



**THE CUP DECEMBER 2011**  
 A Monthly Publication of Lawson United Christian  
 & Presbyterian Church located in Lawson, MO.  
 816-296-3991



**Rooted in Christ; growing in faith; serving the world.**

Sunday School 9:45 AM  
 Worship Time 11 AM

**DECEMBER USHERS**  
 The Cates Family

**CONTACT  
 INFORMATION  
 FOR PASTOR BIRD**

Office: 296-3991  
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**The Church website is  
 www.lawsonucpc.com**  
**The Church email  
 address is  
 lawsonucpc@yahoo.com**

**CHILDREN'S  
 CHURCH  
 December 4**

**December 11**  
 Joy Tipton  
**December 18**

**December 25**



**“Message from MJ”**

Last night we celebrated Hanging of the Greens and Our Family Memories of Christmas. What a wonderful evening! A huge thank you to Mike and Janice Vaughn and Dorothy Swatt for the preplanning and preparation. Thank you also to Lindsay Johnson and her cook team that turned those turkey leftovers into two marvelous main dishes. Thank you to Rhonda and Carson Luther and Linda Brink for all the work they put into such creative and beautiful ornaments. Thank you Dona Philips-Proffitt for baking the delicious cookies. Children and adults alike enjoyed the crafts and the cookies! No one seemed to mind that everything stayed at the church this year. (Although I did hear a few Moms hoping the ornaments would adorn their trees at home.) The Narthex and Sanctuary look beautiful with the trees, garlands, wreaths, and decorations. Thank you to everyone who helped. If I tried to name everyone it would take the rest of the page and I would forget someone. So, if you helped decorate, led crafts, cooked, set the tables, mopped the floor, fixed a toilet, ate supper, watched the play, or set foot in the doorway, THANK YOU! The evening would not have been nearly as enjoyable without you.

Speaking of the play, thank you to Marcia Petty and Jada Clark for organizing this great endeavor. Thank you to Bob Endsley for recording the interviews, Joy Tipton for narrating, Melissa Morrow for lending her beautiful voice, Mary Russell for enthusiastic music, and all the Sunday School teachers for giving their time and talent above and beyond the call to help the children and youth learn their parts, rehearse, sing, costume, and make the production blessed. Thank you to all those who gave their time and energy to be interviewed—Roy and Shirley Cheek, Izetta Herndon, Charlie and June Hughes, Virginia Nolker, Roy and Jean Rinehart, Carolyn and Barry Robinson, Eric Stewart, and Frank and Peggy Williams. Let’s hear it for the interviewers as well—Kyra Clark, Emersen Harris, Morgyn Hubbard, Zach Kinder, Mikayla Silvey, Taelor Silvey, Megan Stewart, Taelor Williams. Thank you to the preschool and Kindergarten classes for their tribute to Baby Jesus, to the Middle School class for the Christmas story, and to Karalena Harris for playing Baby Jesus so beautifully. Thank you to Casey and Lindsay Johnson and middle and high school students from Safe Place Fridays who made the adorable animal masks.

Recently, I attended a conference that focused on youth ministry. The bottom line of what the leaders had to say was this: great youth ministry is not so much determined by the size of your youth group or charisma of the youth leader as it is by the inclusion and participation by youth in intergenerational interaction and relationships. UCPC is a family of faith and nowhere is that more in evidence than in events such as Hanging of the Greens. How many churches have regular activities that include babes in arms, toddlers, preschoolers, elementary age, middle school, high school, college, young adult, middle adults, and older adults all together? Hanging of the Greens is a tradition to be celebrated and passed on for generations to come. Maybe generations from now, an older adult will say, “I learned the Christmas story at church. Hanging of the Greens started the Christmas season and from that moment on I knew that my church family loved me. I have been in this church for 70 years. It has always been part of my celebration of Christmas.” May your Christmas be truly blessed! Shalom!

