



Aptos Community United Methodist Church

Presents:

A NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS LOVE



221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos

The Christmas Cantata “Night of the Father’s Love”

by Pepper Choplin will be performed by the Aptos UMC Choir,
with dramatic reading, and candlelight.

A time of festive refreshments, carols and fellowship will follow,
featuring singers and bell ringers!

ADMISSION IS FREE

A Love Offering will be taken during the performance

FINE LINES Notes from Pastor Pam

Dear Ones,

Our practice is to have the Tide ready to distribute to you on the last Sunday of the month. And the last Sunday of this month (November 28th) is a special day ... the first Sunday of Advent. Advent, meaning “coming ...” or “the arrival of something long awaited.” The example given in my on-line dictionary for this long-awaited thing is, “the advent of the *computer*.” Ah, how quickly they forget! Computer?? A rather pedantic interpretation, don’t you think? We of the Christian persuasion recognize in the word “Advent,” something else long-awaited, something much more profound, and that is Jesus. That is “the messiah,” the “savior.” Computer?? Sheesh!

I do find it interesting, though, that words derived *from* “Advent” apparently don’t carry with them that same implication of expectation ... and waiting. In fact, they convey almost the opposite. For example, I like to think of the journey through Advent as a kind of “Adventure.” A journey into the unknown, perhaps, doing (or looking for) something new and unexpected. Like a place ... or a situation ... that you’ve never experienced before, something that is life-changing, and transformational. And I like to think of someone who is “Adventurous” as someone who has that spirit of “Adventure” – one who is interested and willing to *embrace* the unexpected, to *have* new experiences, new life. Advent connotes something quiet. Adventure is exciting ... risky.

Perhaps whoever thought up the words “Adventure” and “Adventurous” recognized that “Advent” really *is* just the beginning. The time of preparation. Planning the journey (even if

the plan is to *not* plan too much). Learning new skills (reading the stars ...). Arranging for transportation (a Cougar? a camel?) Packing the right gear (camp stove? courage?) But when the Big Day comes, the real Adventure begins.

The Israelites waited. And waited. And then, the Big Day came. The messiah was born. And what he brought was so unexpected! It was certainly a “journey into the unknown” for them. Before Jesus, religious authorities expected their people to be bound by rules and social convention. Rulers and leaders (even the messiah they were imagining) were sly, powerful warriors. Discovering that *this* savior was as gentle as a baby, a peacemaker rather than a conqueror ... and living with that reality ... living *according* to that reality – *was* risky. And exciting.

It’s not that different today. We ourselves often find that we are bound by rules and social convention. We admire the warrior. (There’s even talk about “prayer warriors” these days.) We are dumbfounded by the suggestion that the Way to new life is through peace and compassion rather than cunning and power. But there it is. A new, transformational way of life.

So, I invite you to use this Advent season to prepare. For that new life. Plan for it. Gather up what you’ll need. And when the Big Day comes (and the presents have been opened and the relatives have gone home), don’t wait anymore. Muster up the courage. Get going. You do have a guide, after all. He is with us. God is with us. Emmanuel. (And Merry Christmas!)

FINANCIAL REPORT – October 2010

	Monthly Actual	Monthly Budgeted	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
Income	\$23,641	\$18,799	\$187,699	\$187,985
Expenses	\$15,702	\$20,300	\$187,876	\$202,339
Difference	\$ 7,939	(\$ 1,501)	(\$ 177)	(\$ 14,354)

Please bring your pledges up to date!!

Average Attendance in Sunday Worship: 102

December Meetings

Trustees: Monday, December 13th 6:00 PM
Church & Society: Tuesday, December 14th 6:30 PM
Finance: Wednesday, December 15th 6:30 PM
PACT: Tuesday, December 7th and 21st 11:30 AM
UMM: Saturday, December 11th 8:00 AM
UMW: Thursday, December 2nd 11:30 AM



Everyone loves a party!

