



Dear Church Family,

God's blessings as we begin our journey through Advent to Christmas. I love Christmas; it seems to be the one time of year that living a Christ like life is actually in fashion. It is easy to get caught up in the commercialization of the season, to worry about buying expensive gifts and having the most lights on our house. It is also easy to actually think about someone other than our own little circle of family and friends.

The values that are embodied in Christ—the ones we celebrate in Christmas—are those of caring for the people around us and living into the angels' promise of peace on earth. The focus for this church and many of its members is making sure that love and joy of Christmas are real in the lives of our church and our neighborhood.

I love Christmas. I have fun sending cards and letters. It is wonderful to reconnect with friends and family, some I hear from only at Christmas. I love getting cards and I hang them in my house so that I can see them and be reminded of all the wonderful people who bless my life.

I have fun doing some extra entertaining during Advent. One of my favorite things is to cook dinner for the elders and their spouses. Christmas is a wonderful time to let the special people in our lives know just how much we appreciate them. I also make sure that one of my gifts for the holidays is to the Community Food bank because feeding those we know is not enough in our hungry world.

I love Christmas. I have fun giving gifts to the people I love. I try to be sure the gifts are in keeping with who the person is and I always want the gift to represent the love of Christ that is in the act of giving. I especially like giving gifts to those who aren't likely to get much, if anything, for Christmas. God's love is about remembering the forgotten. I am always humbled by the gifts I am given, especially the ones that are made using the gifts and graces of the individual giving it.

I love Christmas. My favorite part of Christmas is the special worship services. Christmas Eve has such warmth and mystery about it. The darkness seems to make it easier for us to come together. Christmas morning though is even more special. The brightness of the light and the crispness of the air dispel the mystery. The audacity of Christmas is apparent in the stark light of morning. God's love was and is real; it didn't just come with the songs of angels but stayed for the light of day. And God's love abides with us still.

I do love Christmas! I pray that this Christmas will be one of joy and peace for you. I pray God will surprise you with the wonder of a gift given 2 millennia ago as it is regifted to you this season. I pray you find ways to give God's love away.

Blessings!

Pastor Natalie

***Birthdays & Anniversaries
in December***

- 1 **Larry DeBenedetti**
- 3 **Marilyn Prowell* (ordination)**
- 4 **Laura Scrivner***
- 7 **Tammy Michaud-Potter**
- 8 **Debbie Flores***
- 9 **Aaron Jackson**
- 19 **Keesun Washington**
- 19 **Sharon Evans***
- 23 **Barrett & Eleanor Whiteley (A)**
- 30 **Brittany Moore**
- 31 **Allen* & Marilyn* Prowell (A)**
- 31 **Yolanda Márquez-Lúcar***

Christmas Eve

We will be having our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service. Come and worship the newborn king. Bring your family and friends or come be part of our larger church family. There will be a soup supper immediately following the service. If you plan to stay for soup, bring bread or dessert to share. If you would be willing to make a crock pot of soup, please contact Pastor Natalie at the church office, 227-2050.



Advent and Christmas Schedule 2010

Sunday	November 28	First Sunday of Advent - Lessons & Carols
Wednesday	December 1	<u>Advent Study: Philippians #1</u> 5:45 pm in the sanctuary
Friday	December 3	Christmas Tree Lane opens, first walk night
Saturday	December 4	8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Noon Women's Luncheon & Christmas Party in the Sanctuary
Sunday	December 5	10:30 am Worship Second Sunday of Advent
Wednesday	December 8	<u>Advent Study: Philippians, #2</u> 5:45 pm in the sanctuary
Sunday	December 12	10:30 am Worship Third Sunday of Advent
Wednesday	December 15	<u>Advent Study: Philippians, #3</u> 5:45 pm in the sanctuary
Sunday	December 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent/ CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 10:30 am Worship Christmas Scriptures and Carols
Wednesday	December 22	<u>Advent Study: Philippians, #4</u> 5:45 pm in the sanctuary
Friday	December 24	6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Worship, with Soup Supper and Fellowship to follow Worship. Bring your friends and family. This is a family event.
Saturday	December 25	9:00 am Christmas Worship

Honored Member

Janet Bomboy was born on February 4, in Snyder, Texas. Her father was in the United States Army and her mother was a waitress. She has one sister who lives in Oakhurst, California. After moving to Fresno, she completed her education graduating from Roosevelt High School.

She has two children and six grandchildren. She has worked in elder care and currently works at the Cal-Trans office. Her hobbies include reading, yard work, watching TV and travel and line dancing. She has taken a cruise to the Mexican Riviera and also enjoys visiting the Sacramento Delta. She saw Elvis Presley in person and also the singer, Alan Jackson.

Her daughter works for the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and was setting up the Sheriff's Office kiosk for our block party this year when she needed more supplies. So she called her mom to bring them to her.

Janet met several of our members that day and they invited her to our church. She has attended regularly since that time, joined our congregation and was baptized a few weeks ago.

She attended church as a child and she likes our friendliness and small church atmosphere and has volunteered to help in several ways.