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday!**

- 2 Jana Bailey
  - 3 Izetta Herndon  
Nancy Endsley
  - 12 Virginia Nolker  
Zachary Kinder
  - 14 Phoebe McCleary
  - 15 Jesse McCleary
  - 16 Sandra Brock  
Nathan Cates
  - 17 Elmer Schmidt
  - 22 Amy Schnetzler  
Annalisa Harris
  - 23 Roy Rinehart
  - 24 Robert Tipton
  - 26 John Dolt  
Jacob Cates
  - 29 Morgyn Hubbard
  - 30 Mary Russell  
Janet Schneider
  - 31 Marcia Petty
- Happy Anniversary!**
- 11 Bill & Cindy Wright
  - 16 Mike & Janice Vaughn



**COMMUNION**  
Karen Morrow  
Donna Vermillion

**WE ARE PRAYING FOR**

**Adult Care Centers: Geneva Hunsaker, Emma Lee Drew (Excelsior Springs Nursing & Rehab); Helen Monroe. Military Service Personnel: William Gary Smith II, Sean Frazier. Other: Donna Vermillion, Ricki Martin (Friend of Donna Vermillion), Sue Mumaw (Sarah Bender's Mother-in-law), John & Margaret Tipton, Virginia Nolker, Izetta Herndon, Melba Crouse, Nathan Cates, Richard Lanning, Ray Jean and Marty Monroe, Genny Arbogast (friend of Teresa Herndon), Elizabeth Smith (sister-in-law of Gary & Sharron Smith), Carl VanWinkle, grandson of Mike and Mary VanWinkle, Bonnie Lewis, Rachel Avise (Seizures) Lester and Mary Veach (In-Laws of Stacy Veach), Jim Beaumont and family. Those special caregivers who assist our ill and hospitalized; weekly activities on our church calendar. Please help keep the above material accurate. Notify the church office or fill out a Prayer Card (at each entrance to the Sanctuary) when you have names to add or delete).**

**PRAY FOR OUR**  
  
**MILITARY**

Sean Frazier, William Gary Smith II

**REMEMBERING OUR SENIOR ADULTS**

The following are in area senior care facilities. Let us remember them with our prayers, cards and a note.

	Birth Date	Senior Care Center
Geneva Hunsaker	December 2	Excelsior Springs Residential Care 1704 Rainbow Blvd. Room 607 Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
Emma Lee Drew	May 2	Excelsior Springs Residential Care 1704 Rainbow Blvd. Room 801 Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

**THE MEN OF THE CHURCH** meet each Saturday morning for breakfast and prayer from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. It's a great way to begin the weekend. The fellowship is great, the tales wild, and the prayers helpful. If you are not now in the habit of attending why not consider doing so?

**EMAIL NEWSLETTER:** In order to save on paper (be green) and postage cost to the church, we would like to offer the newsletter through email. If you are interested in this please contact the church office at 296-3991 to give Catina your email address and stop paper delivery.

**SAFE PLACE FRIDAYS** meets the first and third Friday of every month. High School students are welcome, too. Meeting time is from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

**THE ANNUAL DOVE TREE CEREMONY** remembering our loved ones will be during the 11:00 Sunday Service on December 11th. This is a very meaningful service remembering those who have gone before us. This year all Memorial Dove Tree donations will be designated for "Light Up the Sanctuary". Please turn in your list of names you wish to remember by December 4th to Shirley Cheek.



BOARD MEETING

**THE CHURCH BOARD** will meet Sunday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is open to all. Questions or concerns may be directed to any of the following Board members: Roy Rinehart, Janice Vaughn, Chris Lanning, Bill Crouse, Marcia Petty, Sharron Smith, Joy Tipton, or Donna Vermillion.

**DECEMBER 13, Noon-2:00 p.m.**, Linwood United Church, 3151 Olive St. Kansas City, MO—**Advent luncheon:** Lunch will be provided, \$9. Please RSVP by Thursday, December 8.

