



MESSENGER

Plainville United Methodist Church

Rev. Russell G. Waldmann, Pastor

Volume 15, no. 6

December 2011/January 2012

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from the Pastor...

Maybe it's just me...but have you ever marveled at how close Thanksgiving and Christmas are to one another? I think that lots of people do consider this, perhaps because of the enormous amount of things that need to be done in such a short period of time.

After all, in just about 4½ weeks, we either are the host or travel to family at Thanksgiving, then turn around and start to think about scores and scores of Christmas greetings to be sent, not to mention the gift giving, cookie baking, decoration of homes adorning, special events at church and other community functions participating, more hosting and traveling...and then, of course, how to possibly exercise away all those additional calories!

Yet, when you really think about it, the closeness of Thanksgiving and Christmas is a wonderfully blessing.

The spirit of Thanksgiving expands to a continued Thanksgiving to God for the coming of Jesus into the world. The abundance of food makes me think of the abundance of God's love for all the world as God in Jesus enters into that world. The stories of the building of community among the Pilgrims and the Native

Americans leads me to think of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, coming to link the whole world together in love. The quickening pace of these great times of the year helps to enliven our hearts to quickly prepare for the coming of Jesus during Advent. The attention to so many details is akin to our getting ready for Jesus' coming with such keenness that we would not miss one grand and precious moment of the birth of our Savior. Our traveling reminds me of that of shepherds and Magi. The savory smells of favorite dishes continues with the aroma of cookies and cakes and link us to the distinct smells in the stable where Jesus was born, earthy and basic and solid smells. The light of Thanksgiving candles shines as does God's light above Bethlehem, as do lights on trees and in windows. The meager presence of five cornels of corn to symbolize the harshness of the first Pilgrim winters is like the humble birth of Jesus, ordinary yet blessed by God, simple yet tremendously profound, both pointing to God in thanks and gratitude. I'm glad that Thanksgiving and Christmas are close...and that they both help to move and keep us close to God.

God bless you all. *Pastor Waldmann.*

BIRTHDAY DIMES
FOR MISSION

Thank you for bringing your Birthday Dimes on the last Sunday of the month in which you were born. Bring one dime for every year you are celebrating. Birthday dimes will support **“Project Linus,”** a mission project of our Sunday School.

Twelve No-Sew blankets were made with materials purchased with our Birthday Dimes, to be given to children and youth through **Project Linus.** These were made on Oct. 23 and dedicated on Oct. 30.

Let us all celebrate our birthdays by celebrating life and love in this way.

RED CROSS BLOOD
DRIVE: December 15.

Thank you for donating blood. Thank you for making some cookies and/or finger sandwiches. Thank you for helping Nancy and Bob Burns rearrange the Sanctuary and restore it to accommodate these Drives.
Blood Drive hours: 1:45 ~ 6:45 p.m.

NEW DATE FOR THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18,
as the morning worship.

WE PRAY GOD’S COMFORT AND
PEACE BLESS THE FAMILIES OF:

Richard Burlingame, on July 28, nephew of Doris Hoha/cousin of Karen Morrison; **Averitt E. Schilling,** on September 6, widower of Arlene, a 38-year member of our church; **Norma Appler,** on Oct. 10, sister of Doris Hoha/Aunt of Karen Morrison; **Frances Ruth Underwood,** on November 7, former member of our church, Mom of John, David, and Mitchell, Jr.; and **Beverly Bailey,** on Nov. 10, mother-in-law of Ronna Gruninger.

May God’s peace bless and keep you.

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In Case of Inclement Weather:

Please know that emergency information about church closures/cancellations/rescheduling of events is made through the services of:
1. WTIC a.m. radio, 1080 on the dial.
2. WFSB TV, channel 3.
3. NBC CT news, channel 4.

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HARTT SCHOOL of MUSIC

CONCERT, Sunday,
DECEMBER 11, 7:00 p.m.
Suggested donation: \$10.00.
Funds will equally benefit the Hartt chapter of MENC and the Plainville Food Pantry.

Opportunities to “Serve the Lord with Gladness”

The Lay Leadership Committee is charged with discerning the gifts and graces that people have that would benefit the building of God’s Kingdom through specific areas of service.