Please join us on **Sunday, December 5th** after Church for an “Advent Event.” We’ll have a pot luck lunch, maybe sing some carols, and then the fabulous and talented Connie Moore will lead us in making our own lovely evergreen wreaths. You need to bring a wire hanger and, if you have evergreens at home, you could bring some clippings to share. We will provide extra greens, ribbon, small decorations, and Connie’s expertise. There will be a clipboard circulating at Church to sign up if you intend to make a wreath. Don’t forget to bring a dish to share.

As if that weren’t enough, the newly formed Mission Team will be presenting an opportunity for Christmas “Alternative Giving.” Look for a table staffed by members of the team for more information.

Good food, good friends, a Christmas wreath made by your own hands, and an opportunity to make Christmas brighter for others.....What could be better?

“SCROOGE”

Our own Lexi and Jacob Baker will be among the performers in this musical version of Dickens’ “The Christmas Carol.” How about we get a group together to go to the Preview Performance on Thursday, December 16th? If we get a Group Rate, it’s even less expensive (\$24). Starting time is 7:30 PM. Let Pastor Pam know if you are interested so she can get tickets.

For more info, go to www.cabrillostage.com.

Did you know?

Jingle Bells" was first written for Thanksgiving.

In Greek, X means Christ. That is where the word "X-Mas" comes from. Not because someone took the "Christ" out of Christmas. .

Christmas Alternative Giving Faire **Scheduled for Sunday, December 5th and 12th**

Do you find Christmas gift buying more a chore than a joyous opportunity? Are you struggling to find the perfect gift for Aunt Susie? Do you want to help your grandchildren better understand what Christmas should really mean?

ACUMC has the answers. After church on two Sundays, December 5th and 12th you will have an opportunity to select a gift that keeps on giving and present it to a loved one.

The ACUMC Christmas Alternative Giving Faire will provide you with four different opportunities to donate to a charity in honor of a loved one. You will receive a card to give to each person you honor, and the card will state that you have made a donation in his or her honor. Donations may be made for any amount, which is not listed on the card, unless you so choose. This is a project coordinated by the new Mission Team and is intended to help us share the true meaning of Christmas.

The Alternate Giving Charities for this year are:

Second Harvest Food Bank:

Second Harvest feeds 50,000 Santa Cruz County people each month. Each \$1 gift will provide \$8 worth of food distributed to a family because Second Harvest buys in bulk. A \$25 gift would provide \$200 worth of food. A \$100 gift would provide \$800 worth of food! A gift to Second Harvest in honor of a family or individual is a wonderful way to acknowledge your love for those who already have plenty of food.

The Bicycle/Helmet Project of UMM:

The UMM is soliciting new or gently used bicycles and helmets to present to Head Start children and their parents. While the children may use the bicycles to get to school and around the neighborhood, the parents without cars will use them to get to work. A gift to this mission outreach will go toward the purchase of a new bicycle or helmet. The gift of a helmet would be a perfect way to honor someone that already has a bike.



Covenant Relationship with Missionary Katherine Parker:

United Methodist missionary Katherine Parker met recently with ACUMC members to describe her work in Cambodia. In early 2011 there will be a campaign to raise funds so that ACUMC may enter into a covenant relationship with Katherine, supporting her work in Cambodia. However, you can participate in this campaign before it officially starts. You may make a donation in honor of someone to support the covenant relationship with Katherine. Any amount may be contributed. This would be a special way to honor your spouse or another ACUMC member, making them part of the special relationship that the church will be developing with Katherine.



Heifer International:

Heifer provides animals for families in need throughout the world. You may choose to donate toward an animal or give the whole animal. A gift of \$20 purchases a flock of chickens. For \$30 you may get honeybees. A gift of \$250 buys a water buffalo. There are approximately 20 different Heifer gifts from which you may choose. Heifer catalogues will be available to help you in selecting a gift. This is a great gift to make in honor of a child.