**WORSHIP MEETING** Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m.

**LIFETOUCH** will be here on December 16th-17th to take pictures for the church directory. You may sign up for your picture time online at <https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/unitedchristianpresbyterianchurch/index.php?page=10> or by seeing Joy Tipton. Members will receive a free directory. For further information contact Joy Tipton at 296-3328.



SENIOR TUESDAY

**SENIOR TUESDAY** is December 20th at 11 a.m. The meal will be chili, salads and cobbler. The entertainment will be Mary Russell playing Christmas songs for a sing along. Invite a friend and enjoy!

**CHRISTMAS DAY CAN BE VERY LONELY, BUT NOT AT UCPC!** The Second Annual UCPC Christmas Day dinner is Sunday, December 25 at 3:00. All are welcome at the table. After worship at 11:00, come downstairs and join in the preparation, play games, or watch football (we hope). Church members please RSVP and, if possible, bring a dish to share. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Bring friends, family, and your favorite games or crafts. We'll supply BINGO and surprises for all ages. Contact Mary Jean or Kathy Hostetler for more information.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY CUP** is Monday, December 26th.

**ANGEL TREE** UCPC is buying a gift for 12 Angel tree kids. We have received a list of 1,300 more kids in Missouri that are not sponsored. Four of these kids are in Clay county and 24 are in Ray county. If you would like to adopt an Angel tree child please let Dorothy Swatt know 296-7786.

**Caitlin Bailey has been accepted to travel with the People to People Ambassador programs in the summer of 2012.** She will be traveling to England, Scotland, Ireland, and Whales and is looking for odd jobs to help fund her trip. So...if you need any holiday help, please email or call 816-309-4145 and we can setup a time for your holiday elf to help with whatever you need!!

Examples of odd jobs: **Holiday Dessert Baking**-need some cookies, pies, or brownies? We will bake them and deliver them!! **Gift Wrapping, Babysitting**-Need an afternoon to finish up your holiday shopping? Let us know!! Have kids that attend Latchkey and need a babysitter while they are out of school and Latchkey is closed? Caitlin is available during holiday breaks (her parents will be here to help too), **Dog Walking, Dog Baths, Pet Sitting, Christmas Cards**-we can stuff, address, and lick the envelopes!!, **Decorating, Etc. Thanks to everyone for your support!!**

-Jana and Caitlin Bailey



It's time to order those beautiful Poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary. Orders will need to be placed and paid for in advance by December 10th. Each plant will cost \$8.00. *Please make checks payable to Mike Vaughn. Please give the order form below to Mike Vaughn before the December 10th deadline:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How Many Poinsettias Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS** Bill Morrow, Tim Luther, and Teresa Herndon were elected to serve three year terms on the Board. The 2012 Challenge Budget was approved.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS AND SERMON TITLES FOR DECEMBER

December 4 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ Peace

Communion

Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

Sermon: Prepare the Way of the Lord!

December 11 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ Joy

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Luke 1: 47-55; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Service of Lessons & Carols

December 18 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ Love

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Luke 1: 47-55; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon: God's Love

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

Sermon: This Little Light of Mine

December 25 ~ Nativity of Jesus Christ/Christmas Day

Dawn: Isaiah 62: 6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20

Day: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1: 1-4(5-12); John 1: 1-14

Christmas Carol Sing Along

**What happened at the November 13th Board Meeting**

- Girl Scouts will use the fellowship hall December 3-4th for a sleepover.
- The Middle School youth will participate in the Burrito Ministry for the homeless in December.
- Youth will assist Frank and Peggy Williams with putting up a Christmas tree.
- A new group is being formed and will be called the Mid-Lifers. They are beginning to plan activities.
- Church Directory photo session December 16-17th.
- Kathy Hostetler will organize a dinner which is open to the community on Christmas Day at 3 p.m.
- Money from Dove Tree will go toward the heating/air conditioning phase of the sanctuary renovation project.
- Christmas Eve services will begin at 7 p.m.
- Next Board Meeting December 11th at 7 p.m.



