



**THE CUP December 2008**  
 A Monthly Publication of Lawson United Christian  
 & Presbyterian Church located in Lawson, MO.  
 816-296-3991



*Love Spoken Here!*

Sunday School 9:45 AM  
 Worship Time 11 AM

**AT-LRG**

(A Visit With The Interim Minister)

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**December 7**

Mike VanWinkle

**December 14**

Rhonda Luther

**December 21**

Marcia Petty

**December 28**

Travis Luther

**NURSERY**

**ATTENDANTS**

**December 7**

Pat Modine

Jilana Lanning

**December 14**

June Potter

Terri Jones

**December 21**

Rick/Nikki McQuerrey

Karen Lammers

**December 28**

Janice Vaughn

Andrea Mynatt

**COMMUNION**

**PREP**

Joy Tipton

Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Man were all getting ready to meet the wonderful Wizard of Oz. They had been following the Yellow Brick Road for some time in search of this great man who was the only one who could help Dorothy get back to Kansas. And now, with the prospect of meeting him, they had to become presentable. Preparations had to be made if they were to stand before the great Oz.

When you read these words, we will already have begun the Advent season, or knocking at the door. Advent is that season on the church's calendar during which we prepare for the coming of Christ into our world. **The King is coming to visit us!**

*Guideposts* magazine once ran a Christmas story about a certain nine-year old boy named Wally Purling. Wally was big for his age, and a little bit of a slow learner. Although he was big, he wasn't a bully. Everybody liked him and he was nice to everybody. They were doing a Christmas program at church and Wally wanted to be a shepherd. But the director had another part in mind for him. She wanted him to be the innkeeper because he was so big. Wally took the part home and studied it. He practiced hard.

The night came for the play, and everything was going smoothly. It came to the time when Mary and Joseph knocked on the door of the inn and Wally opened the door and said, "What do you want?" Joseph said, "We need a place to stay for the night." "You've got to go find it somewhere else. The inn is full." "Are you sure," Joseph asked. "We've come a long way and it's cold." "No. There's no place here. Go somewhere else." "But my wife is going to have a baby. Isn't there some corner we can hide in?"

At this point in the play there was silence, one of those embarrassing silences that make you believe somebody has forgotten his lines. Wally stood there, not saying anything. The prompter off stage whispered his line, "No, begone!" So Wally said, "No, begone!" Joseph put his arm around Mary and prepared to walk away from the inn. It was at this point that the Christmas play took an unusual twist. Wally was big, but he had a heart just as big, and he couldn't stand seeing Mary and Joseph walk away. Caught up in the mood of the scene, Wally couldn't help himself. He blurted out, "Wait a minute, Joseph. Bring Mary back. You can have my room! I'll sleep in the cold."

There were those who went home that night, saying the Christmas story was ruined. Wally's self-inserted lines had messed it up. But think about it. In that little scene was caught up the whole essence of what we will be talking about during these weeks leading to Christmas Day. A boy was willing to sleep out in the cold so that Christ would have the kind of welcome he deserved. **During these days of Advent we will be preparing the guest room of our heart for the coming of our Lord.** Some of us have more cleaning to do than other. Will we be ready? (LRG)



**December  
 Mission Item**  
 Children's hats,  
 glove, and new  
 underwear

**December Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday!**

- 1 Pam Corum
- 2 Geneva Hunsaker
- 3 Nancy Endsley  
Izetta Herndon
- 10 Kayla Fuller
- 12 Virginia Nolker
- 14 Michael Megraw
- 16 Nathan Cates
- 17 Elmer Schmidt
- 21 Nathan Kanning
- 22 Annalisa Harris
- 23 Jeremy Vassey  
Roy Rinehart
- 24 Scot Tipton  
Caitlin Schneider
- 26 Jacob Cates  
Jerry Dolt
- 29 Morgan Hubbard
- 30 Janet  
Brian Fuller

**Happy Anniversary!**

- 10 Tom & Judy Fuller



Remember our family members in need of prayer: Don Drew, Dick Drew, Jim Drew, Roy Cheek, John & Margaret Tipton, Shirley Reynolds, Jack Funk, Gerri Sherman, Rachel Avise, Charlie Hughes\*, Forrest & Nadine Leamer (Ron Shipley's Parents), Barbara Wilber\*\*, Ann Jacobs, Christine Stonum\*, Helen Monroe, Jerry Vermillion\*\*, Barbie Melton, Erma Jean Davis, Lake Clevenger, Lajuana Smelcher, Jim Bush, Kris Snoble, John Jackson, Donna Jackson, C.W. Gudka, Joyce Kindred, Rebecca Stewart, Connie Lueck. Servicemen: Luke Phillips, Sean Frazier, Maxwell Boateng, Matthew Germann. \*Hospitalized or recently hospitalized \*\*Adult Care Center Note: We are trying to update our Prayer List. If we have omitted a name please feel free to note this on a piece of paper or call the church office.



