

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
824 COOPER AVE.  
GLENWOOD SPRINGS CO  
970-945-6232  
GLENWOODUMC.COM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL AGES  
AT 9:00 AM  
WORSHIP AT 10:30



# First News

DECEMBER 2011

## From the Pastor

When I was serving the church in Cheyenne, WY the youth liked to put on a live nativity. Well, one year the temperature was about 10 degrees. All the youth had their parkas under their costumes. They all looked like the Pillsbury Dough Boy. When the youth would leave to get warm in the church they would knock over one of the props because they were so big and stiff from the piles of clothing. The best part was baby Jesus in the manger almost naked. In all the years I was at the church the youth never had a “perfect” nativity scene, because something always went wrong.

There has never been a “perfect” Christmas, especially when youth and children are involved. Do you remember the “perfect” Christmas play, service, live nativity, family gathering...whatever? Of course you don't because we only remember the messy ones. I think that is why we remember the first Christmas.

Here's how I think the first Christmas took place. Joseph says to Mary, “That crazy Cesar want us to pay our taxes in Bethlehem, and oh by the way you need to go with me.” Mary says, “Are you crazy I am 9 months pregnant and you want me to ride on a donkey for how many miles?” We don't know how but Joseph talked her into it. They arrive in Bethlehem hoping to stay with the in-laws only to find out they forgot to call ahead, so nobody had room for them. Apparently they were not the only ones who had to go to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Mary and Joseph found all the hotels and inns booked solid with people on a waiting list. Then after knocking on several of his relative's doors one of them said that Joseph and Mary could stay in his old barn. Arriving at the barn it was quite obvious that the stalls hadn't been cleaned in a couple of months. Just as Mary looked at Joseph to tell him we've got to find another place you, guessed it, Mary's water broke. Joseph was able to find some fairly clean straw for Mary to lie down on. With no mid-wife around Joseph helped deliver the baby. Joseph found a very old manger to use as a crib. Mary was exhausted and just about to sleep when these wild and crazy shepherds showed up. They were talking about this angel

and a heavenly host singing glory to God. Mary thought, “What have they been drinking and where were their sheep?” Next if this wasn’t bad enough they woke up the baby! Joseph took one look at Mary and saw how cranky she was, so he chased the noisy lot away. The shepherds went away singing the Hallelujah Chorus.

I think that was one messy Christmas! I want to pass along the thought that everything doesn’t have to be perfect. It’s okay if the choir misses a couple of notes, a child sitting in the front row screams through-out the service, and the teenagers make sculptures out of the candles before we sing “Silent Night.” Even at home if the stuffing doesn’t turn out or wrapping paper is strewn from one end of the house to the other, it’s okay. The mess is the message, because in years to come that will be the Christmas you will talk about. I think that is why we retell the Christmas story each year to remind us that when God’s son came into this world in human form it was a messy event. The story also reminds us that God wants to be in our messes. The “perfect” Christmas is one where things don’t always turn out as we want, but always as we need.

### “The Longest Night Service”

**Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7:00 pm in Bethel Chapel. “The Longest Night Service” is an interfaith worship service with Mennonite, Methodist, Lutheran (ELCA), Episcopal and Congregational Churches. This is a candle lighting service which makes space in the Christmas season for those living in the darkness of grief, loss or pain.

## Holiday Happenings

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** the Mountain Madrigals will be singing for us during worship and we will be having our December potluck directly after worship. Since we will be having guests, please bring an extra dish to share.

### Mountain Madrigal Concert Dates

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm  
Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

### Messiah Concerts

Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

### Christmas Worship

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** — Family Service presented by the youth and children  
Followed by Communion and Candle lighting

**8:00 pm** — Traditional Service with Communion and Candle lighting

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am** — Worship

## Sunday School

Sunday School for all ages is at 9:00am. Childcare is available for children younger than pre-school age.

**Children 3yrs old through 5th grade** will explore the story of Jesus' birth with fresh eyes and ears through Adam Hamilton's *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*.

### Youth Confirmation Class

When: During Sunday School

Time: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Who: 6th through 12th grade

Place: The Upper Room (the room above Cooper Corner)

Confirmation helps young people begin a deeper look at their beliefs about God, Jesus Christ, the bible, the church, and what does it mean to be a disciple. They will also answer the question, "Why would I want to be Christian and belong to a church or the United Methodist denomination"?

### Adult Sunday School **New**

Join us for a video Journey "Walking the Road to Bethlehem", a study from Adam Hamilton, United Methodist pastor in Leawood, Kansas. We will explore the story of Jesus' birth with fresh eyes and ears in order to discover the real meaning of Christmas. There will be insights from historians, archaeologist, biblical scholars and theologians and walking in the places where the story occurred. We will begin the six week program on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am in Cooper Corner. Join us for any or all sessions.