The Annual Dove Tree Ceremony remembering our loved ones will be during the 11:00 Sunday service on December 11th. This is a very meaningful service remembering those who have gone before us. This year all Memorial Dove Tree donations will be designated for the “Light Up the Sanctuary” project. Please turn in your list of names you wish to remember by December 4th to Shirley Cheek.

**Name(s) (Please Print Clearly):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE BOARD OF ELDERS** want to express a great big THANK YOU!! to Kysha Harris and Amy Kanning for the countless hours dedicated to the Kids for Christ (KFC) program over the last 5 years. The time, energy, donations and love enlisted from dedicated individuals throughout the duration of the program along with your strong leadership and organization has certainly impacted the United Christian Presbyterian Church in a very positive way. This outreach has been an unmeasurable blessing and touched so many lives!!

**NEW ADDRESS:** Emma Lee Drew is now residing at 1706 Rainbow Blvd. Apt. 801 Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. Her phone number is 816-256-0480.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Pastor Mary Jean is generally in the office Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If she won't be available during these times, she will try to make a note in the bulletin the Sunday before. You are, of course, welcome to visit at any time or set up an appointment at your home or the church. If you are making a special trip to the church and wish to talk with her, you might call ahead in case something unplanned has called her away. Her cell number is 913-475-2695.

### **Recycle! Reuse! ———2012 Missouri Kit Projects from Month to Month**

Listed below are the kits the missions committee has chosen to collect in 2012. Please submit items throughout the seasons as you locate sales. In addition to the monthly items, please collect the BEST CHOICE UPC codes from food items all year and eyeglasses as you clean out drawers or receive new prescriptions. They will be taken to the Festival of Sharing the 3rd Saturday of October and associated agencies will redistribute the eyeglasses.

As you travel for business and vacations please save the unwanted shampoo, conditioner, and lotion samples placing them in the Mission Box. They will be used in the care packages for Watkins Mill residents.

Does your polyester blanket or mattress pad have a hole, tear, or stain that you do not want to repair? Throw it in the washer then donate it to the Mission Box! Dona Phillips-Proffitt will whack it up and use it as a filling in the youth quilts for the Backpacks of Love.

Garage Sales and Thrift Stores!!! Look for fleece throws and quality baby items.

<b>January/February</b>	Student Dental Kits	<b>September</b>	New or gently used blankets
<b>March/April</b>	Youth Personal Care Packs	<b>October</b>	Annual Missions dinner and silent auction
<b>May/June</b>	Baby Bundles	<b>November</b>	Non-perishables for holiday food baskets
<b>July/August</b>	Assemble a Readin' & Writin' Pack during the back to school sale	<b>December</b>	Children's socks, underwear, mittens, hats, gloves, scarves

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS** With the last electric and sound items completed the "Light The Sanctuary" Project is close to complete. After paying all contractors the fund will have approximately \$2,500 dollars to use toward the furnace and air conditioner for the south area of the sanctuary.

Bids have been gathered and a contractor has been chosen by the Board to start the bathroom project at the manse house. Work should start in early December and we hope it will be completed by January 1st.

Buildings and Grounds would like to thank everyone again who helped with the church project and wish everyone Happy Holidays.

**THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE** met on November 9. Hanging of the Greens was discussed. Poinsettias will be ordered for Christmas. Christmas Eve services will be at 7 p.m. We are looking for some new members to join us on this committee. We need someone to coordinate communion preparation.

