



First United Methodist Church
@ **METROPOLIS**
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

PROGRAM GUIDE

ADVENT 2011



CONNECT...



Connect "Spiritually"

"Bah, Humbug!" shouted Ebenezer Scrooge, using a mild Victorian form of profanity, meaning "nonsense" or "rubbish." Charles Dickens depicted Scrooge as the epitome of all cynics hardened to the holiday. Scrooge was stingy, selfish, and heartless. Scrooge saw what he regarded as the unpleasant social demands of the holiday, and became critical of that which is holy. We degrade Christmas in more subtle ways by forgetting the truly "awesome" meaning of the season. Christmas has become a time of materialistic commerce, harried stress, and unreasonable expectations, but it doesn't have to be. Scrooge's cynicism was forever shaken by a nocturnal visit from three spirits, after which he became a changed person. We too can reclaim Christmas, with the help of the "spirits" of Christmas past, present, and future. Our Advent Worship celebrations will explore the wisdom gained from these spirits as follows:


At The Metropolis, Sundays @ 9:30am

- Nov. 27th The Spirit of Christmas Past
- Dec. 4th The Spirit of Christmas Present
- Dec. 11th The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come
- Dec. 18th Blue Nativity Christmas Spectacular (see next page)

Presenting worship celebrations that recognize the intersections of culture and the gospel makes inviting others to join you easier. Meant to provoke their curiosity, you can assure them that our church accepts folks where they are, whoever they are!

Pastor Bonnie

Two Christmas Eve Services
At The Metropolis, Saturday, December 24th, 7pm & 11pm
The Story for All Ages, for All Times
Carols, Choirs, Evening Light



Connect through Worship

Sunday, December 18, 9:30am

At The Metropolis

Quest Theater Ensemble's Christmas Spectacular



BLUE NATIVITY will be presented at worship on Sunday, December 18th, 9:30am @ The Metropolis, featuring elegant, large scale puppetry, soaring music, and "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Worshipers of all ages will be delightfully inspired. "Blue Nativity speaks to everyone and is a reminder 'that simple light may rise out of complicated darkness'."

Invite your neighbors and friends to bring their children and grandchildren, and encourage your children to invite their friends for this dramatic presentation of the true story of Christmas.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES **At the church on Euclid Avenue!** **(elevator unavailable)**

December 25th, 9:30am

Like opening gifts on Christmas morning, we'll tip-toe through the renovation and sneak-a-peek at our progress as we sing the joy of this day and share in the angel's call to sing Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

January 1st, 9:30am

One year closes and another opens as we step into 2012 with God's praise on our lips and new possibilities in our hearts. (Yes, for those not here Christmas morning, you can sneak-a-peek at the renovation!)




Children Connect

Saint Nicholas Faire: An Advent Adventure

Sunday, December 4th, 3:00-4:30pm

At the church on Euclid

Celebrate Advent with special crafts, delightful performances, storytelling – and an opportunity for each child to visit with Santa Claus in a relaxed setting. Come anytime between 3:00 and 4:30pm. We will have two rooms of craft activities for all ages – one for making ornaments, advent chains, and picture frames, and a performance room with puppetry, singing, and storytelling. To make it even less stressful for parents, “Santa numbers” will be distributed on arrival – allowing your family to enjoy the activities rather than stand in line to see Santa. There is no admission fee but, in the spirit of St. Nicholas, families are asked to bring donations for the CEDA food pantry.



Guest Puppeteer for J.A.M.

Wednesday, December 7th, 6:15pm, during J.A.M.

Everyone is invited to a puppet show, *The Magic Onion: A Story About Friendship* featuring Mark Nichols of *The Puppet Place*.


Youth Connect

All youth activities listed here are on Sundays:

Gift Card Sales-Nov 20—Dec 11 @ Metropolis
Gift Card Pick Ups-Nov 27-Dec 18 @ Metropolis
(See ChildServ, page 9, for details)

Junior High Christmas Party-Dec 11, 6:00pm

Senior High Christmas Party-Dec 18, 6:00pm



Connect with UMW

UMW Christmas Tea Hosted by Revised Edition Featuring our own Chad Sutton

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00pm

At the church on Euclid, parlor

You are cordially invited for tea and entertainment. Free of charge, but in the spirit of the season, please bring a pair of mittens (children/teens) to donate to our holiday mission project. For questions, please contact Anita Herr at arherr@aol.com. Child care available upon request. Please contact Veronica Biazio at veronica.biazio@gmail.com.