We are asking all of you to look at the following list of positions through which to serve God through our church, letting us know that...*I WOULD LIKE THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING LEADERSHIP ROLE(S) IN OUR CHURCH...*

- (1) Chairperson, Worship Committee;
- (2) At-large member, Church Council...
three are needed;
- (3) One one-year term on the Board of Trustees;
- (4) At-large member, Stewardship & Finance Committee...three are needed.
- (5) Mission co-ordinator to the Bristol Men’s Shelter (Christmas mission)

Please contact Pastor Waldmann at 860-747-2592, or at clergymentlefan@comcast.net to express your desire to serve God in one or more of these ways. Serving God is a joy and a privilege. It is also vital for the full workings of God’s church. God calls us to “*serve the Lord with gladness.*” Thank you for prayerfully thinking about your stewardship of time and talent to God.

Sunday School News & Notes

The Sunday School has a very busy month ahead as we prepare for our Annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 18th.

The Pageant, *Return to Bethlehem*, will involve all members of our church school. You won’t want to miss this touching retelling of the Christmas Story.

We also want to let Sunday School families know that there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 25th or on Sunday, Jan. 1st. However, we warmly invite you to come to morning worship at 10 AM on these two Sundays. What better way to celebrate the birth of our Savior and to welcome in the New Year than to be at worship with our church family?!

Stewardship & Finance What is “The Word?”

Many thanks are extended to the 49 families who have returned their commitment cards in response to our 2012 Stewardship Campaign. However, our current total of \$82,077.00 pledged for 2012 leaves us short of meeting our goal by some \$50,000.00.

There are many who have not yet responded to God’s call to give generously and with a joyful heart. Please prayerfully consider your response and send in your Commitment Card for 2012 today. Contact Karen Waldmann, 860.747.2592, if you need a card or with any questions.

We can reach our goal and be a more active church – able to extend our ministry further into the community and the world.

What is “*The Word?*” It could be **faith**. It could be **love**. It could be **tithe**. It could be **commitment**. It could be **now**. It could be **forever**. It could be **me!!** It could be **all of these!!**

Congratulations to

Tina and Robert Tardiff, on the birth of twins, **MAKAYLA ROSE** and **ROBERT JOSEPH III**, born on July 24th. Makayla and Robert will be baptized on Friday evening, December 9, 6:00 p.m., at our church...and to Forrest and Lisa Helvie, on the birth of their second son, **CALEB CHRISTOPHER**, born on September 28th. Caleb's baptism took place on Sunday, November 13, as part of the Cradle Roll celebration.

God bless you all and keep you in the care and love of the Lord.

Seven Billion and counting!!

The population of the world reached the seven billion mark a few weeks ago. That's a lot of people on planet earth!

Have you ever wondered how many people were alive the day on which you were born?

Or do you know how many people had been born before you in the history of humankind up until your date of birth?

There are two websites that you might want to look at to learn these numbers.

***PopulationAction.org* lets you know the world's population upon your birth.**

***7billionandme.org* lets you know how many people were born before you.**

Have some fun, and marvel at the numbers.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

6.5" Pot Red Poinsettia _____ @\$12.00= _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Requested By: _____

Telephone No. _____

Orders for Poinsettias will be accepted until December 11th.

Please complete this form and return it with your payment to Sue LaCombe.

Please make checks payable to PUMC.

If you have any questions, please call Sue at 860-747-4916.

Note: The flowers will adorn the Sanctuary altar during the Christmas Eve service. Anyone wishing to take the flowers ordered may do so immediately after the service.

Gifts for the Book of Remembrance should be given to Donna Burns (860-747-1262).

Donation Amount: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Requested By: _____

Telephone No. _____

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: SUNDAY SCHOOL9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....10:00AM

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 - Sleigh Bells Craft Fair with Bake Sale, 9 AM to 3 PM
- 4 - WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION, 10AM, CHRISTMAS TEA, 4 PM
- 11 - Hartt School of Music Concert, 7 PM
- 15 - **American Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30 to 6:30 PM-Call 1-800-733-2767 for Appointment**
- 18 - Christmas Pageant, 10 AM
- 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship, 7 PM
- 25 - Christmas Day Worship, 10 AM
- 4, 11 18 - Choir Rehearsal, Follows Worship

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 - February/March "MESSENGER" Articles DUE DATE
- 16 - Church Office Closed to Observe the Martin Luther King Jr.'s Holiday
- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Choir Rehearsal, Follows Worship

(For more dates and times, also see full calendar on the last page.)