### 2012 Mission Projects for Missouri Citizens

The Missions Committee met in November 2, 2011, and has chosen to collect and assemble items for the Student Dental Packs, Youth Personal Care Packs, Readin’ & Writin’ Packs, and Baby Bundle Packs. These packs **stay in the state of Missouri** and will not be shipped overseas. Along with the packs we will continue to collect the blankets, non-perishables for the Thanksgiving food baskets, and children’s underwear and winter outerwear for Christmas holidays, and conduct the annual mission dinner. Please place items in the red Mission Box and the committee members will collect and assemble kits throughout the year so **watch for sales!**

Student Dental Pack	Readin’ & Writin’ Pack	Baby Bundle
<p>1 fluoride toothpaste, 6 oz. or more                      2 adult <u>soft</u> toothbrushes                      4 child size soft toothbrushes                      1 dental floss—any size                      Place all items in a 1 gallon zip lock bag.  <b>The extra brushes are for family members.</b></p>	<p>6 new pencils with erasers                      1 box of 24 crayons                      12 inch ruler                      2 spiral or tape bound notebooks (Total 140 pages)                      2 inch eraser                      1 pair of child-sized metal scissors                      6 folders with pockets                      2 ink pens (medium point)                      1 pencil holder</p> <p>Place small items in pencil holder. Place all items in a 2 gallon zip lock bag. <b>If you do not have 2 gallon bags, the church will supply them, just submit the pack in some other type of sack.</b></p>	<p>2 receiving blankets                      1 sweater or sweatshirt for warmth                      8-12 diapers (cloth or disposable)                      2 undershirts or onesies                      2 sleepers (1 piece or gown)                      2 diaper pins (if cloth diapers are enclosed)</p> <p><b>The size should be newborn up to 6 months, but not larger than 6 months.</b></p>
<b>Youth Personal Care Pack</b>		
<p>1-3oz. bottle hand sanitizer                      1 sm. Permanent marker for personalization of bag                      1 calendar/address book                      1 travel pillow                      1 washcloth                      1 deodorant                      1 travel size hair gel/hair spray (non aerosol)                      1 pocket pack of tissue                      1 travel size toothpaste                      1 bx. Medicated facial cleansing pads (ex. Stridex)                      3 ink pens                      1 chap stick                      1 journal (spiral notebook)                      1 fleece throw                      1 travel size shampoo                      1 travel size conditioner                      1 travel size lotion                      1 tooth brush                      1 men’s body spray OR 1 small pkg. feminine pads or tampons</p>		

**DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS-** Please let the church office know if you don't see your scheduled event on the Calendar. It can be listed in the Sunday Cup if you would like to announce it and you missed the deadline for publication in THE CUP. Please keep the office informed of any change in your meeting schedule. .

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

				1 Exercise Class 8 AM  Brownies Mtg	2  SPF 7-10PM	3Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 AM
4 Choir Practice 9 AM	5 Exercise Class 8 AM CIA Mtg 1PM  Cub Scouts Mtg 7 & 8 PM	6 Exercise Class 8 AM Finance Mtg 6PM Boy Scouts 7	7	8 Exercise Class 8 AM	9  Girl Scouts Mtg 7PM	10 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 AM
11 Choir 9 AM  Board Mtg 7	12Exercise Class 8AM  Cub Scouts Mtg 7 & 8 PM	13 Exercise Class 8 AM  Boy Scouts 7PM	14  Worship Mtg 6:30PM	15 Exercise Class 8 AM  Brownies Mtg	16  SPF 7-10PM	17 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 AM
18 Choir Practice 9 AM	19 Exercise Class 8AM  Cub Scouts Mtg 7 & 8 PM	20 Exercise Class 8 AM Sr. Tuesday 11  Boy Scouts 7PM	21	22 Exercise Class 8 AM	23  Girl Scouts Mtg 7PM	24  Christmas Eve Service 7 PM
25	26 Exercise Class 8AM Cup Deadline  Cub Scouts Mtg 7 & 8 PM	27Exercise Class 8 AM  Boy Scouts 7PM	28	29 Exercise Class 8 AM	30	31

The deadline for material for the January CUP is Monday, December 26th.