

# BVUMC *Connection*

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™



## Christmas Time, Again!



I would love to say that I am prophetic, perceptive, challenging and eloquent when it comes to offering wisdom around appreciating the holiness of this season. Rather, I find myself most often offering presence, support and escape from the mounting stress and unescapable pressures that accompany the experience of Christmas time for folks. But, even as I resonate with many of the same needs you have, personally, this year I am intrigued by the chance to experience a different kind of Christmas. I pray this season that our

pews and tables places will be filled with the faces of family and friends that you invite to share in the many opportunities here for study, fellowship, outreach and worship. As Christmas time is here, again, let us not fall into old, unhealthy patterns. Let us not overindulge in the trappings of the season and let us not underestimate the power of the reason for the season – God's love for ALL through Jesus Christ! Again, it's Christmas time! Let us rejoice and be glad!

God's Peace to each of you,

~Pastor Kelly

### Contents

2 Pastors' Columns Con't. & Events

3 Reflection, Events

4 Events

5 Finances & Events

6 LSP & Birthdays

7 Calendar

8 Contact Info



## And a Merry...and a Different... Christmas to All!

I'm writing this the morning after having seen the first snow flurries of the season. There weren't many of them but it was a good reminder that the season is changing once again and that Christmas will soon be upon us. This time of year can be a challenging one for people of faith as we balance preparing ourselves to receive the Christ child while at the same time attending to all that accompanies the hoopla of the holiday.

My hope for each of you is that you might commit yourselves to being present in worship throughout the season of Advent and that we can provide a place of sanctuary away from all the hustle and bustle of the season.

For me Christmas, like Easter, always begs the question, "So what?" What difference does it make that Jesus was born onto this earth, lived, died and rose again? What difference does it make for each of us?

This year Pastor Kelly and I will be using a sermon resource called "A Different Kind of Christmas." And as we move through the Sundays of Advent we will come to realize that just as Jesus was

*Continued on Page 2...*

## *And a Merry...*

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not the sort of messiah people were expecting...maybe this Christmas won't be the usual kind of day we've come to expect. Maybe...just maybe...we will experience Christmas and the birth of our savior in a new and different way...a way that might just bring a whole new understanding of "comfort and joy."

So why not come along with us as we journey once more to that little stable in Bethlehem?

May God bless us, every one!

*~ Pastor Andy*

### *Christmas Caroling*

Do you love Christmas music? Do you like to sing? Faith Singers welcome you to join us for the Christmas Eve Choir. We will sing 4 pieces. To participate, attend any Thursday evening rehearsal in the BVUMC choir room from 6:30-7:30pm. Thursdays don't work? If you are an experienced singer, you can practice with us on Sunday, December 9th between 1:45 and 3:15pm and then brush up on Christmas Eve before the late service. To pick up music ahead of time or for more information, contact Kathleen at 228-8901.

### *Christmas Eve Services*

**4:30pm**

**10:30pm Musical Prelude**

**10:45pm**



### *Chrismon*

The Sanctuary tree is decorated with Chrismons.

Chrismons are Christian symbols that give honor to Christ. The word comes from two words:

"Christ" and "monogram"

These symbols and Greek letters all tell us something about God. They are white and gold because white is the color of Christmas and gold points to God's glory and majesty.

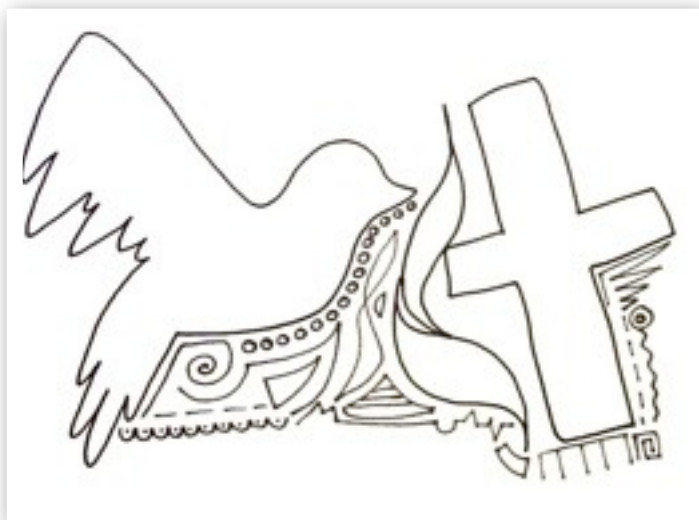
Thanks to the knitters ministry for crafting these ornaments!

