

# SUNDAY MESSENGER

December 20, 2009

## WILLIAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5681 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221

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### WUMC VISION STATEMENT

As a village church, Williamsville United Methodist faithfully continues the vision and tradition of our founders by welcoming all people to encounter Jesus Christ. We will nurture active fellowship and participation through a variety of ministries that encourage people of all ages to grow in a spiritual journey with Christ.

### GREAT BIG BIRTHDAY HUGS TO

12/20 Gracie Leonardi, Bob Hayman, Della Knapp

12/23 Sarah Eichhorn, Frank Swansfeger

12/25 Sue Dolan, Alberta Carey

Your birthday is important to us! If we missed it please call the church office to update our records, 634-4800.

### PRAYER REQUESTS and CONCERNS

Prayers of healing and support are requested for Bob Race, Gladys Vogel, Elias Nojaim, Marie Grieser, Mary El Minich, Charles Mastin, Sarah Gregory, Tamar Friedner, Irene Wachowiak, Rev. John Beeson, Russ Lewis ~ Continuing prayers are asked for Tony Eichhorn & family, Families in crisis.

### RENEWING OUR COVENANT, MAKING A NEW ONE

We will begin 2010 at WUMC by renewing our covenant with God in an adaptation of John Wesley's historic Covenant Renewal Service during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Jan. 3. Later in the month we will offer opportunities for those who have recently come to our congregation to learn more about our tradition, our congregation, and our ministries. At the end of the month we will celebrate our relationships with God and with each other by receiving new members and by baptizing infants and others who have not previously been baptized. If you are interested in becoming a member or discussing baptism for yourself or your child, please contact a member of the staff.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday December 28 – Wednesday December 30:

Church office open 9:00 AM – Noon

Thursday December 31 – Friday January 1, 2010:

Church office closed

### NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no regular Sunday School classes for all ages on Sunday, December 27 and January 3. We ask that all the children and their Sunday School teachers relax and enjoy the spirit of the season with their families and loved ones these weeks. Regular classes will resume January 10, 2010! \*\*\*There will also be **no extended session** December 27 and January 3.



## WUMC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24

3:00 PM Christmas Before Dusk

*Take time to find calm and peace after the pre-Christmas rush, rush, rush. Join us for a simple Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion.*

5:00 PM Children's Christmas Celebration

*All kinds of families will gather together for a special child-oriented Christmas Eve program. The birth of Jesus will be retold in story and song. Some of our puppet friends will help us all understand the message of Christ's birth.*

10:00 PM Festival of Lessons and Carols

*A traditional candlelight service of scripture readings, carols, and anthems with music by the Chancel Choir and special guests.*

Sunday, December 27

One Worship at 11:00 AM

*No Christian Education Hour*

Sunday, January 3

Taize Worship at 9:00 AM

*No Christian Education Hour*

Traditional Worship at 11:00 AM

### 2009 STATEMENTS

Your end of the year 2009 statements will be ready soon. All 2009 offerings to be included for IRS purposes on this year's statement must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2009.

### 2010 GIVING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are being mailed this week, you should receive them by the end of December. The envelopes help us to provide you with an accurate statement of giving, watch for yours to arrive soon. Please discard any unused 2009 envelopes and use the new set for 2010, your envelope number will probably change. If you do not receive your envelopes or have any questions please call the church office.

### CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: CREATION IN CRISIS

Today the Contemporary Issues Class concludes its discussion of racism before recessing for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The class will reconvene Sunday, Jan. 10, to examine the November pastoral letter from the Council of Bishops, "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." In it the bishops write, "God's creation is in crisis. Our neglect, selfishness, and pride have fostered pandemic poverty and disease, environmental degradation, and the proliferation of weapons and violence. We must begin the work of renewing creation by being renewed in our own hearts and minds." The bishops' letter and accompanying foundation document will be posted on the WUMC website this week. Simply follow the links to the Adult Christian Education page and look for the Contemporary Issues information. *Be sure to bring a copy of the bishops' letter and foundation document to class when we meet.*

### PASTOR TO BE ON VACATION

Pastor Rich Neal will be away from the office Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Pastoral and administrative concerns during the time will be attended by other members of the staff.

### FLORIDA FRUIT IS HERE

If you ordered fruit you can pick up downstairs in the kitchen. The boxes all have labels with the names of who they belong to. If you have not paid for your fruit please make your check payable to WUMC and give it to Denise in the church office.

### DONATE A BOOK

Every year our children decorate their own Christmas tree in Fillmore Hall. This year we are also hanging book ornaments. On each book is a title of a book that corresponds to the curriculum we use each week. If you would like and are able to we are looking for families to choose a book (or several if you'd like) that your family would like to purchase and donate to our Children's ministry here. Please feel free to write your family's name inside the cover along with any special messages for our children. These books will be treasured and read for many years to come. In advance we thank you all for your generous hearts.

### DAYS AHEAD IN OUR CHURCH

Please contact the church office at 634-4800 to obtain phone numbers of the contact people mentioned below.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**      **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 AM      King's Kids Celebration (Children's Worship)  
  
9:45 AM      Christian Education for children & adults  
                  Movie Day  
  
11:00 AM      Traditional Worship & Extended Session Class

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21**  
                  ODNS Christmas Concert

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
7:30 PM      Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
                  Contact: Judy Stafford or Wendy Amuso  
  
8:00 PM      Narcotics Anonymous meeting in Fillmore Hall

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**      **Christmas Eve**  
3:00 PM      Christmas Before Dusk Worship with communion  
  
5:00 PM      Children's Christmas Celebration  
  
10:00 PM      Festival of Lessons and Carols

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25**      **Christmas Day**  
                  Church Office Closed

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26**  
8:30 AM      Men's breakfast Group at Sheridan Family  
                  Restaurant. Reservations not required, come when  
                  you can. Newcomers are always welcome.  
                  Contact Bob Hayman

### SAVE THE DATE

Catch the Spirit Discipleship Gathering will be January 30, 2010 at the Clarence United Methodist Church (10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence, NY) Opportunities to expand your faith, be a more faithful Disciple for Jesus Christ, develop your talents in ministry and learn more about the church will be presented by both lay and clergy from our district. Brochures and registration forms are available in the church office and on the information rack in the narthex. Deadline for registration will be January 17. The cost will be \$22. Join us for fellowship, worship, workshops, and more.

### WEATHER CLOSINGS

In the event that we determine it is necessary to cancel church services or activities due to bad weather you can listen to WBEN Radio 930AM or watch channel 2, 4, or 7 news for information.

### COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are desperately in need of a few people to help out with the coffee hour after the 11:00 service. The job involves making & serving the coffee and cleaning up afterward. We generally have several volunteers, so you don't have to be available every Sunday. Please call Marie Grieser if you can help or have any questions.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**  
11:00 AM      Traditional Worship

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 28**  
                  Church Office Open 9:00 AM – Noon

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29**  
                  Church Office Open 9:00 AM - Noon

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30**  
                  Church Office Open 9:00 AM - Noon

5:00 PM      "Only Child" Bereavement Support Group  
                  Contact: Leslie Jordans

8:00 PM      Narcotics Anonymous meeting in Fillmore Hall

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
                  Church Office Closed

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1**      **New Year's Day**  
                  Church Office Closed

**SUNDAY, January 3**  
9:00 AM      Contemporary Worship with communion  
  
11:00 AM      Traditional Worship