UMW Circle Groups

CALLED TO GROW: Thursday, Dec 15, 9:30am,
home of Sharyn Gunderson.

CHANGING TIMES: Tuesday, Dec 13, 9:30am, away.


CHAPTER II: Monday, Dec 12, 7:30pm, away.

FAITH: Wednesday, Dec 14, 7:00pm, parlor.

HORIZON: Monday, Dec 5, 9:30am, parlor.

REVISED EDITION: Monday, Dec 12, noon,
home of Wink Heller.





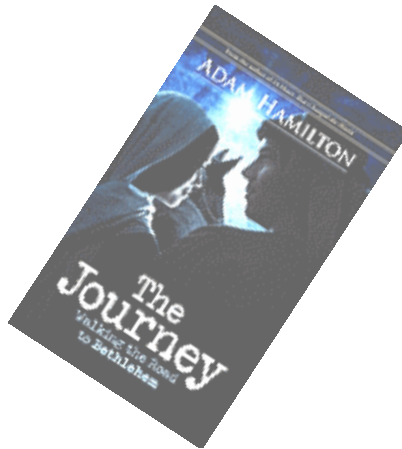
Adults Connect

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

During Advent, you are invited to journey with Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of The Resurrection, as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

As Joel Hunter said in his review, "If you think you know the story of Jesus' birth, think again! This wonderful book sets us on a journey to the times and characters of Christmas so that we experience the birth of Christ in our lives in a new way."

Participants will enjoy brief video footage of the holy land during each session as well as faith-provoking group discussion. This story of Christmas past will enrich the present and give us hope for the future.



SCHEDULE FOR The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Please register for this program. The participant book, entitled "The Journey," is available at the church office for \$14.00. Several opportunities for participation have been planned. Choose the one that best fits your schedule.

Sunday mornings

Dates: November 27-December 18

Time: 10:40am-11:30am

Location: The Metropolis, Art Studio, Second Floor

Facilitator: Tedd Steele

Tuesday mornings

Dates: November 29 & December 6, 13, & 20

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Location: At the church on Euclid

Facilitator: Lynn Mikels

(child care available by request; Tuesdays only)

Wednesday evenings

Dates: ongoing, beginning November 16

Time: 7:00-8:00pm

Location: At the church on Euclid

Facilitator: Leah Nakamura

(with the Progressive Pilgrims Study Group)


Thursday mornings

Dates: December 1, 8, 15, 22, Room 255,

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Location: The Moorings of Arlington Heights, 811 E. Central Rd. Room 255 (This session open to members of the community, as well as residents of The Moorings)

Facilitator: Bonnie Beckonchrist



Adults Connect

Next Chapter's House Walk


Sunday, December 4th, 5:00pm

Begins at home of GERALYN & DICK MAY, 1483 SHIRE CIRCLE, INVERNESS, IL. We won't be decorating the church this year, so this is our chance to share some holiday cheer with each other. We travel from Mays' to Reeds' to Berrys' homes for a progressive dinner. Bring your season cheer and an appetizer to the Mays' or cookies to the Berrys'. This is a casual event, so foods are meant to be held in your hand or lap while socializing. Put the house walk on your calendars and join us for food, fellowship, fun, and a few carols! Contact Diane Piper @847-903-6967 to RSVP or for more information.

CommonGround

Saturday, December 3rd, 5:30pm

Home of Stuart & Jennifer Jones, 1009 S. Smith St., Palatine, IL. Bring the family and celebrate the beginning of the Christmas Season with us. Mostaccioli, salad, and bread will be provided. Please bring your favorite appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. Also bring a White Elephant gift for an entertaining gift exchange. No need to purchase anything, recycling and re-gifting is encouraged. Babysitting will be provided. For some added fun for the kids, bring their PJ's and favorite blanket/pillow for a fun pajama party. After dinner they can get comfy and watch a movie! All this fun for \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child. **Hope to see you there!** Any questions? Contact Jennifer Jones at 847-431-2672 or jenniferj54@comcast.net, or Wendy Dunnington at 847-342-1956 or wdunnington@email.com.