## Adult Bible Study

**Adult Bible Study** Meets Tuesday at 6:15 pm in the Prayer Room. The current study is "Journey Through the Bible". Volume 3, covering Joshua, Judges and Ruth, is available in the office for \$10.00. There is also a reference copy available in the church library.

## Youth Group

The next meeting will be December 8th, 9:30 am in Bethel Chapel.

## Youth Group

The youth will have their Christmas Party on December 18th. Be thinking about a "White Elephant Gift" to bring. This will be our last meeting until the New Year!

**Please submit newsletter articles for January by December 20th.**

I was away at Westside Weekend with the youth on the Sunday we set up trees for Christmas Tree Lane. I received the email printed below and want to share it with all of you. It really is about our wonderful congregation.

Dear Rilla,

I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know how wonderful today was.

First, I started to go downstairs and make the coffee and Michael met me in the hallway letting me know he already started it.

Second, I made the announcement for helpers to help with Christmas trees and **we had 15 people stay to help. I can not tell you what an amazing gift that was!!!** We got all the trees set up and put in the balcony and the back of the sanctuary. Suzy, Connie and Carole were there and chose some trees for their decorating efforts. We also got lights put on the trees but I didn't run extension cords yet.

Third, Ralph Hubbell brought all the refreshment things down to the kitchen for me while I was putting up trees. He washed the pitchers that held the lemonade and tried to put things away as best he could and I **totally appreciated it.**

Fourth, I started a kettle on the stove for tea and promptly left it there. I didn't realize I had left it until I was almost back to Silt. I called Michael's house and Roxann told me that Michael was in Meeker so I called the Colemans and Phyllis said she'd go over.

Toni

## More Words of Gratitude

A BIG THANK YOU from the Mission committee to all who participated with goodies, purchasing, helping with set up, pricing, selling and clean up. We have \$422.75 for the Mission trip in March.

**Christmas Offering** The Christmas offering will be given to three different areas of ministry. These include: Lift-Up, UMCOR National Disaster Response Advance # 901670 (aiding in the recovery work from the Spring flooding and tornadoes), and the Veracruz English Academy Mission trip. The Mission Committee thanks you in advance for your support and generosity.

## LIFT-UP provides Thanksgiving dinner for over 1,500 local families.

LIFT-UP distributed Thanksgiving meal assistance for more than 1,500 local families this past week in time for the holiday on Thursday, a 30 percent increase over 2010. Over 6,000 people will sit down to Thanksgiving dinner this year – roughly 10 percent of the population for the communities in which LIFT-UP operates – thanks to the generosity of the community.

Registration figures included 403 families in Rifle, 360 families in Glenwood Springs, 190 families in Basalt, 185 families in Carbondale, 135 families in Parachute, 100 families in New Castle, 59 families in Silt, and 52 families in Aspen. 1,484 families registered to receive assistance, but the extras that showed up seeking food at the eight area distribution sites brought the total to more than 1,500 families.

According to Jeffrene Fowler, LIFT-UP's services manager, "about half of the food distributed was donated by the community from food drives and items brought into the food pantries, and half was purchased by LIFT-UP at Food Bank of the Rockies or at local grocery stores." The holiday meal assistance includes traditional Thanksgiving menu items like stuffing, potatoes, corn and green beans, and a \$10 meat voucher that can be redeemed at local City Markets and Clark's Market in Battlement Mesa.

"I'm amazed and grateful to see how our community responds to the needs in our region, and I'm happy that LIFT-UP can serve as a channel of assistance to brighten the holiday season for neighbors in need," said LIFT-UP executive director, Mike Powell, adding, "it's been a rough year for many of these folks. I want to thank all of the supporters and volunteers that help make this tremendous outreach possible."

LIFT-UP will also distribute holiday meals in December in time for Christmas. The special holiday meal assistance is provided over and above the regular services provided from LIFT-UP's seven area food pantries, which are serving an average of more than 2,000 people per month, and The Extended Table Soup Kitchen in Glenwood Springs that serves over 1,100 meals per month.



It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. Pastor Mike was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures.


Immediately, Pastor Mike turned towards the church to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Jimmy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Pastor Mike walked up to Jimmy and said, "Well, Jimmy, where did you get the little infant?" Jimmy replied, "I got him from the church."

"And why did you take him?"

With a sheepish smile, Jimmy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it."