Adopt-a-Family for Christmas

This year the Church and Society Committee is sponsoring our Adopt-a-Family for Christmas program. The agency we've decided to support in this is Above the Line, which is headquartered here in Aptos.

Above the Line suggests these guidelines when buying for children:

- For teenagers: \$100 gift certificates from The Mall, this allows them to shop for what they need.
- For younger children: Provide a complete outfit (shirt, pants, socks, shoes, winter jacket).

These gifts are most likely going to be the major part of each child's holiday.

There are two families we've decided to adopt. Here are the details of what each family needs/wants:

Family #1

- **Philip:** age 1 year; size 2 clothing, size 5 shoes; toys: anything Elmo and other age appropriate toys.
- **Abigail:** age 3; size 4 clothing, size 9 shoes; toys: purses, dress up, baby dolls
- **Cristos:** age 2; size 2-3 clothes, size 5 shoes; toys: cars that make noise, balls, age appropriate toys
- **The Family:** movie tickets, restaurant gift certificate, Kohl's gift card

Family #2

- **Denise:** age 16; mall gift card
- **Madelyn:** age 2; size 2-3 clothing; size 9 shoes; age appropriate toys
- **The Family:** movie tickets, restaurant gift certificates, Kohl's gift card.

There will be a Christmas tree or giant decorated box with tags you can pull off to claim which child or family you wish to help provide with a wonderful Christmas. These foster families do a lot to provide safe, secure environments for children whose lives have been in crisis. Thank you for your help and generosity.



CHRISTMAS PROJECT FOR THE WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER

UMW members are inviting church members to join us in providing needed items for the Women's Crisis Center as a holiday gift. These items include: toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, socks, hand lotion, pocket-size sewing kits. Please bring them to the church by December 5th. Any and all donations are much appreciated by those at the Crisis Center. If you have any questions, call Barbara Symons at 439-9390.



Autumn Artisans Faire

Contributors

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
Mike & Jean Beebe
Marcia Burns
Jana Daley
Pat Doolittle
Jeff Favorite
Teresa Fehr
Jennie Green
Jane & Steve Green
Velma Greyell
Rich & DeAnne Hart
Jillian Holmberg
Jim Hillgren & Cindy Jackson
Lee MacDonell
Ken & Diane McElroy
Betty Nuss
Joyce & Glenn Pearce
Mary Ellen Rusch
Rosemary Rydin
Anne & David Scott
Hazel Smith
Peggy Stames
Kate Sutherland
Barbara Symons
Charles Ernest & Joanne Tanner
Netha Thacker
Clyde & Sheila Vaughn
Vicki & Rodger Wasson
Kay & Forrest Willcox
Jean Williams
Dick & Pam Wood

BUSINESSES

Adoriables
Alfaro Family Vineyards
Alladin Nursery
Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club
Brian Iles Unique Birdhouses
Britannia Arms
Cafe El Palomar
Camas Designs
Carlisle Toffee, LTD
DeerHaven Soaps
Designs by Janeen
Gloria Oneto Designs
Hair We Are
Hunter Hill Winery
IB BAYO Wearable Art
Jeri Bodemar
Joan Blackmer
Just Pampered
Kirk McCarthy Niobium Jewelry
Landon Electric
Mackerilla Design
Mary Tegankamp Children's Clothes
Mike Beebe Pottery
Pacific Cookie Company
Palm Deli
Postage Stamp Art
Quality Water of Aptos
Ristorante Italiano
Roaring Camp Railroads
Roberta Lee Woods
Roudon-Smith Winery
Santa Cruz County Symphony
SC Mountain Wine Growers Association
Sew Unique
Silver Spur Restaurant
Smith's China Shop
Staley's Swim Ranch
Starbucks Coffee
Sticks and Stones
Sunrise Santa Cruz
Surf City Coffee
Suzanne McCourt Studio
The Turning Point
Toffee By the Sea
Windward Hair Design

Autumn Artisans Faire Volunteers



A warm 'thank you' to ALL our volunteers for the Autumn Artisans' Faire. What a great weekend! I hope this is a complete list. If you notice anyone whose name is not included please let me know. The finances for the weekend are nowhere near complete, and we did make money. But as someone said, that is secondary to the fellowship and the joy of sharing with talented artists, great lunch (wow, the soups and desserts), a chance to pick up some wonderful buys at the Silent Auction and great music. THANKS TO EVERYONE!