Happy Anniversary!!!

December Birthdays

- 5 - Barbara Willard
- 7 - Kaitlyn Colvin
- 10 - Pam Muszynski
- 12 - Spencer D. Cole
- 13 - Lucas Hodlin
- 13 - Edward Larkin, Sr.
- 14 - Jeff Hodlin
- 18 - Wolfgang Maier
- 21 - Natalie Michaud
- 21 - Tim Richardson
- 23 - Marguerite Henne
- 24 - Heather Maier
- 27 - Beverly Rackliffe
- 29 - Nancy Burns

January Birthdays

- 3 - Lee Burns
- 4 - Susan Steele
- 6 - Tim Rolland
- 8 - Aleita Chapman
- 8 - Dan Franceschini
- 10 - Salvatore Mazzaccaro
- 11 - Brian Sparks
- 12 - Caesar Bangloy
- 12 - Corinne Trepanier
- 14 - Helen Sheppard
- 15 - Ben Sparks
- 16 - Kelly Quinlan
- 17 - Sherry L. Cole
- 20 - Bob Rackliffe
- 26 - Sarah Barry
- 29 - Christopher Waldmann

December

- 26 - Del & Margaret Caswell - 57th
- 27 - Robert & Jane Statchen -50th
- 28 - Robert & Edna Groover-59th
- 31 - Adam & Anke Cooke

January

- 4 - David & Judy Thompson
- 6 - Richard & Virginia Shaw
- 25 - Caesar & Jocelyn Bangloy
- 29 - John & Denise Krom

Any corrections, deletions or additions? Email the church, call the office or drop a note into the church office box in the narthex.

What have the Trustees done in 2011 And plans for 2012

The Trustees are still watching the Endowment Fund and doing repairs that need to be done and waiting for other projects or breaking them down into smaller segments.

As the market goes up and down so does the Fund, but we have a good company managing our funds and keeping an eye on things.

Below is a snapshot of how the Trustees spend monies in 2011.

Current Expense Budget Support	
	(around) \$45,000.00
New Fridge in church	800.00
Drapes cleaning	1,700.00
Replace flooring in AA room	2,300.00
Gate at top of stairs	100.00
Stove installation costs not covered by donations	500.00
Outside maintenance work	300.00
Additional Snow removal costs due to high snow amts	1,200.00

Repairs have been the following:

We continue to "Fill the Cracks" in the parking lot.

Damp-Rid in downstairs classrooms to remove "musty" smell.

Drapes were all cleaned in church, had not been done in YEARS and were VERY dusty/dirty.

Ceiling tiles replaced in Merton Lamb Memorial Room.

We continue to have Spring and Fall Clean-up days; we do need more workers on those days. The more help the more we can get completed.

For 2012 the Trustees are looking at the following projects for the next few years:

New floor tiles in Narthex and a couple of downstairs floors.

Rug in sanctuary is starting to show its age (over 30 years).

New Church sign (wood is rotting).

Redoing the parking lot is something that needs to be done in the future.



SLEIGH BELLS CRAFT FAIR
JUST A REMINDER: Our **SLEIGH BELLS CRAFT FAIR** will be held at the Church on **December 3rd**, from 9 am to 3 pm.

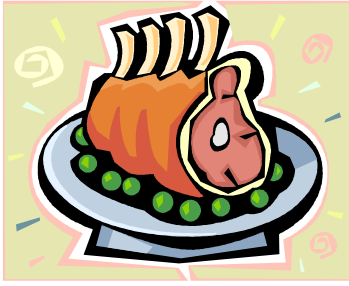
There will also be a Bake Sale booth run by the Tuesday Ladies and a Hand Craft booth run by Nancy Burns to benefit the church.

Donations will be greatly appreciated for either booth. Any questions, please contact the Tuesday Ladies or Nancy Burns.

Hope to see you there,
Donna Burns, Chairperson.