Luke Phillips, Sean Frazier, Matthew Germann.

**REMEMBERING OUR SENIOR ADULTS**

The following are in area senior care facilities. Let us remember

	Birth Date	Senior Care Center
Christine Stonum	January 31	Garden Valley Manor 8575 N. Granby Ave. (#104) Kansas City, MO 64154
Jerry Vermillion	May 26	Lawson Manor 210 West 8th Terrace Lawson, MO 64062
Barbara Wilber	June 23	Valley View Residential Care John Knox Village Apt. #105 1704 N.W. O'Brien Rd. Lee Summit, MO 64081-1568
Marion Adams	August 12	Cameron Veterans Home 1111 Euclid Avenue Cameron, MO 64429

**EXERCISE CLASSES** continue to be held in Fellowship Hall Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, beginning at 8 a.m. The average attendance is now 17. Please contact Dorothy Swatt (580-7786).

**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 week-end. 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.

Near the kitchen pantry door is a grocery list. If you use the last of something or notice we are getting low, please write it on the list so we can get it.

**THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP** meets Saturday's from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the women's classroom. We are studying The Beatitudes. If you would like to join us or have any questions, please contact Kysha at 580-6123.

**THE YOUTH GROUP** will have a meeting immediately following worship on the first and third Sunday of each month. Lunch will be provided.

**KIDS FOR CHRIST** is held each Tuesday from 3:30-5 p.m. This program is for pre-school to 4th grade children. Join us for games, music, crafts, bible stories, memory verses and FUN!!! Please contact Amy Kanning 580-3345 or Kysha Harris 580-6123 for more information.



**CARING AND SHARING:** Tylin Clark is sharing an easy and fun project for us to make on Thursday, December 11th at 6 p.m. Everyone needs to bring a jar with a cork. Any size will do, just make sure the opening of the bottle is wide enough to fit a dried bean. Michaels, Hobby Lobby & Old Time Pottery have jars like this or bring one you have on hand. Tylin will donate the rest of the items needed for the project. Also, if you can bring a glue gun to share that would be great!

**THE MEMORIAL DOVE TREE SERVICE** is on December 14th. Please give the names of your loved ones to be put on the tree to Shirley Cheek by December 9th.



**THE DECEMBER SENIOR TUESDAY** is on the calendar for December 16th beginning at 11 a.m. The program will be presented by Mary Russell and Julie Nutzman. If you would like to help please let June Potter know. We have been having a good response to this program, but there is always room for more. Spread the word that UCPC is the place to be on the third Tuesday of each month.

**THERE WILL NOT BE A FELLOWSHIP DINNER ON DECEMBER 21ST.**

	<p><b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b>                  6 p.m.                  Lighting the Christ Candle</p> <p>Meditation By Rev. Gentry  <i>“Ready Or Not, Here I Come”</i></p>	
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**RECYCLE THOSE MAGAZINES:** Instead of throwing your magazines away, you are encouraged to bring them to the church to share with others. If you see a periodical on the “Magazine Table” you would like to read please feel free to take it home (with a promise of not to bring it back.)

**ADVENT, A CALENDAR OF DEVOTIONS** is now available at each entrance to the sanctuary.

**DECEMBER CANDLELIGHTERS**

- December 7**  
Dace Rodriguez and Rachel Radcliff
- December 14**  
Taelor Silvey and Kyra Clinesmith
- December 21**  
Caitlin Bailey and Chloe Mansfield
- December 28**  
Haley Schnetzler and Blaise Johnson

**CARE PACKAGES** for college students will be assembled by the youth group. Please bring your donations for them by Sunday, December 6th.

**THINKING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN UCPC?** Rev. Gentry would be happy to visit with you about this. Or, if you wish, you may come forward during the singing of the Hymn of Commitment, bringing with you an index card with your name(s), address, and phone number, stating if you are coming by transfer of membership or profession of faith.