Clyde

Dick Allen
Wendy Baker
Jean Beebe
Cheri & David Bihn
Laurel & Bob Blaney
Boyd Brown
Dan Burklund
Marcia Burns
Pat Carr
Carolyn Collins
Kathleen & Ken Cook
Susan Cooper
David Daley
Jana & Bill Daley
Maggie Deacon
Pat Doolittle
Debbie & Hank Eaton
Austin Elliot
Amanda Favorite
Melissa Favorite
Jeff Favorite
Teresa & Skip Fehr
Bill Fennell
Pam Fine
Dan & Dave Frazier

Jenny Green
Jane & Steve Green
Velma Greyell
DeAnne & Rich Hart
Pharis Harvey
Jim Hillgren
Beth Hinton
Jillian Holmberg
Kathleen Hoaglund
Roger Houston
Deb Huffman
Wally Ingram
Cindy Jackson
Sid Jackson
Jenna Kaysen
Peggy Kaysen
Ruth Landmann
Susie & Murray Lewis
Shannon Lindahl
Anita Little
Joe MacDonnell
Georgia & Charlie Mackh
Cathy Martin
Chet Martin
Diane & Ken McElroy

Russ Menk
Helene Milner
Nancy Moody
Connie & Bill Moore
Betty Nuss
Holly Ota
Joyce & Glenn Pearce
Shelly Post
Michele & Dan Rossi
Drew Rossi
Ivan Rusch
Sue & Mike Sampson
Anne Scott
Kate Sutherland
Keri & Roger Swenson
Joanne Tanner
Linda Thiering
Ukulele Band
Sheila & Clyde Vaughn
Vicki & Roger Wasson
Susan & Dan Weeks
Kay & Forrest Willcox
Pam & Dick Wood
Darrell Yeaney

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

We will be supporting the Second Harvest Holiday Food Drive again this year with canned food and funds. Here are some Food Facts:

Fact: \$1 donated provides 4 meals.

That's pretty amazing when you think about it. Four meals for a buck! The Food Bank has such remarkable buying power and that is why they would really prefer checks rather than or in addition to canned goods.

Fact: Our Food Bank provides much needed food aid to over 50,000 people in Santa Cruz County every month.

Fact: Half of those receiving food from our Food Bank are children.

Fact: Requests for food at the Food Banks have increased by 30% in the past year.

So please bring some canned goods and/or a check to support the Holiday Food Drive. You may make your check payable to ACUMC and indicate Food Drive or Second Harvest on the memo line.



Grey Bears

Rich Hart reports the need for a helper to deliver Grey Bear groceries for a couple of hours each Thursday morning. The help entails lifting a grocery bag out of the back of the pickup and carrying it to the door of forty frail elders in Watsonville. It's a 'feel good' activity! Interested parties may call Rich at 684-1079.

Did you know?

The first president to decorate the White House Christmas tree was Franklin Pierce.

"Rudolph" was actually created in the late 1930s by Montgomery Ward for a holiday promotion.

2011 Campaign To Establish Covenant Relationship With United Methodist Missionary Katherine Parker

Administrative Council has approved a proposal by the new Mission Team to raise funds for a 2011 covenant relationship with United Methodist missionary Katherine Parker. Katherine recently came to ACUMC and described her work with Cambodian villagers. Her activities include projects to provide clean water, obtain chickens and animals for families, establish rice banks to store rice, teach children, and provide health care. Through the covenant relationship Katherine and ACUMC will exchange emails, information and study opportunities for both children and adults. A campaign to raise \$1,000 (\$5 per member) for the covenant will be carried out during January and February. The money will go to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries in support of Katherine and her work. If you would like to contribute, envelopes will be available in January and February. Also, an Alternative Christmas donation in honor of a loved one may be made in December and go toward the covenant relationship.

