

December 2009/January 2010

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

DECEMBER

Christmas Eve Worship – Four Services

**5:00 p.m. at Crossroads,
2095 W. Fair Ave.**

- Childcare for children age 4 and under
- This will NOT be a candlelight service. It will include carols accompanied by the praise band and a message by Robert McDowell.

**7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary,
163 E. Wheeling St.**

- Childcare for children age 4 and under
- Traditional candlelight service
- Communion will be served beginning 45 minutes prior to the each service in the Chapel (second floor)

December 6 – 5:30 p.m. (Crossroads)
“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”
See page 7.

December 13 – 2 & 6 p.m. (Crossroads)
Virtual Reality Christmas Spectacular
See page 3.

December 20 – Morning Worship (Church)
The Chancel Choir will present portions of the cantata, “Make His Praise Glorious.” It combines traditional carols with contemporary music – a wonderful way to celebrate the gift of our newborn Savior.

All of December – Wednesday & Sunday evenings, 6-9 p.m. (Crossroads)
Nativity Display (Fontanini) See Page 3.

JANUARY

“Faith, Films, & Fiction” Sermon Series in January

On Sunday, January 3, during worship, we will begin a three-part sermon series on “Faith, Films, & Fiction.” This is a good sermon series to invite people who want to know more about the Christian faith from a media and arts perspective.

- January 3 – Movie: “August Rush”
- January 10 – Novel: “The Lost Symbol”
- January 17 – Movie – “Because of Winn Dixie”

Basketball Legend Jerry Lucas to Speak at First UMC in January!

Our church will be hosting Jerry Lucas on January 24 & 25. Jerry is known not only for his many basketball accomplishments but also for his faith in Jesus Christ, and his memorization skills. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for these events as we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and deepen our ability to retain information.

- Sunday, January 24, 8:15, 9:45, & 11:00 Worship – “Improving Family Relationships,” Location – First UMC
- Sunday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. – “Automatic Learning,” Location - Crossroads Facility
- Monday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. – “Names & Faces Made Easy,” Location - Crossroads Facility

World AIDS Day

A Candlelight Vigil will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at Franklin Park Conservatory, 6-8 p.m. HIV/AIDS Community Organizations and Consumers are converging to honor and remember those who have passed away from AIDS. This event is open to the public. The World AIDS Day hotline phone number to call to record names is 1-614-340-6750.



Angel Tree is ready

Pick an angel from the tree in the church parlor, record it on the sheet nearby and purchase gifts for needy families in our community. Then bring them back to the church by Sunday, December 13, unwrapped and with the angel tag. The Local Missions Team will then deliver them. Thank you!

Candlelight Tour – December 12

The Fairfield Heritage Association in cooperation with the downtown Lancaster churches presents the Candlelight Tour on December 12 beginning at 6:00 p.m. This event gives you the opportunity to visit eight historic churches in the evening as you experience “The Joy of Christmas” programs at each one.

Tickets are available in the church office until Dec. 11 for the start of the tour here at First United Methodist Church.

Tickets: \$8.00 for adults & \$2.00 for children under 12.



**ARTICLES FOR THE
FEBRUARY 2010 CIRCUIT
RIDER ARE DUE
JANUARY 18**

Births

Colin Jeffrey Vandervoort
Born September 27, 2009
Son of Jeff & Liz Vandervoort
Grandson of Pete & Nancy Vandervoort

Emily Morgan Parker
Born November 11, 2009
Daughter of Andrew & Kelly Parker
Granddaughter of Jim & Peg Parker

Baptism

October 28, 2009
Alexander Catemaxca-Knapp
Son of Francisco Catemaxca-Fiscal
& Misty Knapp

Deaths

We express our sincere sympathy to the families of those who have lost loved ones:

**Opal Woodward
Ruby Johnson
Mary Barclay
Jeanette Rings
Bob Clelland
Jerry Collier
Emily Wolfe**

New Members

The following persons joined FUMC on November 15, 2009.

**Jeanette Acton
Shannon & Stephanie Alvis
Jack & Kelly Fuller
Farrell Jackson
Debbie Lee
Penny McDowell
Linda Virene
Chris & Lisa Williams & Casey Williams**



Virtuous Reality Christmas Spectacular

This puppet show will be coming to Crossroads on Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 & 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00 and are available only at the door on the day of the show. Don't miss this show featuring lots of new stuff!



United Methodist Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men's breakfast will be held on December 5. The breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. in the Rising House. Cost is \$5.00. Following breakfast, the men will meet for fellowship and prayer. For reservations, call the church office (653-3330) by December 3. Come and bring a friend!

In January the Men's Breakfast will be on the second Saturday morning, January 9. Reservations will be due January 7.



Christmas Eve Lunch opportunity

Please call the church receptionist at 653-3330 if you could help with the First Community Kitchen lunch on Thursday, December 24 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Several of our regular volunteers will be out of town so if you are available we would appreciate your help. Thanks so much!!!!



Nativity Display will fill Tower Hall at Crossroads

Be sure to visit our Memorial Nativity Display at Crossroads beginning November 29 and extending until January 3, 2010. This Italian style, almost life-size display can be seen on Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 6-9 p.m., as well as any time Crossroads is open. The nativity figures are created by Fontanini.



Fontanini (The House of Fontanini) was founded in 1908 in Bagni di Lucca, an Italian village in Tuscany, Italy by Emanuele Fontanini. Four generations later, the House of Fontanini is still a family business run by the five core-family members. The Fontanini family takes pride in creating life-like figures and nativities that take you back to the Biblical Bethlehem story. Each piece produced is historically researched for accuracy in the detail/story of the piece.