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:15-7:30 pm Bible Study Prayer Room	<b>2</b> 7:30 am Men's Group at Hot Springs Pool Grill  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  6:15-8pm 12 Step -AA Room	<b>3</b> 9-11 am Madrigals Rehearsal Bethel  10 am Decorating Sanctuary  10 am Women's AA AA Room  Noon AA Fellowship Hall
<b>4</b> 9:00 am Sunday school All ages  10:30 Worship Madrigals Sing  11:30 Pot Luck  1:30 pm Madrigals Concert Sanctuary  5:00 Youth Group Fellowship Hall	<b>5</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  1:30-3:30 pm Cooking Matters FH  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  5:15 pm OA Cooper Corner  6-9 pm Messiah Dress Rehearsal -Sanctuary  6:30 Library Literacy Outreach	<b>6</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:15-7:30 pm Adult Bible Study Prayer Room  7:30-9:30 Messiah Concert Sanctuary	<b>7</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts- FH & classes  7:15 Choir Practice Bethel  7:30-9:30 Messiah Concert Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 9:30 am UMW Bethel  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  2:45-4:00 pm Cooking Matters Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts- FH & classes  6:30-9 pm Madrigals Rehearsal Sanctuary  7:00 p.m. Al Anon Cooper Corner	<b>9</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:15-8pm 12 Step -AA Room  7:30 pm Mountain Madrigals Concert-Sanctuary	<b>10</b> 10 am Women's AA AA Room  Noon AA Fellowship Hall
<b>11</b> 9:00 am Sunday school All ages  10:30 Worship  11:45 Committee Meetings  12:30 pm Ad Council  12:30 AA-FH  5:00 Youth Group Fellowship Hall  7:00 pm Mountain Madrigals Concert-Sanctuary	<b>12</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  1:30-3:30 pm Cooking Matters Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  5:15 pm OA Cooper Corner  6:30 Library Literacy Outreach	<b>13</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  6:15-7:30 pm Adult Bible Study Prayer Room  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30 Heartbeat Cooper Corner	<b>14</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts Cake Auction Fellowship Hall  7:15 Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>15</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H. Our Church Serves  6:30-9 pm Madrigals Rehearsal Sanctuary  7:00 p.m. Al Anon Cooper Corner	<b>16</b> 7:30 am Men's Group at Hot Springs Pool Grill  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:15-8pm 12 Step -AA Room	<b>17</b> 10 am Women's AA AA Room  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  7:30 pm Mountain Madrigals Concert-Sanctuary
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Sunday school All ages  10:30 Worship  5:00 Youth Group Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  1:30-3:30 pm Cooking Matters Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  5:15 pm OA Cooper Corner  6:30 Library Literacy Outreach	<b>20</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.	<b>21</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts- FH & classes  7:00 pm Longest Night Service Bethel  7:15 Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>22</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts- FH & classes  7:00 p.m. Al Anon Cooper Corner	<b>23</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:15-8pm 12 Step -AA Room	<b>24</b> 10 am Women's AA AA Room  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  6:00 Family Christmas Eve Serv.  8:00 Traditional Christmas Eve Serv.
<b>25</b> 10:30 Worship  	<b>26</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  5:15 pm OA Cooper Corner  6:30 Library Literacy Outreach  Youth from Prosper TX Bethel	<b>27</b> Youth from Prosper TX Bethel Chapel  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.	<b>28</b> Youth from Prosper TX Bethel  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts- FH & classes  7:15 Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>29</b> Youth from Prosper TX Bethel  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts- FH & classes  7:00 p.m. Al Anon Cooper Corner	<b>30</b> Noon AA Fellowship Hall  5-6 pm Extended Table F. H.  6:15-8pm 12 Step -AA Room	<b>31</b> 10 am Women's AA  Noon AA Fellowship Hall  6pm-1am AA New Year's Eve Party

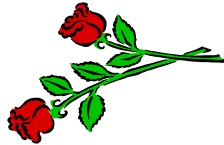
## December Birthdays



12/01	Mary Stewart	12/25	David Alcott
12/01	Larry Rynearson	12/26	Fran Ralff
12/15	Paulette Parker	12/27	Lyle Beattie
12/17	George Morrison	12/27	Claire Wilson
12/20	Benjamin Yorty	12/27	Andrew Gilbert

## December Anniversaries

- 12/19 Klaus & LeAnn Kocher  
12/19 Mike & Shirley Blair  
12/26 Doug & Bron Kelch  
12/27 Ron & June Robinson



## Announcements

**Our Knitting Group** meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM. Check with June Robinson or Pauline DiSalvo as to location.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US ON A WESTERN MEDITERANEAN CRUISE** WHICH INCLUDES ITALY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, MOROCCO AND MONTE CARLO.. THIS IS A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHERE YOU WILL HEAR LECTURES BY DR. STEPHEN RETTERMAYER, A UNITED METHODIST PASTOR. THE CRUISE WILL BE 26 SEPT - 7 OCT 2012. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, WE HAVE BROCHURES.  
JOHN AND PAULETTE PARKER

### **Box Tops for Education**

The Mission Committee is asking that you begin saving the pink "Box Tops for Education". They will have a box at the back of the sanctuary to deposit the box tops. These will be donated to a school that will receive 10 cents for each box top. They can use the money to buy items for their school.

City Market Cares—if you shop at City Market and are not already signed up for the City Market Cares program, please consider calling the office to sign up. Then every time you shop and scan your City Market Card a donation is made to the church. We receive a check quarterly.

Staff Gift: If you would like to contribute to the church staff gift, please write "staff gift" on our check or envelope.