Adults Connect

December Kaleidoscope

Sunday, December 4, 10:40am

Join us for a very special Christmas season Kaleidoscope. On Sunday, December 4th, we welcome Jeff Mishur who will inspire us with the beautiful and educational "Christmas Story in Fine Art." Jeff, a very popular art historian, makes the story of art fascinating. This Kaleidoscope will remind us of the authentic Christmas spirit and the many ways it has been interpreted – past and present. The Metropolis, Rehearsal Studio, Second Floor.

Christmas Luncheon: the Joyous Spirit of Christmas Past

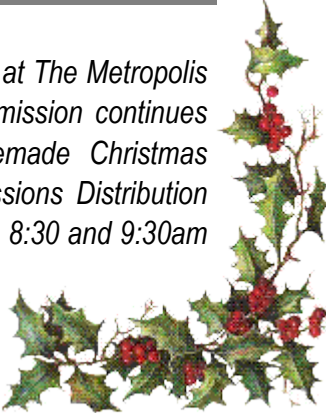
Tuesday, December 6th, noon, At the church on Euclid

What is your favorite Christmas memory? For those who have celebrated 70ish Christmases, gather with us as we enjoy a light lunch and share some heart-warming stories. To enrich the telling of your story, bring a memento, photograph, ornament, etc., if you wish. A light lunch will be served outside the parlor, then afterwards we will move into the parlor to share our stories. To make a reservation, call the church office 847-255-5112.

Connect through Missions

Christmas Cookie Sale

Christmas cookies will be available for purchase at The Metropolis on Sunday, December 18th. The Mission Commission continues an annual tradition of selling beautiful homemade Christmas cookies. All proceeds support the Midwest Missions Distribution Center. Bakers, please drop off cookies between 8:30 and 9:30am in the parlor area kitchen on main level on Saturday, December 17th. Thank you!





Connect through Missions

Mission Project of the Month

ChildServ Holiday Gift Project ~with a TWI&T~

In the spirit of Christmas, our church will once again **CONNECT** to the **2011 ChildServ Holiday Gift Mission Project -- but with a bit of a twi&t**. This year, due to our renovation, we do not have a place to store the Christmas gifts that we usually purchase for 125 disadvantaged children. Instead, we will provide 28 names of children to receive purchased gifts. The rest will be donations of **GIFT CARDS** (\$40 -- preferably Target or WalMart). ChildServ's caseworkers will then buy the gifts for the children. Please drop off ChildServ gifts and Gift Cards by December 4th at The Metropolis on Sundays or at the church office.

If you buy your ChildServ Gift Cards from our **Youth Group's fundraiser** to benefit their Appalachian Service Project, you can make your purchase count twice! Youth group orders are placed once a week and available for pick up on Sundays at the Metropolis until December 11th.

Donations of wrapping paper, scotch tape, and batteries are also appreciated. ChildServ is an affiliate of the United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Roylene via email at rwq60004@yahoo.com or by phone at 847-222-1071 (home) or 847-989-1071 (cell). **THANK YOU!**

History of ChildServ

Northern Illinois Methodists are proud of our interest in helping found ChildServ. We have made ChildServ one of the recipients of Fifth Sunday Appeals for many years. Our church recently received an award from ChildServ for outstanding support.

Founded in 1894, ChildServ helps over 4,113 children and families benefit annually throughout Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties. **The**



Connect through Missions

Mission is, "To Help Chicagoland's At-Risk Children and Their Families Build, Achieve and Sustain Better Lives."

ChildServ's mission is accomplished by providing leadership and programming that will educate children, families, and communities to overcome the challenges encountered by underserved children, youth, and families. Its success stems from its capacity to deliver effective, innovative services. We are proud to help an organization with a long term vision for children. We hope you will be generous in giving to this exceptional organization.

Thank You for Giving

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Consecration Sunday and who generously gave their pledge to support our church and our ministries for the coming year. We appreciate and thank everyone for their support during our campaign.

As of November 17, we have received 146 pledges and we are excited to report that 49% of those who submitted their pledge increased their financial commitment above the previous year's amount, and 23 were new pledges. If you have not yet had the opportunity to return your Estimate of Giving commitment, we hope you will do so very soon and join your faith family in this exciting privilege of generosity and blessing.

We hope everyone enjoyed the celebration brunch at the Metropolis Ballroom. Thank you to the angel who made it possible for us to gather in fellowship for this meal. All of you -- the ministers of our church -- make the future possibilities of First United Methodist Church come to fruition. Thank you to everyone