred C	Sound-Dorie	Sound-Dorie	Sound-Jeremy



## Reflections of Light

December 2 begins a new Christian year as the season of Advent sends us forward in hope. As you prepare yourself for this holy season, you are invited to read the assigned scriptures in advance of worship each Sunday. Inside this newsletter you will find a description of each December worship service, including hymns, scriptures and themes. If you would like, take a hymnal home and sing the carols and songs devotionally throughout the week. This is a season for renewed faith and joy as we await the birth of our king.

Our elders, the elected spiritual leaders of the congregation, will begin the Christian year with a retreat at a cabin in Lake of the Woods Park. We will pray, sing and share our hopes with one another for this congregation and our own spiritual lives. Please keep us in your prayers! After the retreat, many of us will join young adult families celebrating at UniPlace in a Winter Wonderland event. The following Saturday, Disciples Women will gather to exchange cookies and sing carols. What a joy it is to gather with all ages and welcome this holy time!

As we prepare for Christmas in the Taylor & Light household, Ed and I send you our heartfelt prayers for peace on earth and goodwill among all God's children.

Waiting in hope,

Pastor Kris



### Open Door Program

Canned Fruit and packages of egg noodles are in demand during December. You can drop off canned items in the office or on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. Can by can we are trying to help with food insecure households so that they have something that nourishes. You can always give a cash donation as well.

**Wow! I can hear the sermons again?!?**

You can catch a sermon to review, renew or listen to for the first time by checking out this link:

<https://www.uniplace.org/sermons/>

### Altar Flower Ministry

We need flowers for Dec. 9, 16, 23 or 30 as well as any January Sunday! Give a gift of beauty which truly gives twice. . . We enjoy them on the communion table then our members who don't get to church enjoy them during the week.

### Shopping on Amazon?

Please make sure that you help us while you shop. By clicking on smile. Amazon.com, your purchases will award \$0.05% each time you buy something at Amazon Smile. What an easy way to give! Plus you are doing it with a smile!

### Directory update!

Quite a few have already had their picture taken for the new directory. We will be taking photos in December before and after church on Sundays. See Elizabeth Slifer for more information or to choose a date for your photo by emailing [upccmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:upccmessenger@gmail.com).

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**Advent One: Begin Again**      **December 2, 2018** (*The primary feeling of this service will be anticipation, emphasizing our longing for promises to be fulfilled*)      Prophet: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (“The days are surely coming ...”)

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36 (signs in the sun, the moon and the stars ... powers of the heavens shaken)

**Advent Two: The Strange Road**      **December 9, 2018** (*The mood of this service is expectant, the Lord is coming!*)

Prophet: Malachi 3:1-4 (“I am sending my messenger...”)      Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 (Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight)

**Advent Three: Rejoicing in the Ruins**      **December 16, 2018** (*The tone of this service will be very upbeat, joyful music, emphasis on justice after heartbreak.*)

Prophet: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (“Rejoice and exult with your heart ...”)      Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 (John the Baptist preaches justice)

**Advent Four: Heaven and Earth**      **December 23, 2018** (*The mood of this service will be tender delight. God has enveloped the earth in the glory of heaven.*)

Prophet: Micah 5:2-5a (“But you, O Bethlehem...”)      Gospel: Luke 1:47-55 (Mary’s Magnificat)

**December 24, Monday at 4:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service**

**Christmastide, the Sixth Day**      **December 30, 2018**

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13      New Testament: Revelation 21:1-6