Book Club Plans



December 20th
No One You Know
by
Michelle Richmond
Hostess: Kay Willcox
Reviewer: Sue Sampson

January 17th
The Tenderness of Wolves
by
Stef Penney
Hostess: Cindy Jackson
Reviewer: Lee MacDonell

The ACUMC Book Club meets at 2:00 PM on the third Monday of every month. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Susan Weeks for more information.

Dear ACUMC Family,

Thank you all so much for the beautiful way you said farewell to me on my last Sunday.

I carry you in my heart as I set off on this new adventure—and I will be back to visit. With love and gratitude,
Netha

P.S. My new address is 17500 Hill Way, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. My e-mail address and cell phone number are the same: antnene1@hotmail.com, 408-218-3238.

Hello from North Carolina!

Mohan and Shirley Isaac are settling in to their new home in NC, and send their best to all of us. They miss us a lot, but are enjoying being able to spend more time with their children and grandchildren. They'd love to keep in touch, so feel free to email or call them at their new home.

831-722-6376 (same number as when they lived here)
saimdi@yahoo.com
7400 Laketree Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615

HOW TO SPEND NEW YEARS!

New Years Day, that is. Once again, please join Pastor Pam and Dan for a New Years Day open house at the parsonage. This will be a casual time of gathering with your church friends after the frenzy of New Years Eve. Spirits will still be high, but expectations will be low. Food and drink will be provided. (So will TV for football ... is it safe to say "Go, Ducks" still?) The order of the day will simply be visiting, although if we are lucky, there may be ukuleles playing! Pastor Pam says, "Please do come!"

Directions: Head south on Hwy. 1. Turn left at Salinas Road. Turn right at the second turn – Hillcrest. Then turn left at the second turn – Golf Circle. You are looking for 2775 Golf Circle!



Did you know?

In Mexico, wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve is said to bring new love in the upcoming year.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Teresa Fehr	December 1
Davey Treffkorn	December 3
Kay Willcox	December 5
Carl Perkins	December 5
Patty Thompson	December 5
Jana Daley	December 7
Dick Wood	December 7
Bob Henzie	December 7
Nate Lahue	December 8
Peggy Baldwin	December 10
Chet Martin	December 13
Jillian Holmberg	December 13
Win Cox	December 13
Keri Swenson	December 14
Grace Oldenkamp	December 18
Beth Hinton	December 20
Laina Copley	December 24

RuthieNichols	January 1
Dan Weeks	January 14
Suzanne McCourt	January 17
Evan Fiorovich	January 25
Mike Sampson	January 26
Andy Williamson	January 28
Steve Green	January 29
John Dodson	January 29
Barbara Symons	January 31

Anniversaries:

Rich & DeAnneHart	December 18
Jim & Linda Theiring	December 19
Craig & Cathy Wright	December 20
John & Jan Jackson	December 21
Pat and Ron Doolittle	December 22
Rebecca & Jean Marc Jot	December 29
Cindy Jackson & Jim Hilgren	January 4
Sheila & Clyde Vaughn	January 16



NEWS FOR JANUARY

It's hard to see beyond Advent and Christmas in order to tell what January will hold, isn't it? We are undoubtedly going to have to produce some kind of Calendar of Events as those days grow closer! You can expect a couple of new classes, including one on Sunday mornings. A ski trip is in the works. A forum on spiritual/religious issues by our retired clergy is being discussed. Conversation about a Volunteers in Mission trip will begin. It'll be a great start to a great year!