Non-perishable food items for the Plainville Food Pantry are being collected **EVERY Sunday**. Please place the items being donated on the table located in the sanctuary



Praise God for a successful Pork Roast Dinner/Silent Auction. What a fun-filled and energizing evening for our church family and the community! The Pork Roast Dinner/Silent Auction made a net profit of \$1,987.50 plus we donated \$199.00 to the Irene Flood Relief.

*Thank
You*

A very thankful heart goes out to everyone who supported our dinner by giving their time, hard work, and financial support to make it a success.

God Bless you all,

Karen Waldmann and Deanna Becker



Thanks to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Our church collected 40 shoeboxes for OCC.





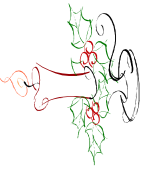

Such a simple gift means so much to a child somewhere around the world including the US.

For example, since 1933 over 95,500 shoeboxes have been distributed to Native Americans, over 5,500,000 shoeboxes have been distributed in Mexico and over 6,650,000 in India.

Thanks again to everyone for your generous participation in this mission.



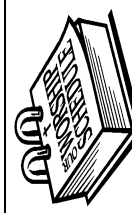

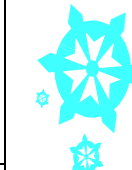


DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE: SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR PRE-K through ADULT:.....9:00AM SUNDAY WORSHIP:.....10:00 AM</p> 						
<p>4 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship with Holy Communion Choir Rehearsal follows Worship</p>  <p>Christmas Tea 4 pm MYF - 5:30 pm</p>		<p>6 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 7 pm - BSA</p>	<p>7 7 pm - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship Hartt School of Music Concert, 7 pm Choir Rehearsal follows Worship Brownie Girl Scouts - 6 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 7 pm - BSA</p>	<p>14 7 pm - Confirmation Class No Girl Scouts meeting this month.</p>	<p>15 American Red Cross Blood Drive  1:30 to 6:30 PM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Christmas Pageant 10:00 am -Worship Choir Rehearsal follows Worship</p>  <p>MYF - 5:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 6 pm - Brownie Troop Leaders meet 7 pm - BSA</p>	<p>21 7 pm - Confirmation Class 7 pm - Venture Crew</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve  Candle Light Worship 7 PM</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day 10:00 am - Worship</p>  <p>Birthdays Dimes for Missions</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

AA meets Sun, Mon & Wed at 7 pm; Al-Anon meets Mon at 7 pm

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am - Guest Worship Celebrant 	2 9:00 am - Sunday School 10 am - Worship Choir Rehearsal follows Worship 6 pm - Brownie Girl Scouts	3 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 7 pm - BSA	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord 	7
8 9:00 am - Sunday School 10 am - Worship Choir Rehearsal follows Worship 6 pm - Brownie Girl Scouts	9 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day Church Office Closed	10 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 7 pm - BSA	11	12	13	14
15 9:00 am - Sunday School 10 am - Worship Choir Rehearsal follows Worship	16	17 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 6 pm - Brownie Troop Leaders Meet 7 pm - BSA	18 6 pm - Girl Scout Troop Meeting 7 pm - Venture Crew	19	20	21
22 9:00 am - Sunday School 10 am - Worship Choir Rehearsal follows Worship 6 pm - Brownie Girl Scouts	23	24 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 7 pm - BSA	25	26	27	28
29 9:00 am - Sunday School 10 am - Worship Choir Rehearsal follows Worship Birthday Dimes for Missions	30	31 9:30 am - Tues. Ladies 7 pm - BSA	    SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM			

AA meets Sun, Mon & Wed at 7 pm; Ai-Anon meets Mon at 7 pm

THE PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

"MESSENGER"

OUR PURPOSE

As members together in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the Plainville United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

GOD IS CALLING US TO BE AN OPEN, LOVING COMMUNITY OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES.

PLAINVILLE United Methodist Church
56 Red Stone Hill
Plainville, CT 06062

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT HOLD

PUMC Church Staff:

Pastor

The Rev. Russell Waldmann

Secretary

Mrs. Eliana Foertsch

The Organist/Choir Director

Mr. David McWilliams

Inside Custodian

Mrs. Pamela Kendall

Outside Custodian

Mr. Robert Burns

Church Office - 860-747-2328

Parsonage - 860-747-2592