### NEW MEMBERS

During the past month we were pleased to welcome the following into our UCPC family: Carolyn Clinesmith, 347 East 2nd St. (296-1311). Carolyn comes by transfer of membership from St. Ann Catholic Church. Kathryn Pelzmann, 21753 Morrow Road (580-3278). Kathryn comes by transfer of membership from the Northland Baptist Church. The Mansfield family, Mike and son, Gage came by Profession of Faith. Betty transfers her membership from the United Methodist Church in Chillicothe. Young daughters, Chloe and Lauren complete the family who reside at 18147 Nike Base Road (580-3870).

### BOARD-CABINET JOINT DINNER MEETING ON DECEMBER 14

The Pastoral Nominating Committee has requested the opportunity to visit with the two groups on Sunday, December 14. This will be in the form of a 5 p.m. covered dish dinner. The December Board meeting will follow at 7 p.m. Board members include Larry Lanning, Chairman; Dan Hostetler, Vice-Chairman; Rhonda Luther, Clerk; Bonnie Cates, Betty Gray, Cabney Harris, Teresa Herndon, June Potter and Mike Vaughn. As always, Board meetings are open to all.

### POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

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 8th. Poinsettias will be picked up and delivered to the Church December 12th. Each plant will cost \$7.50. ***Please make check payable to Dorothy Swatt. Please give this order form to Shirley Holt before the December 8th deadline:***

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

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How Many Poinsettias Ordered:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Order Total \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**Given In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

### TOM'S PRAYER (To be prayed daily)

*"My life is in your hands, God. Use me to point someone toward you today. I promise to cooperate in any way I can. If you want me to say a word for you today, I'll do that. If you want me to keep quiet but demonstrate love and servanthood, by your Spirit's power I will. I'm fully available to you today, so guide me by your Spirit."*

*Congregational Prayer for the  
Pastor Nominating Committee*

*Lord, we love You with our whole heart and soul. Flood our souls with Your spirit and life. Shine through us so that we can be a light to others. We lift up our Pastor Nominating Committee to You. Lead them to a pastor who will help us move forward into the future You have planned for us. Give them wisdom and guide them as they seek to discern Your will. Let them hear and obey the voice of Your Spirit. Equip them and work through them to accomplish Your purpose. We pray for Your Spirit to rest upon our future pastor. Unite us in support of our minister and the ministry You are calling us to. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.*

**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Monday, 5:30-6 p.m.**

“Healing The Sick & Raising the Dead”

Congregational Renewal Led By Dan Hostetler

**Saturday, 9-10 a.m.**

Women’s Bible Study

“The Beatitudes”

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS**

During the Annual Congregational Meeting, November 23, Chris Lanning, Roy Rinehart, and Janice Vaughn were elected to three-year terms on the Church Board, beginning January 1. The 2009 church budget in the amount of \$79,965 was approved.

**THE 2009 CHURCH BOARD**

**Term Expiring December 31, 2009**

Teresa Herndon, Rhonda Luther, June Potter

**Term Expiring December 31, 2010**

Bonnie Cates, Cabney Harris, Dan Hostetler

**Term Expiring December 31, 2011**

Chris Lanning, Roy Rinehart, Janice Vaughn

**MANY THANKS TO WHOMEVER HAD THE OLD PIANO REMOVED FROM THE BASEMENT.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” It is, in a sense, a countdown of anticipation in which we celebrate Christ’s first Advent, or coming, in which he was born into this world as a small child in a manger just over 2,000 years ago. To help us in our “countdown” we celebrate the season by lighting Advent candles on an Advent Wreath. The wreath and its candles are the visual focus of Advent. One of the candles is lit each week as Christmas approaches. The circle of the Advent wreath has no beginning and no end. It portrays for us God’s timelessness and His eternal plan of salvation. The evergreen color denotes eternal life that we are granted when we come to know Christ as our Lord and Savior. The shape of the wreath is round, reminding us of the fellowship of believers around the world who share with us the celebration of His coming. The four outer candles represent the gifts of His spirit in us: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. There are three lavender candles and one pink candle. The lavender candles remind us of sorrow and repentance. The pink candle, lit on the third Sunday, reminds us of joy. The center candle is called the Christ candle. If you will notice, the Greek letters of alpha and omega, designating Christ’s name as found in the book of Revelation, highlight this candle. Also, there is a symbol in the middle, which looks like a cross which is combined with the letter “P.” This symbol is a combination of the two Greek letters “chi” and “rho” which are the first two letters of the name of Christ in Greek. This was a symbol used in the early church to represent Jesus Christ. The Christ candle will be lit during our Christmas Eve service.

