

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Poinsettias orders for the Worship Services are available. We will continue our tradition of adorning the Sanctuary & Casual Service with beautiful poinsettias on Sundays, December 13 and 20 as well as Christmas Eve. These may be placed in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$16.00. Order forms are available in the narthex or the church office at 924-6269. **Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, December 9.**



The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 for Christmas, as well as on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1 for New Year's. If you need to reach a pastor in an emergency, please call the church at 924-6269, and a number will be provided on the recorded message.

Christmas Gifts Needed!

The Interfaith Federation would like to provide gifts for families in need at the Holy Grill (40 families and 11 individuals) and for children at the Mt. Carmel Kids Café (25 children). The Holy Grill serves lunches on weekdays in the Zion City neighborhood. The Mt. Carmel Kids Café provides after-school tutoring and a meal to children. To help, contact the Federation office at 267-5600.

Holidays for Hope

The United Methodist HOPE Ministries would like to provide holiday meals to families and Christmas toys to children. Donations of money and/or toys are needed. The deadline for toy donations is Monday, November 30. Pick up a flyer in the church office or go to www.hopebr.org for more information.

Serendipity Sunday School Class Christmas Ham Sale

The Serendipity Sunday School class is once again selling hams this Christmas. The cost of the 7 pound spiral cut honey baked ham is \$40, same as last year, and can be paid for when ordering or at pick up. All proceeds go to missions. Orders can be taken between worship services on November 29, December 6 or December 13 outside the Sanctuary, the Adult Education Building, or at the Casual Service. Hams can be picked up at the Gym kitchen from 9:15 a.m. until 12:15 on Sunday, December 20.



Advent 2009 at Broadmoor

The Perfect Christmas Tree

Each year before Christmas my father would take us out to the farm to cut our tree for Christmas. We would all search carefully for that perfect tree. It would be tall and full, a perfect triangle. There were many trees that looked like the one. But as we got closer, we noticed several gaps in the tree that made it unacceptable. Then it was off to the next one in the distance.

I remember one year we found the perfect tree. It was beautiful, dark green, tall and full. We walked around it and saw that it had no gaps. As we began to cut it, however, we discovered that it was not one tree but two trees connected at the base. It was so disappointing. It looked to be the perfect tree. It was not perfect. But my mother said, "This is the one that I want."

Dad cut it (them) down and loaded it up. When we got home mother took one tree inside and left the other outside. There was a large window in front of the house. The Christmas tree always stood in front of the window. But this year was different. Mother found a way to connect the trees, one on the outside and one on the inside of the window. It looked just like it did out on the farm, the perfect Christmas tree. It had integrity. What you saw on the outside was what was on the inside. I think mother won the town contest that year.

I have thought about that experience a lot through the years. It has reminded me what the perfect Christmas tree really is. It is not simply the tree without the gaps. Nor is it the one with the most outer beauty. The perfect Christmas tree is the one that connects the inside with the outside. Perfect does not mean flawless as much as it means whole. To be whole is a big part of what it means to be holy. It is to have our fractured and broken parts brought together and spiritually and lovingly formed into a healthy whole person. Jesus can do that, inside and out.

O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas Angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Wednesday Evening Advent Meals and Meditations

December 2, 9, and 16: The meals will begin in the Gym at 5:00 p.m. and cost \$5.00. A brief service of meditation will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary each night.

Prepare the Way: Advent Studies Available

Setting the Christmas Stage will be led by Charlotte Napper on Monday mornings beginning November 30 from 9:30–11:00 and Wednesday afternoons beginning December 2 from 4:00–5:30. *Simply Wait* will be led by Rev. Shannon Sandifer on Monday evenings beginning November 30 from 6:00–7:30 and Wednesday mornings beginning December 2 from 9:30 – 11:00. Cost for the books will be \$10.00. Register online at www.broadmoor-umc.org/adventstudies or in the church office (924-6269). Books are available on Sunday mornings in front of the Sanctuary or through the church office.

Christmas CDs Available

The Men's Ensemble has just released their newest CD of Christmas music. These are only \$10.00 and will be available on Sunday mornings in front of the Sanctuary. You can also call or see David in the music building.

Poinsettia Delivery

We need you help to carry the spirit of Christmas to members of our Broadmoor family who are homebound or in long-term care facilities. Many of the poinsettias that adorn the Sanctuary will be available to take to our shut-ins on Christmas Day. Poinsettias should be picked up from the Sanctuary at 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve (following the 7:30 p.m. service). If you are interested in sharing the love of Christ in this special way, please call Rev. Ken Carroll in the church office at 924-6269.



Angels are Coming!

Please “adopt” an angel for Christmas gifts. Select a prisoner's child and purchase 2 gifts each. Spend no more than \$40 per angel. Signup tables will be located in front of Sanctuary and at the Casual Service on November 29. Return gifts on Sunday, December 6. Delivery of gifts will be on Saturday, December 19. Call Celeste Toney at 315-3508 with questions or to adopt.

Lighting Our Advent Candles

In the season of Advent, church members traditionally light our Advent candles at the beginning of each worship service. If you would like to participate in this liturgy in the traditional or casual service (couples, families, or individuals) please call Amy Sciple at the church office at 924-6269.

Faith Five

Advent for Families devotionals available in the Sanctuary, Casual Service, and Children's Ministries Building. Please pick one up for your family to enjoy this season.

Advent Calendar

Sunday, November 29

We will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent in our regular worship services.

Sunday, December 6

Hanging of the Greens Service

This special event is for the entire church family. We will begin in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. where we will hear music from our children and adult ensembles, together with readings from the scriptures and explanations of the various decorations that are used in our Sanctuary at Advent and Christmas. We will then make our way to the Gym to celebrate the decorations in that space and to have a snack supper and time of fellowship. This will be a meaningful way for young and old to recall the prophecies and purpose of Christ's birth.

Sunday, December 13

Combined Choirs Concert

The Chancel Choir and Gospel Choir, with orchestra, will present a Christmas cantata in the 9:45 and 11:00 traditional services. This cantata will feature many familiar carols, including songs in which the congregation can sing along with the choir. The 8:30 service this day will be in its regular format.

Children's Choir Concert

The Joy Notes and Young Wesleyans choirs will present a concert of Christmas carols at 4:00 p.m. at St. James Place, 333 Lee Drive. Featured on the program will be many child soloists, readers, and ringers. All are invited to attend!

Sunday, December 20

Service of Hope and Remembrance

A Service of Hope and Remembrance will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Christmas Caroling

All are invited to join us in spreading the Christmas spirit to our neighbors in Broadmoor at 5:30 p.m. We will go out in groups caroling and inviting our neighbors to join us back at the church for hot chocolate and cookies. It will be a wonderful time to share with your family and church family as all experience the joy of the Christmas season together. Also, Santa will join us after caroling for story time to tell us the “True Meaning of Christmas” story. Join us and let's make Christmas memories that will last a lifetime!

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Traditional services in Sanctuary: 4:30, 6:00, and 7:30 p.m. There will also be a 6:00 p.m. Casual Service in the Gym. Each of these will include a time of Communion and candle lighting. The 4:30 service is especially appropriate for families with young children.