### *6th Annual Cookie Walk & Music of the Season Open Rehearsal*

Sunday, December 9th from 9am-4pm we will welcome the community to support local and national missions (see the website for a list of recipients) by purchasing wonderful holiday cookies, confections and crafts. Choose from an amazing variety of scrumptious homemade Christmas desserts, all for \$9 per pound.

We are still accepting volunteers to host the day's events and to bake Christmas desserts and cookies. Sign up for baking is on the credenza outside the church Sanctuary.

We begin rehearsing music of the season with a carol sing at 12:30pm. Come listen and enjoy. As our music ministries prepare for Christmas they welcome you to join in!



## *Maria's Reflection on Sr. High CONVO*

(The WI UMC hosts senior high youth annually for this statewide weekend convocation held this year in Middleton. Church youth memorial dollars helped fund Maria's first CONVO experience!)

Youth convocation was great! I got to hang out with my friends (Drew and Hailey) from Yorkville United Methodist Church. We had a great time on the way up socializing and sleeping. We woke up bright and early to get some... edible breakfast. Throughout the day we listened to an amazing Christian rock band called Loftland; we jammed, fist pumped, head banged, and jumped around to the beat. We listened to people's testimonies of their lives and let

me tell you they were very moving. After a while we went to seminars. Hailey, Drew, and I chose to go to open mic and meet the band. It was so much fun! We learned a lot about the band, like what their favorite Disney princess is and their music history. Open mic was great too we got to listen to some very talented poets and singers. After lunch we had a guest speaker named Bob Lenz; he was energetic and well spoken. When he was done with his talk we got to rest and go swimming. Sunday morning, we went to the church service where Loftland played a few songs, then a testimony was given. We heard the scripture and we were given communion. Conference was over and now it was time to leave. So we all packed up into Pastor Pam's jeep and slept the whole ride back home. I had a great time.

*~Reflection and artwork by Maria Romfoe*

## *Winter Camp!*

Camp Lucerne (near Wautoma) and Pine Lake Camp (near Westfield) are both beautiful and are available to us year round through a variety of opportunities for both children and adults. This year we'll be there the weekend of January 18-20, 2013. It's a great time for families and individuals with lots of opportunity for sledding, ice skating, cross-country skiing or, if you prefer...jigsaw puzzles! Watch for more information on The Cube.

## *Loving Start Preschool*

Invites you to a  
Christmas Family Sing Along  
Bay View United Methodist Church Sanctuary  
Monday, December 17th at 6:00pm  
Invite grandparents and friends. Children  
will sit with their parents as we see slides of the  
children and we will all sing together.  
Refreshments will follow the program.  
We hope to see you there!



## **Surviving the Holidays**

All are welcome to  
***A Blue Christmas Worship,***  
Saturday, December 15th  
at 10:00am

## *Kid's Christmas and Beyond*

As our kids grow in age, size and number we are striving to gather momentum and volunteer adult support to integrate our kids into every aspect of ministry. Here are a few highlights and hopes:

October '12 – Trick or Treat for UNICEF – kids opt for year 'round mission focus.

November '12 – faithful rituals, thankful hearts – the journey from baptism through confirmation.

December '12 – telling the Christmas story using our creativity

January '13 – family time at Winter Camp. Begin another Confirmation class.

If talking about and planning for the children/youth of the church interests you please volunteer, thru the church office, to join the Education Ministries Team.

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## *Neighbors, Near and Far*

Snow covers pumpkins from a fall festival at Community United Methodist Church in Massapequa, N.Y., that was interrupted by Hurricane Sandy and a subsequent nor'easter snowstorm that left several inches of snow on parts of Long Island. The church is serving as a disaster relief site for survivors of the storm.

