

Newsletter Vol. 21, Issue 11, December 14, 2011

The Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 18

Worship celebration at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion at both services.

December 18th, 2:00—4:00 p.m. Let's Go Caroling!

Children, youth, adults! Let's have a good time!

"Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known . . ." So wrote Isaac Watts about 400 years ago (*UM Hymnal*, #732). Let's give it a try! Let's go caroling –

We'll meet at church and then provide maps to visit the homes of homebound members and friends of our congregation and booklets of carols from which to sing.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Ken Gelhaus at Kgelh2@charter.net.

Christmas Eve—December 24

4:30 p.m.

Family Friendly Worship & Candlelight Service

9:00 p.m.

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion & Candlelight Service

We are privileged to welcome the Rev. Dan Dick who will assist the Rev. Chris Bethke in leading worship. He will preach at both services.



Christmas Morning—December 25

One Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. with Carol Sing beginning at **9:00 a.m.** led by the Rev. Ken Gelhaus.

No Sunday school this Sunday.

January 1, 2012—The first Sunday after Christmas Day

One Worship at 9:30 a.m. with the Wesley Covenant Service and Holy Communion

No Sunday school this Sunday.

January 8, 2012 --8:30 & 10:45 Worship Services and Sunday School Classes Resume

NOTE: The Office will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.

Our Congregational Covenant

Our covenant was developed last year, with the guidance of the Rev. Dan Dick, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries. We used John Wesley's Three General Rules as a guide. Do no harm; Do good; Follow the ordinances of God. Through an intentional and thoughtful process, we worked together in naming who we are and how we will live together.

The covenant has been signed by friends and members of our congregation as a tangible way of saying "Yes, these are the behaviors and practices we honor and will practice in this community of faith." The covenant will be in the sanctuary and available for signing during the month of January.

**Divine Savior United
Methodist Church**

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9–3 p.m.

Published by Divine Savior United Methodist Church, this newsletter keeps members and friends informed of programs of the church and shares news about the congregation. It is mailed in the middle of each month.

The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, January 15, 2012.

Church Staff

Rev. Chris Bethke, Pastor

Rev. Amber Wolover, Christian Ed,
Servant Ministry

April Day, Karen Weatherwax,
Sunday Morning Nursery

Loraine Pilgrim, Organist

Eileen Porter, Choir Director

Virgil Jurrens, Bookkeeper

Barbara Dick, Newsletter Editor

Terry & Muriel Henderson,
Missionaries



Looking Ahead

Newsletter Deadlines

Sun., Jan. 15, 2012

Sun., Feb. 12, 2012

Mailing Date

Wed., Jan. 18, 2012

Wed., Jan. 15, 2012

We always welcome volunteers willing to help assemble the newsletter on Wednesday mornings (9:00–11:30 a.m.) on the mailing date.

Celebration of Service

We are grateful for those in this congregation who have given leadership to organizing our ministry and are completing their terms of service on committees and in various areas of responsibility.

Those who are completing terms of service are:

Jeff Iverson (Trustees Chair), **Sara Long** (Staff Parish Relations Committee),

Marv Van Kekerix (Staff Parish Relations Chair), **Ellen Alwin** (Stewardship),

Nancy Hood (Lay Member of Annual Conference),

Meagan Deaner and **Heather Campbell** (Worship), **Kathy Schittone** (Nominations)

Thank you so much for your hard work and commitment in the life of this congregation!

We will dedicate our 2012 leadership during both worship services on January 29 .



Focus on Hunger

The Divine Savior Mission Team invites you to fight hunger right here in Madison, Wisconsin, by supporting the following ongoing efforts. Together, we can help many, so consider donating your time, food and money to feed those who are hungry in our community.



Food Pantry Focus – Food for the Holidays

We are continuing to take donations of food for the holidays until Christmas, so please consider donating food served for big family dinners such as canned veggies, Jell-O, canned fruit, cranberries, pumpkin, pie filling, stuffing mix, boxed mashed potatoes, gravy mix, etc. Your donations will make this holiday season a lot more “merry” for many families in our community!

Divine Savior Serves for Homeless Shelter – December 29-30

Please sign up to bring items or to help with the meal on the chart posted on the narthex doors. Thank you for your help in serving this meal during this special time of year. Questions? Talk with Kathy Schittone or Steve Mayeshiba.

A Tree for Me Mission Project



The 3–5 Grade Sunday school class thanks you for supporting its trail mix sale in support of this semester’s Sunday school mission project: A Tree for Me! The proceeds from the sale will be given to The U.S. Forest Service to plant trees in a national park. Each dollar bag of trail mix the students sold will be used to purchase one tree. Thanks to your generosity, the class will be able to plant 100 trees! Thank you!

Financial Reminders



Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

If you use EFT for your contributions, you do not need to send anything to Virgil in preparation for 2012 giving. Your pledges for 2012 have been put into the system so you are all set.