January Meetings

Trustees: Monday, January 10th 6:00 PM
Church & Society: Tuesday, January 11th 6:30 PM

Finance: Wednesday, January 19th 6:30 PM
PACT: Tuesday, January 11th * 25th 11:30 AM
UMM: Saturday, January 8th 8:00 AM
UMW: Thursday, January 6th 11:30 AM
Worship: Sunday, January 23rd after church

December Worship Schedule

December 5th Communion Second Sunday of Advent

Russ Menk will be preaching.
Text: Matthew 3: 1-11
Theme: Sacred Journey

December 12th Third Sunday of Advent

Text: Luke 1: 47-55
Theme: What is the promise of Christmas?

December 19th Fourth Sunday of Advent

Text: Matthew 1: 18-25
Theme: Dreams

Christmas Eve Service

Friday December 24th 7:00 PM
Candlelight, lots of carols, Choir and Bells!

December 26th

Text: John 1: 1-18
Theme: Incarnation

January Worship Schedule

January 2nd Communion

Text: Matthew 2: 1-12
Theme: Epiphany, Faith and Following

January 9th

Pastor Pam away....Guest Preacher

January 16th

Pastor Pam away....Guest Preacher

January 23rd

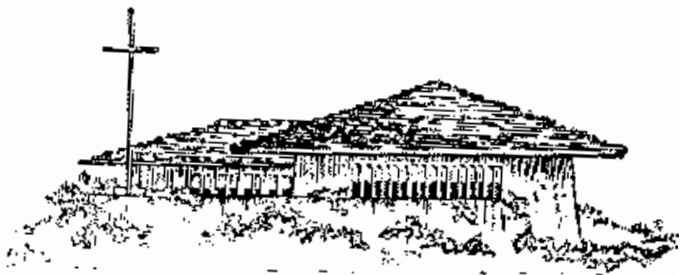
Text: Matthew 6: 7-15
Theme: Lord's Prayer, What are we asking?



Please say a prayer for:

Netha, Jerry, and Lori Thacker, Pam Wood's friend Jan Krueger, Joyce Pearce's friends Tom and Lu Sayous, Dan Burklund's friend Linda Revis, Gita Allen's friend Betty Notar, Hannah Lyn Edwards, Judith Shook, Michele Rossi's young friend Emilie, Ruthie Nichol's nephew Brett Ditler, Deb Eaton's friend Robin Rose, Jane Hull Harvey, Peggy Roll.

The Prayer Chain is an important part of our ministry, whose members pray for those in need throughout the week. If you would like to add a name to the list or to join this quiet yet powerful ministry, please contact the Church Office, 831-688-2210.



Aptos Community United Methodist Church

“The Church Worth Finding”

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

Phone: (831) 688-2210

www.aptosumc.org

Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM

Church School at 10:30 AM

Child Care Available 10:15 – 11:45 AM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NEWS FROM AROUND THE “CONNEXION”

From time to time, there are events in our area that may interest you, and we'll publish info about them for you, just in case. Here are two:

A Call to Radical Hospitality

All persons committed to creating safe places for our immigrant brothers and sisters are encouraged to attend this training event at the San Francisco Airport Hyatt Hotel on Saturday, January 22nd. The event, 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM, is designed to equip and mobilize leaders for just and compassionate immigration reform. Cost (including lunch and materials) is \$63. See the Conference website for more information: www.calnevumc.org

Earl Lectures and Leadership Conference

Pacific School of Religion, the alma mater for many of the clergy in this area, will be holding this lecture series in Berkeley for the 110th year in a row (!) from Wednesday, January 25th-- Friday January 27th. The theme this year is “Our Daily Bread: Faith, Work, and the Economy.” The featured lecturer will be Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor under President Clinton, and currently a professor of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. Mr. Reich’s lectures (and all the others) are free to the public. If you want to join in the Leadership Conference, the cost is \$150. This is also an opportunity to experience some wonderful worship as well. For more info, go to www.psr.edu and click on Earl Lectures.