Two weeks after super-storm Sandy slammed into the south shore of Long Island, New York, the makeshift disaster-response offices at Community United Methodist Church in Massapequa are buzzing with volunteer relief workers. "We had 11 crews go out on Saturday and another seven or eight on Sunday," reported Peggy Racine, a laywoman and longtime member of the congregation. "We've had double that number of calls requesting assistance. Our phone is constantly ringing—and we've added a second line." Many of those calls are coming in response to a simple flyer the church began publicizing and distributing in the immediate aftermath of the storm, inviting Long Islanders to get in touch if they needed assistance, wanted to help, or had goods to donate.

Last Saturday, a week after electric power knocked out by the storm was restored to the church, more than 40 volunteers gathered there for early response team (ERT) training. They came from area United Methodist churches and sister congregations and houses of worship.



Racine said crews and offers of help had also come from as far away as Wisconsin and Nebraska. Volunteers and ERTs from Connecticut, North Carolina, and Massachusetts have all made plans to help with cleanup.

"After the storm, Pastor Wells didn't just call to say his church was alright but to say, 'We want to help—and we're ready for volunteers,'" reported the Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, disaster response coordinator for the New York Annual (regional) Conference. "I could sense the urgency in his voice."

Your gift to Hurricanes 2012, UMCOR Advance #3021787, will help UMCOR support efforts like these to bring relief to those who are rebuilding their lives after super-storm Sandy. Thank to those who have already donated. It is through our ongoing apportionments that there are emergency teams ready to help in emergency situations such as these. Bay View UMC has so far contributed \$587 to this UMCOR Advance.

Thank you for your gifts!

*~Julie Oren, Finance Chair*

## So...How Did We Do?

*(a word from your Stewardship Team)*

It is with great joy that we share the good news that the pledges we have received to date already indicate a 9% increase over last year! Not to mention an additional \$9,000 pledged to our apportionments! We expect that number will only increase as more pledges are returned.

It has been a long month of hard work as we heard personal witnesses from our finance team members as well as challenging messages from Pastor Kelly and Pastor Andy about living simply, finding contentment and realizing that what God provides is truly enough. Throughout this time we were reminded that stewardship is about so much more than simply financial giving so with that in mind we'd like to share the following reading (whose author is unknown) called "This is My Church."

*"This is my church. It is composed of people like me. We make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them. It will do great works if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship if I bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church of noble spirit...if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these things. Therefore, with the help of God I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be."*

## From the Finance Team

### FINANCE REPORT FOR ENVELOPE GIVING as of October 30, 2012

Monthly Pledged	\$12,838.00
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Received from Pledges	\$9,949.00
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Difference	(\$2,889.00)
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Total Pledged (January - Sept)	\$128,380.00
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Total Received (January - Sept)	\$126,248.00
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Difference	(\$2,132.00)
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***Please Give Generously***

<b>YTD Apportionments</b>	<b>(\$11,723.00)</b>
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**Your 2013 giving envelopes have arrived. They will be in the gathering space on the Sundays in December. Please pick yours up and help defray the cost of postage.**

Just think of the church we could have if we all took these words to heart? Let's do it!

**~ Judy Banta  
Stewardship Chair**

### *"It's Not Your Birthday"*

A 5 week Adult Sunday School Series by Mike Slaughter, beginning December 2nd at 9:15am in the BVUMC library

The Bay View United Methodist Church office will be closed Tuesday, December 25th, and Tuesday, January 1st.



## Loving Start Preschool News

Loving Start Preschoolers have been learning about families and how each family (and child) is different. Included in our "discussion" is what we are thankful for (you'd be touched to hear what 2, 3, and 4-year-old children are thankful for). We've asked parents or family members to come to school to share a tradition, hobby or talent. Tying in to our talk about what we are thankful for is our feast -- chicken nuggets, fruit, muffins, and corn chips -- a very age-appropriate feast!! (one of our favorite days) You'll soon be smelling our yummy pumpkin chocolate chip muffins baking in the kitchen. Our Giving Jars will be going out into the classrooms soon. The Preschool picks names of 3 and 4 year-old children (usually 3 or 4 of them, ironically) from the Giving Tree.



