



The Open Door

a newsletter of Memorial United Methodist Church

Gift of the Season



A Christmas Celebration
in word and song
December 11 & 12, 2015

@ 7:00PM

Presented by
Memorial United
Methodist Youth Fellowship





“It’s the most wonderful time of the year. There’ll be parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting, and carolers out in the snow, there’ll be scary ghost stories, and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago.” I may not have gotten the words exactly right, but I can always hear Andy Williams singing in the back of my mind at this time of the year. I do love Christmas, and I think it is the most wonderful time of the year. But I am also mindful that it can be a very difficult time of the year for others. Those who suffer from loneliness and depression, those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We are told over and over again to be of good cheer, to have fun, to be merry. At the same time we are constantly reminded of how much there is to do, and reminded of the things that still have to get done before Christmas arrives. Many of you know that I am a big fan of The Peanuts. In the television special “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” Linus is the voice of reason—as the resident theologian he reminds us all of the true meaning of Christmas. It’s not about the decorations and the tree—it’s about a baby born in the most unlikely of circumstances. May we all be able to keep our eyes on the baby this year as we journey through Advent toward the celebration of Christmas. See you at church.



Doug

Nestled in a string of youth activities, I am excited to announce the UMYF Christmas concert called “The Gift of the Season” which ushers us into the holiday season. The concert features the combined effort of talented soloists and actors. Don’t miss this joyous occasion as friends, family and neighbors come together to celebrate the Christmas story. The concert will take place on December 11th and 12th at 7:00 pm. The concert is a fundraiser for the mission trip that has been scheduled for next June for our high schoolers. Although admission to the concert is free, a free-will offering will be received.

Besides the mission trip, there are other activities scheduled for our UMYF as well. February 19-20 is our trip to Lincoln for the Dare-2-Share Youth Rally for grades 6-12, and we are scheduled to take the high schoolers to the Table in the Wilderness from March 10-13 for skiing in the Snowy Range, Wyoming. Each youth has a ‘bank account’ within the youth fund, and when they help with various fundraisers (like the concert, and the dessert/dinner auction scheduled for March 20), money is deposited into that account to help pay for these activities. We are working to determine the balances in the kids’ accounts, and will let them know how much they have soon.

Beyond these ‘big events’ we meet each week to learn, serve, and have fun. We take gift baskets to shut-ins, play bingo at the care centers, made a shopping trip for supplies for the chaplains’ packages, and will also send care packages to our college students. If you are a youth, or know of a youth, who has yet to join us on Sunday evenings (6-7 pm for the Junior High Schoolers and 7-8 pm the High Schoolers), please know that everyone is welcome!

-Pastor Arun



Welcome the Light

Everyone is invited to join us during Advent and don't wait till Christmas to worship with us!!

November 29th - First Sunday of Advent
 December 6th - Second Sunday of Advent
 December 13th - Third Sunday of Advent (Chancel Choir & Master Ringers)
 December 20th - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday School Program "Talents for Jesus")
 December 24th - 5:00PM - Children's Christmas Program
 7:00PM - Candlelight and Communion
 11:00PM - Candlelight and Communion



Specially Called Church Conference

On December 20th, during the 10:30AM service, there will be a specially called church conference. The only item on the agenda is to vote on Pastor Arun's candidacy for the ministry.



McCook Area Community Chorus

The community choir will be having their concert on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 4:00PM here at the Memorial United Methodist Church. Afterwards there will be a freewill offering soup supper sponsored by the Significant Light praise band immediately following the concert.

All are welcome to attend!!!



It's getting close to that time of year for us to make plans for the Youth Christmas Service on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. It's fun to feel the Christmas Spirit!! Anyone in grades K-12 who would be interested in being a part of the service can call Christi Evans at 340-9719, Edith McCorkle at 345-5413 or the church office. We will put you on our list to contact you concerning practices.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE	<i>December 2015</i>						
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
SUNDAY 8:15/10:30am Worship 9:15am Coffee 6:00 pm Significant Light, S 6:00 pm Jr. High UMYF, YC 7:00pm Sr. High UMYF, YC TUESDAY 9:30am Prayer Class, Adult SS Room WEDNESDAY 6:15 pm Confirmation, YC 6:15 pm CHIPS (5th-6th) 6:15 pm Faith Weavers (PreK-4th) 6:15 pm Mission Possible (7th) 6:30 pm WORD (9-10th), YC 7:00 pm Chancel Choir, S 7:30 pm WORD (11-12th) @702 Airport Rd (Wolford's house) 8:00 pm Master Ringers, S THURSDAY 5:30pm Community Supper, FH			1 7:00PM Little Blessings Christmas Program, S	2	3 6:30PM Trustees, L	4	5 6:00PM Singles
	6 4:00PM Community Choir Christmas Program, S	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 1:30PM Care Team, L	9 10:00AM Brookdale 2:30PM Hillcrest 8:00PM AD Council, L	10 11:30AM UMW Christmas Covered Dish	11 1:00PM Wings of Hope, L 7:00PM UMYF Christmas Musical	12 7:00PM UMYF Christmas Musical
	13 10:30AM Chancel Choir & Master Ringers	14	15	16	17	18	19 6:00pm Singles
	20 10:30AM Sunday School Program	21 Winter Begins	22 2:30PM UMW Bingo @ Hillcrest	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00PM, 7:00PM, and 11:00PM	25 Christmas 	26
<p>The "true love" mentioned in the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" does not refer to a romantic couple, but the Catholic Church's code for God. The person who receives the gifts represents someone who has accepted that code. For example, the "partridge in a pear tree" represents Christ. The "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.</p>	27	28 6:30PM NOW, L	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 		



Pantry collection item for December

Flour/Sugar



Benevolence
Taking Care of God's Family

YEAR-TO-DATE PENNY MARCH

Benevolence Fund

Total: \$822.69

Little Blessings Christmas Program Times

The afternoon class will have their Christmas program on November 30th at 7PM. The morning class will have their Christmas program on December 1st at 7PM.

Both programs will be held in the sanctuary. Come see our little ones sing for the Lord!!



105 EAST E STREET
MCCOOK NE 69001
308-345-2445

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 34
McCook NE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