End of Year Contributions

Contributions that are received in the church office by Saturday, December 31, will be counted in 2011. Contributions received by mail postmarked December 31 will also be counted in 2011. If you should put a 2011 contribution in the offering on Sunday, January 1, please mark it accordingly so the counters can make a separate deposit for 2011 and 2012 contributions. All unmarked contributions received on January 1 will be counted for 2012.



Adult Education News

Advent Study: Expecting the Word Devotional Study Led by Steve Mayeshiba **2 More Classes on Tuesday—December 13 & 20 at 1:00 pm OR 6:30 pm**



It's not too late to join this discussion group, which has been reading and talking about selections from "Expecting The Word", a collection of meditations for the Advent season. The daily devotional is downloadable at:

<http://wordsmatter.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/advent-devotions.pdf>.

Take a few moments to read the devotion for each day of Advent and then consider joining one of the discussion groups. Both groups will meet in the multipurpose room.

Sunday Morning Adult Class Options

Immigration in Light of Biblical Faith Led by Ken Gelhaus **9:40–10:30 Sunday Mornings, January 8 & 15—Multipurpose Room**

You are invited to participate in two conversations about the issues of immigration as seen through the lens of biblical faith. Using a study guide for churches created by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the Bible, and informational handouts, we will share our thoughts, dreams, fears and hopes as we speak and listen with one another. This study will be led by Ken Gelhaus, who invites your suggestions and questions for this exploration (Kgelh2@Charter.net).

Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts Led by Barbara Dick **9:40–10:30 Sunday Mornings —Adult Education Room on Lower Level**

Each Sunday, we gather in the Adult Education classroom downstairs to unwrap one spiritual gift and learn how the gifts work together to help build up the body of Christ. If you don't know what a spiritual gift is, come on down and find out! So far, we have talked about the nature of spiritual gifts and the gifts of Administration, Apostleship, and Compassion, Discernment, Evangelism, Exhortation, Faith, Giving, Healing, Helping, and Knowledge. In the coming weeks, we will explore Leadership and Miracles, with breaks on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Want to Discover Your Spiritual Gifts? We are offering opportunities to discover your gifts in a variety of settings. Let us know which of the following works best for you (and if you need childcare): after church, weekday evenings, or Saturday mornings. Contact Barbara Dick (barbara.a.dick@gmail.com) or the church office. If you want to unwrap your spiritual gifts, to set them free to work for your good and the good of the body of Christ, come and explore with us!

An Invitation to Conversation Led by Chris Bethke **9:40–10:30 Sunday, January 22—Multipurpose Room**

Would you like time to learn more about the mission and ministries of this congregation? Would you like an opportunity to ask questions about what it means to be United Methodist? Are you interested in becoming a member of Divine Savior United Methodist Church?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, join our conversation on January 22 in the Multipurpose Room. If you've been thinking about membership or are interested in more information, please contact Chris Bethke (238-7753; cbethke@wisconsinumc.org).



Christmas: It's Family Time for the Choir



Christmas is family time, a time when families share diverse traditions associated with awaiting and celebrating the birth of Christ! This is surely the case for the families of our Choir members and for our Choir as a family. On Christmas Eve, when we sing for the 4:30 service, we will miss our members who will be visiting loved ones, even as we will be blessed to be joined by visiting relatives of at least three of our members!

We will sing "A Gaelic Blessing," a lovely anthem by John Rutter. We are so glad that Warren Moe will sing the solo within the choral arrangement! The text is replete with the imagery of evening intertwined with blessings, such as, "Moon and stars pour their healing light on you." The anthem concludes with the message we would share with the world as we anticipate our Savior's birth: "Peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you. Deep peace of Christ to you."

If you and your visiting family members love to sing, join us for our rehearsal on THURSDAY, December 22, at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary! Share our joy as we prepare to share the "deep peace of Christ" with all who gather to celebrate our Savior's birth!



Choir Notes: You are Invited to Our "Soup and Song Sampler"

Have you thought about singing with the Choir, at least occasionally? If you have ever entertained that possibility, LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

Please join us on Saturday, January 21, 11:00–noon, in the Sanctuary, for our First Annual **Soup and Song Sampler!!!** We will sing through many of the anthems planned through Pentecost, including a Spiritual, some classic choral pieces, and hymns from other nations! After this musical "appetizer," we'll share soup and fixin's in Fellowship Hall. Choir members will bring crockpots of their favorite homemade soups, and we will just enjoy being together! Please come to sample our soups AND our songs! There is no obligation involved; we will not quiz you about your interest in joining us! But come and be filled with the Spirit AND a delicious lunch on a cold winter's day! If you would like more information, please contact the Choir Director, Eileen Porter (hporter2@wisc.edu).

Thank You Musicians!

A special thank you to all the musicians who have or will be sharing their gift of music with us at worship during this special time of year: Casey Day, Barbara Dick, Loraine Pilgrim, Warren Moe, Jim Feuling, Laurie Tredinnick, Meaghan Kelly, Lizzie Tredinnick and Eileen Porter. If you would like to sing or play a song for worship, please feel free to sign up on the Music Ministry schedule on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the church office. Questions? See or e-mail Amber (amberw@wisconsinumc.org).