Cookie Dough will be available for pick up on Tuesday, December 11th at 12pm. Please make arrangements with Miss Martha if you are unable to pick up your purchases same day.

***Miss Martha, Miss Mary, Miss Joan, Miss Dawn***

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### **1st**

Debra Monthei

### **2nd**

Wendy Boedecker

### **3rd**

Kim Payne  
Doris Van Dervort

### **6th**

Linda Balfanz

### **8th**

Magdelana Bernal

### **9th**

Jarod Felber

### **11th**

Jose Bernal

### **14th**

Dorothy Bauman  
Doris Koss

### **18th**

Maya Elliott  
Henry McJorin  
Paul Warkaske

### **19th**

Elizabeth Comp

### **22nd**

Arnold Balfanz  
Jacqueline Felber  
Maynard Pribek  
Rodge Taylor

### **24th**

Kirsten Decker

### **26th**

Ron Grennier

### **30th**

Angel Davis

### **31st**

Marlyn Schroeder



# December 2012 Calendar

## KEY:

LSP: Loving Start Preschool  
 Outpost: Alternative High School  
 SECA: South East Clergy Association  
 SPR: Staff Parish Relations  
 Wesleyan: Wesleyan Bells  
 WF AA: Women's Freedom AA  
 YAH: Young At Hearts  
 NA: Narcotics Anonymous

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	3 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 6pm Music Ministry 7pm AA	4 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 10am AA 12:15am LSP 5:30pm AA	5 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 3:00pm SECA Mtg	6 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 12:15am LSP 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan Bells	7 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 7pm NA Mtg	1 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA 12:30pm Hanging of the Greens 8 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA
9 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 7pm AA	10 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 7pm AA	11 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 10am AA 12:15am LSP 5:30pm AA 6pm Trustees Mtg 7pm Yarn/Quilt Ministry	12 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Card Ministry	13 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 12:15am LSP 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan Bells	14 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 7pm NA Mtg	15 10am Grief Share/ Blue Christmas 10:30am WF AA
16 8:15am Worship 9am Cookie Walk 9:15am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 7pm AA	17 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 6pm LSP Christmas Program 7pm AA 7pm District 28 AA 7pm Finance Mtg	18 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 10am AA 12:15am LSP 5:30pm AA	19 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study	20 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 12:15am LSP 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan Bells	21 8:30am Outpost BHS 8:45am LSP 7pm NA Mtg	22 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA
23 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 7pm AA	24 12pm Alkathon Starts 4:30pm Worship 10:30pm Music Service 10:45pm Worship 7pm AA	25 10am AA 5:30pm AA <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 12am Alkathon Ends 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Card Ministry	27 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA	28 7pm NA Mtg	29 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA
30 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	31 12pm Alkathon Starts 7pm AA	1 <b>New Year's Day</b>	2	3	4	5

# BAY VIEW *UMC*

2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 414-744-4036  
Fax: 414-744-4928  
Email: [officeadmin@bayviewumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@bayviewumc.org)

### **Pastor Kelly Fowler**

Phone: 414-378-4012  
Email: [pastorkelly@bayviewumc.org](mailto:pastorkelly@bayviewumc.org)

### **Pastor Andy Oren**

Phone: 414-744-3927  
Email: [pastorandy@bayviewumc.org](mailto:pastorandy@bayviewumc.org)

We're on the web:  
[www.bayviewumc.org](http://www.bayviewumc.org)

# December

2012



**Out of the Heart of our Community,  
ALL Are Welcome at Bay View  
United Methodist Church**

2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave  
[bayviewumc.org/wordpress/](http://bayviewumc.org/wordpress/)

**414-744-4036**

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 3382

### FALL HOURS

8:15am Worship  
9:15am Sunday School  
& Coffee Hour  
10:45am Worship



*Please Recycle*

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday  
Thursday, Friday  
8:30am - 2:00pm

Wednesday  
8:30am - 1:30pm