### ADVENT-CHRISTMAS SERMONS

#### **First Sunday In Advent (November 30)**

*“Jesus Is Coming! When?”*

Mark 13:33-37

#### **Second Sunday In Advent (December 7)**

**Peace Sunday**

*“Let There Be Peace On Earth”*

Isaiah 40:1-11

#### **Third Sunday In Advent (December 14)**

**Dove Tree**

*“The Gift Of Joy”*

Luke 2:9-11

#### **Fourth Sunday In Advent (December 21)**

*“When Christmas Isn’t Picture Perfect”*

Matthew 2:13-23

#### **Christmas Eve (December 24)**

**6 p.m.**

*“Here I Come! Ready Or Not”*

**SAFE PLACE FRIDAYS** will begin the first and third Friday of every month with the first one being January 16th. This program is for 5th-8th graders. Details to follow.

### **Missions for Festival of Sharing 2009**

January-February	Student Dental Kit: (for families in Missouri) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-6 <u>soft</u> toothbrushes (include 2 child sizes)</li> <li>• 1 dental floss—any size</li> <li>• 1 fluoride toothpaste, 6 oz or larger</li> <li>• Place items inside a 1-gallon zip lock bag</li> </ul>
March	Prison Kits: (for women in Missouri prisons) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 pencil (unsharpened, no advertising)</li> <li>• 30 sheets of writing paper (6"x9", no note cards)</li> <li>• 5 envelopes</li> </ul>
April	Prison Kits continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 shampoo (12-16 oz. size, alcohol-free only)</li> <li>• 1 deodorant (2-3 oz size, alcohol-free)</li> <li>• 1 tube toothpaste (6-6.4 oz. size, alcohol free)</li> </ul>
May	Baby Bundles: (for babies in Missouri) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-12 diapers (cloth or disposable)</li> </ul>
June	Baby Bundles continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 receiving blankets</li> <li>• 2 baby sleepers (6-12 months)</li> </ul>
July	Baby Bundles continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 undershirts or onesies (6-12 months)</li> </ul>
August	Blankets (new or gently used)
September	Used reading glasses Packets of vegetable seeds (no more than a year old)
October	Soup Cook-off and Silent Auction
November	Food drive for Ministerial Alliance
December	Hats, socks, gloves, new underwear for children

This year for 2008, our church made a contribution of \$2,557.25 in goods for our response to help Missouri people in need. Please, help again in 2009.

### **THE INGLES HOUSE! WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Discussion continues on the future of the Ingles House located north of the church. Tim Tipton has been asked by the Church Board to look into the cost of renovation. The Board is asking that all comments and recommendations on the cost of the renovations and the topic of remodeling vs. destruction be presented in writing to the Board by February 8, allowing them time to prepare a recommendation for a February 22nd congregational meeting.

**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 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Mtg 7 PM	2 Exercise Class 8 AM KFC 3;30-5 Boy Scouts 7 PM	3	4 Exercise Class 8 AM	5	6 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8AM Women's Bible Study 9 AM
7	8 Exercise Class 8 AM Cub Scouts Mtg 7 PM	9 Exercise Class 8 AM KFC 3;30-5 Boy Scouts 7 PM	10	11 Exercise Class 8 AM Sharing & Caring 6:30PM	12 Girl Scout's Mtg 7 PM	13 Men's Brkfst 8AM Women's Bible Study 9 AM
14 Dove Tree Joint Mtg for Cabinet & Board 5 PM Board Mtg 7 PM	15 Exercise Class 8 AM Brownies Mtg 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Mtg 7 PM	16 Exercise Class 8 AM Sr. Tuesday 11AM Tigers 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7	17	18 Exercise Class 8 AM	19 Deadline for CUP	20 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8AM Women's Bible Study 9 AM
21	22 Exercise Class 8 AM Wolf 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Mtg 7 PM Brownies Mtg	23 Exercise Class 8 AM Weeblos Tigers 6:30	24	25 Merry Christmas!!	26	27 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8AM Women's Bible Study 9 AM
28	29 Exercise Class 8 AM  Cub Scouts Mtg 7 PM	30 Exercise Class 8 AM	31			

The deadline for material for the January CUP is Friday,  
December 19th.