Notes of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the loss of our Father/ Father-in-law/Grandfather, Jerry Keen. The cards, food, memorials and hugs are deeply appreciated and remind us that we are never alone in our grief. We are grateful for God's love and support that we have received through you during the last several years through this painful journey. We are comforted in knowing that Jerry is finally free of the burdens of this life and has joined his Father in heaven.

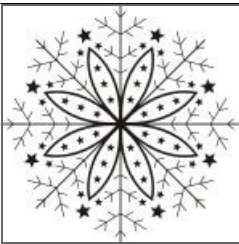


Blessings,

Gary, Cheri, Jenny & Amanda Keen ; Larry, Clare, Chelsey & Renee Keen; Bill & Lisa Keen

Thank you to everyone from Divine Savior UMC who offered sympathy and hugs and prayers as my mother navigated her final year of life. We mourned her loss in October, and we celebrated her life with joy Thanksgiving weekend. You gifted me with the grace of a loving, supportive community throughout this time of change.

Thank you . . . Bless you,
Barbara Dick



Cancellation Notice Announcements (when the snow and cold arrives)

When a decision is made regarding **WORSHIP SERVICES OR AN ALL-CHURCH EVENT**, we will communicate in the following ways:

1. As soon as possible, the message will be placed on the church phone system (238-7753) under **TIMES OF WORSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**. We do **NOT NORMALLY** put it on the primary (first) message greeting; you need to **PRESS 8**
2. On our website at www.divinesaviorumc.org (We run a banner across the top of the home page so it is immediately obvious.)
3. Via the congregation's listserv. Subscribe to this via our website or by e-mail request to Chris Bethke (cbethke@wisconsinumc.org). You will be added to the list.

We also try to contact the following television stations channel 15, channel 3, and channel 27. We are aware that sometime sheer numbers of cancellations via TV can make it difficult to actually see the one/ones you are looking for. The TV websites carry the same information and may be more user friendly.

For **STUDIES, SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS** and **MEETINGS** please contact the chair or study leader for guidance if they have not already communicated with you. (Leaders often e-mail folks, asking for a reply and then follow up where needed with phone calls.)

We remain hopeful that this winter will be kind to us, but please be alert to changing weather conditions and remember the **first rule is always to use your own best judgment**. Do not take unnecessary risks.



United Methodist Women

As 2011 rapidly closes on our unit's mission activities for women, youth and children we have one last scheduled event and thank you's to share. We trust you have enjoyed participating this year and will join us in presence and prayer in 2012. Check the newsletter and bulletin board in the Narthex for what's coming..



UMW Christmas Party



Please join us Saturday, December 17 at 2:00 pm for our annual Christmas Party at Sue Plasterer's home (6813 Winstone Dr., Madison, 53711). Contact Sue (seplast@charter.net) to RSVP for the Christmas party. We will have the Installation of new 2012 Officers and Appreciation of 2011 Officers by Capital District President, Linda Whitelock. Sue will provide light snacks, and you are welcome to bring some of your own to share. Please also bring 2 dozen cookies so we can make plates to take the next day when the church goes caroling at homes of homebound members and friends.

Thank You Everyone

We thank *all* of you who supported our Cookie Walk and Used Book Sale—it was a *wonderful* success! All of you helped to make \$675.00 available to help with area food shortages! A decision was made to give \$425.00 of the proceeds directly to the Helping Hands Food Pantry now and give \$250.00 to help with next summer's garden that will help the food pantry with fresh food then.



Thank You from Shirley

I will be leaving the post of Secretary of Program Resources at the end of the year. However, the new group of officers for our UMW unit have some great ideas for the Reading Program. You will want to watch the church newsletter for announcements. If you have ideas or suggestions for the reading group, please contact Sue Plasterer, UMW president.



My grateful thanks to all of you for your commitment and participation in the reading program over these many years, for coming out in good weather and bad, for sharing your knowledge and your insight. You have kept me reading books I might not have read and am so glad I did. Thank you! —Shirley Behm, Secretary of Program Resources

Thank You to Those Leaving the 2011 Mission Team

Not only will our unit miss Shirley Behm's excellent leadership but also that of Sara Hagen (Vice President), Meagan Deaner (Treasurer) and Margaret Case (Membership Nurture and Outreach). Your gifts to our mission team were many. We couldn't have accomplished all we did in mission with women, youth and children without you. Your presence on the team will be greatly missed. God be with you as you serve the unit and church in different and exciting ways.

UMW Morning Circle, January 11, 2012

UMW Morning Circle meets in the church fellowship hall at 9:15 on the second Wednesday of each month. This is a Circle of Friends with arms open to include you. Each meeting includes refreshments, fellowship and prayer, a short business meeting, and a program with opportunities for mission. Given that January and February often come with bad weather, it is always a good idea to contact Edith Sylvester, Morning Circle convener, before venturing out.



Divine Savior United Methodist Church

5702 South Hill Drive
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

**Church School and
Adult Christian Education**

9:30 a.m.

Child care available all morning

DECEMBER



Divine Savior

United Methodist Church