

**The**  
**Congregator**

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 12



**Feliz**  
**Navidad**

**Live Nativity Starting Times**

Thursday, December 22nd at 6:00 PM

Friday, December 23rd at 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 PM

**Christmas Program**

**Rehearsal** will take place on  
Sundays, 11:30 AM. Ages:  
preschool through 5th grade are  
all encouraged  
to attend! For  
more details,  
contact  
Susan Urogdy  
at 606-1482.

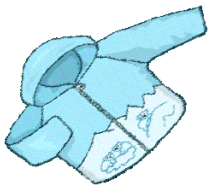


**Poinsettias**

Poinsettias will be available for purchase beginning, November 21st, to honor loved ones during the Christmas Holiday. Cost of each plant is \$10.00. Order forms can be found in the Sunday bulletin and placed in the offering plate or contact Wanda Kitchen on 695-0550.

**BI-ANNUAL COAT DRIVE**

The Outreach team will be collecting gently used coats for children and adults for our bi-annual coat drive. Please place coats in the "Coat Donations" box in the Fellowship Hall by December 4th. The team will ensure that the local shelter receives them.



Thank you for caring

**Upward Ministry Volunteers Needed**

We have been blessed with phenomenal growth the past four years. As we continue to serve God and touch lives of our community, we need volunteers in multiple areas. Please see the enclosed card for details on how you can help.

*Sacred Parenting: How Raising Children Shapes Our Souls*

**Monday Evenings, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
November 7- December 12,  
Dinner & Childcare Provided**

Ever wonder what God had in mind for you when he gave you your children, each with their own unique personality? Meet up with some of the parents from our church as we look at parenting from a different perspective; as a method of spiritual formation. God gave us these wonderful gifts of children, discover how parenting can bring you closer to Him.



**Family Advent Night**

Join your church family on Sunday, December 4th from 5:00-7:00 PM. Family Advent Night is the best way to start the Christmas season out right. The night starts with a potluck, we ask that you bring a dish by your last name: A-H a vegetable, I-Q salad, and R-Z a casserole. Desserts will be provided by the Fellowship Team. The Spiritual Growth Team will be leading you in a family craft, and then down to the sanctuary for the Children's Christmas program "The Great Manger Mystery."



**Backpack Ministry - Thank You**

The Outreach team appreciates all the donations for the backpack food ministry. We had enough donations on Sunday, October 23rd and through out the month to support 24 children at the McGrath school in Grand Blanc for a second year. We also received a donation to support a child for a school year from Kirkridge Presbyterian Church in Grand Blanc.

Jeff Zannetti, Outreach Team Leader



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**Introducing The Net's new basketball team coached by Laryn Butzler. Practice on Sundays beginning December 11th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. First game Thursday, January 26th. Interested players contact Tracy Loomis.**

**Christmas Angel Gifts**

The Outreach team received 125 names from the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint. These children, infant to 17 years old, for many this will be their only gift this Christmas. For those who have picked up a gift tag this is a reminder to please attach the gift tag to your wrapped gift and drop it off in the narthex no later than Sunday, December 11th. If you have any questions please contact Karen Palevich at (810) 953-0412.



**Updating Our Records**

To better communicate with church members, please ensure that your most recent email address provided to us. You can send your email address changes to fcucc\_admin@sbcglobal.net.

### *Joe's Jottings . . .*

I was listening to some older Glenn Frey music on my iPod the other day. I came across a song entitled "Common Ground." It is a story of a group of people needing to cross a river together on a dark stormy night and how they needed to stick together to make it. The song reminds us that "we all stand on common ground."

As I reflected on the continuing difficulties of our time, I realized how important that sentiment is today. There are many things that seem to be tearing us apart as people. Social and economic issues seem to be driving wedges between various groups of people. I keep hearing people speak of protecting their own turf and making sure their needs are met before the needs of others.

As someone who grew up in the Detroit, MI area, I am well aware of the strain that economic issues can cause. My father did not work in the auto industry, but everything in the area was tied to the health of that industry. When we talked about my father being on vacation it meant that he was laid off. This happened every few years during his working life.

As a minister in the United Church of Christ, social issues have always been ever-present. Unfortunately, these issues have lead many to demonize those with whom they disagree. This is sometimes done for political rather than theological reasons.

As a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, I believed that I am called to remind people that we are in all of this together. It is my understanding that Jesus came to stand with the poor and those pushed to the fringes of society. This was not done to exclude others as much as it was to insure that all of God's people were provided with the basic necessities of life, including dignity.

I believe God created each of us differently, so that we might know humility and realize that we need one another. It is only by working together that we serve God fully. If we diminish any, we diminish our witness to the gospel.

Together God will empower us to accomplish great things. Let us realize we stand on "common ground."

### **Christmas Giving**

The Outreach Team is looking for volunteers to purchase perishables and/or turkeys for the 14 families our church will be supplying with Christmas food baskets. These families are all located in Grand Blanc. Please join us in supporting our neighbors in our community. We will be adding a personalized note, welcome brochure, and a new crisis resource guide. The resource guide can be helpful to families in need of medical care, food resources, and more. You can also purchase non-perishable items listed below by the first letter of your last name as follows: **A-C canned fruits/vegetables; D-G canned goods; H-L paper goods; M-P cleaning supplies; Q-X hygiene products; T-Z boxed goods. Soups, pastas, tooth paste, paper towels and laundry detergent are all welcome.** Please see Marty Royer after worship on December 4th to sign up to purchase perishables or turkeys. Perishable and Non-perishable items must be brought to the church no later than Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for delivery on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

The Outreach Team

Next Congregator articles deadline is  
December 9th due to the Christmas holiday.  
Thank you

*Thank you for supporting the  
Christmas shoe box ministry this year.  
The congregation donated 115 filled  
shoe boxes to Operation Christmas  
Child!*  
The Outreach Team

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

6494 SOUTH BELSAY ROAD  
GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN 48439  
PHONE: (810) 695-0550 • FAX: (810) 695-5117  
EMAIL: FCUCC\_ADMIN@SBCGLOBAL.NET  
WWW.UCCGRANDBLANC.ORG

**SENIOR PASTOR**  
REV. JOE SCHULTE

**DIRECTOR YOUTH &  
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES**  
TRACY LOOMIS

**CHURCH SECRETARY**  
WANDA KITCHEN

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
BRANDON SANDERS

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
CARLA MEIER

**PARISH VISITOR**  
BARBARA BENSON

**LEARNING HOUSE DIRECTOR**  
SUSAN M. ARNOULD

**MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAN**  
TOM McLAREN

**ORGANIST**  
LAVONNE BOMELI

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND BLANC  
MI 48439  
PERMIT NO. 19



**Book of the Month**  
**Tuesdays with Morrie by**  
**Mitch Albom**

Need a little inspiration - Check out this book from the church library located in the welcome center!

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor, from nearly twenty years ago. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

**Lights of Hope**

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

The church is receiving memorial gifts for purchase of votives for the Advent Season. This reminds us of Christ, the Light of the World, His light is reflected in and through us. These votives will be placed on the communion table and lit every Sunday during the Advent season beginning November 27th. Minimum contribution is \$5.00 per candle and all proceeds will be donated directly to Love, Incorporated. This is a



difficult time of year for many and we receive numerous calls for people who need assistance. We provide assistance through Love, Inc. which researches all applicants and their needs.

They then contact us to ask for assistance on behalf of these applicants. If you are interested in a candle, please complete a card found in your Sunday bulletin and placed in the offering plate or contact Wanda Kitchen on 695-0550.