All figures are produced in the Italian factory and are hand painted by an artisan in their home in Italy. The Fontanini family closely monitors the production of all figures.

Volunteers from our church help to construct sets and props that remain as true to the Fontanini style as possible. Lots of time goes into set-up and decorating details that make the display one that you will want to view time and again.

Thanks to new gifts this year, visitors will actually walk through the town of Bethlehem on their way to the manger. This display is a unique way that our congregation can help our community "experience Christmas." Invite your friends and neighbors to check it out as well. (See complete memorial list on Page 11.)

Special thanks go to Dale & Shirley Fisher, Ken & Edna Hoch, Dan & Linda Powell, Bob Oakey, Kathering Ogilvie & Carolynn Vawter for helping John Coen in creating this year's Memorial Nativity at Crossroads!



Ministry with Youth Through
First United Methodist Church

Sunday nights in December and January: are you in a small group?

Every Sunday night there's something for teenagers. On the first Sunday of each month we gather at Crossroads (2095 W. Fair Ave.) for some fun activities with everyone. The rest of the Sundays of the month are spent in small group time in a home in Lancaster.

The *First Sunday* event for December (the 6th) is a dinner theater at Crossroads at 5:30 p.m. The meal will be a great one, and it's followed by the production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Some of our own youth are in the play, so we hope you'll attend. Cost is \$5 total.

The *First Sunday* event for January (the 3rd) is a Corn Hole Tournament. That's right, you and a partner can enter into the tournament or you can come to cheer on your friends. Other youth groups are invited, and you're welcome to bring your friends. There's no charge. It's at Crossroads from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on January 3rd.

Christmas party planned for youth

What would the Christmas season be without celebration? And one of the best ways to celebrate is with a party – with food and friends, gifts and fun.

That's what's planned for youth at Crossroads on December 20th from 6 to 8 p.m.

All youth are invited to be a part of the celebration, so feel free to invite your friends. There will be a gift exchange for anyone who brings a wrapped gift (don't spend more than \$5 for the gift, please). If you'd like to bring some food, then we're asking that guys bring salty stuff and girls bring sweet stuff (although it's not required to bring food).

We hope "yule" come to the party and help us all enjoy the fun of this season.

Youth to sponsor a spring rummage sale

Start saving your old clothing, your old furniture, your used toys and your boxed up knick-knacks. The youth are raising money this year with a spring rummage sale at Crossroads to help fund the older and younger youth Summer Mission Trips.

Each year the youth raise funds to help pay for the trips, and this year we're dropping the flower coupon sales in order to pick up the rummage sale. We appreciate how members have been so supportive over the years in the fund raisers and hope people will help out this year by saving their old things for this spring sale. The date for the sale will be announced in the next *Circuit Rider*. Stay tuned!

Women's Luncheon

The monthly luncheon and unit meeting of United Methodist Women will be Wednesday, December 2, at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. The program will include the installation of officers, memorial and honorary recognitions and special Christmas music. Call your reservation by Monday, November 30, to Betty Bowman (654-4370). There will be no luncheon in January!



Pecans still available

The United Methodist Women are selling pecans - \$7.00 for one pound - in the parlor between worship services on Sunday mornings. Stock up now for the holiday season. They will keep even longer if you freeze them. Proceeds will benefit missions.



Cokesbury Booktable

The selection of books listed below is available from our booktable ministry. Located in the parlor, these books and many others are sold each Sunday morning between the worship services. The booktable ministry also receives requests for special orders.

I Love You, Miss Huddleston, by Philip Gulley. With his ear for the small town and his knack for finding the needle of humor in life's haystack. Philip Gulley might we be Indiana's answer to Missouri's Mark Twain. In *I Love You, Miss Huddleston* we are transported to 1970's Danville, Indiana, the everyone-knows-your-business town where Gulley still lives today, to witness the uproarious story of Gulley's young life, including his infatuation with his comely sixth-grade teacher. From beginning to end, Gulley recalls the hilarity (and heightened dangers) of those wonder years and the easy charm of Midwestern life. \$21.99

Changes That Heal—How to Understand Your Past to Ensure a Healthier Future, by Dr. Henry Cloud. In this groundbreaking book, Dr. Cloud takes the reader step-by-step through the four basic tasks of becoming mature image bearers of God: Bonding to others; separating from others; sorting out good and bad in ourselves and others; and becoming an adult. Dr. Paul Meier, of the Minirth-Meier Clinic, says, "Of all the professionals I know, Henry Cloud understands and explains best why people develop emotional and relational problems and how they can solve them." \$12.99

Cookie Walk



Saturday, December 5
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Members of the congregation as well as UMW Circles are urged to donate and bring their fresh, homemade holiday cookies and candy to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, Dec. 4, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This event is a major fund raiser for Missions by the Local Unit of United Methodist Women.

Tell your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the many culinary talents of the First United Methodist Church!

Desperate Marriages, by Gary Chapman. Millions of couples are struggling in desperate marriages. Dr. Chapman addresses what to do if your spouse is: irresponsible, a workaholic, controlling, uncommunicative, verbally abusive, physically abusive, sexually abusive, unfaithful, addicted to alcohol or drugs, or depressed. \$14.99

When Jesus Came to Harvard, by Harvey Cox. In this urgently relevant, wholly enlightening discussion of modern moral decisions, the Harvard theology professor Harvey Cox considers the significance of Jesus and his teachings today. As he did in his undergraduate class *Jesus and the Moral Life*—a course that grew so popular that the lectures were held in a theater often used for rock concerts—Cox examines contemporary dilemmas in the light of lessons gleaned from the Gospels. Invigorating and incisive, this book inspires a clear way of thinking about moral choices for all of us. \$14.95