Please give Janet a warm welcome.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



United Christian Church Christmas Post Office Christmas Postage Donation

This worked well last year so we will try it again this year! If you would like to participate, we are going to have a Community Christmas Card Posting Board.

Instead of mailing a card to everyone in the congregation - bring one card signed by your family and post it on the turn-around. Then donate the money you save in postage and card supplies; we will give that money to the Community Food Bank. There will be a jar on the turn-around for you to put your donations into.

If you would still like to send out cards please do! Remember our shut-ins and singles. There will be bins on the turn around for you to use to deliver cards to members of the UCC congregation. Use only the bins – don't put cards on the tables.

***Don't forget to
check for MAIL each week!!***

Have a Merry Christmas!
Pastor Natalie

Save the Dates!

Taize Prayer Weekend

January 28-29, 2011
at University Presbyterian Church
Registration forms on turnaround.

MLK Regional Celebration

January 9, 2011

South San Joaquin Area Geographical Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2011
at UCC Fresno

Missions

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!!

Well, maybe not quite yet, but I am betting that many of you have already begun planning for Advent and Christmas Eve Services, especially because the first Sunday of Advent comes on November 28, at the end of Thanksgiving week-end.

Nearly all 3,650 Disciples local congregations across the United States and Canada include the traditional Special Day Christmas Offering as part of their holy-day celebrations. The Christmas Offering is especially important to CCNC-N because it is the only one of the four Special Day Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas) which directly supports our bottom line Regional Ministry. 100% of this offering remains right here in your Region enabling all the programs, events, workshops, activities, camps, retreats that we offer as well as the Regional Staff to provide the leadership to make them happen.

This year's Christmas Offering theme, "For God So Loved..." is based on that well known passage, John 3:16: "For God so loved...that God gave!!" The art work for this theme is stunning and we have personalized the bulletin insert just for Northern CA-NV to express the growing diversity of our ministry. This material should be arriving at your door any day now.

This year, we will have a Regional Representative to our worship service on either December 5 or 12 to bring a Minute for Mission focusing on the Christmas Offering
Blessings,
Ben Bohren
On behalf of Regional Board and
Regional Staff

Christmas Star Tree

This year we are having our Star Tree again. The tree in the sanctuary has Stars on it. The stars are gold paper stars; they have a number on them and the particulars for a gift needed for a child or adult. If you choose one of these stars, be sure to sign the list so that Pastor Natalie will know where the stars are. Purchase the gift, wrap it, put the small star with the number onto the gift and return it to the sanctuary. Gifts are due back Sunday December 19. They will be delivered before Christmas.

We also will need food to make food baskets. If you would like to contribute money toward food, make the check payable to the church with the memo saying "Christmas food." Any amount over what is needed here will go to the Community Food Bank.

If you have an offering you would like to make and it is not listed above, let Pastor Natalie know about it. She usually knows what the needs of the community are and can find a home for most gifts.

Hats, Gloves, Scarves and Socks

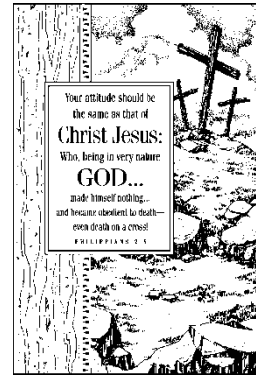
If you have hats, gloves, scarves or socks that you would like to donate to help keep those living on the street warm, there is a box in the sanctuary. There is especially a need for socks; clean, dry socks are particularly important once the rains start.

We are listening for God to speak...so please, during Advent, limit your visiting to the hallways instead of the sanctuary.

Thank you!
Pastor Natalie



October 2010



General Funds	\$262,694
Designated Other	4,824
Memorial & Honor Funds	7,452
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>2,691</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$277,661

Monthly Offerings *(includes 12% for Missions)*

Total October 2010	\$ 38,903
Total October 2009	<u>6,263</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 32,640

Year-to-Date Offerings *(includes 12% for Missions)*

To October 31 2010	\$ 97,470
To October 31 2009	<u>63,887</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 33,583

Income & Expense Jan .1-Oct.31, 2010

Receipts	\$111,932
Expenses	<u>120,952</u>
10/31/2010	(\$ 9,020)

Advent Study

Pastor Natalie will lead a 4 week study from the book of Philippians. We will meet the 4 Wednesdays of Advent, from 5:45 to 6:45 pm in the sanctuary. Bring your brown bag supper if you'd like. ☺



Men's Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, December 4, for breakfast and fellowship, followed by helping with some small chores around the church. This invitation is for the young, as well the other than young men of the church. Breakfast is served at 8:00 am.

Gary Pigg, Men's Fellowship

Young Adults Group

A new study group has formed. It is for young adults, post high school to whatever. This group will be meeting once a month. The next meeting is set for Sunday December 12 at 12:15. We will meet in the Sunday school room. Lunch will be provided. If you need child care, let us know.

We will be looking at chapters one and two of Luke.

Group leaders: Beckysue Duran and Pastor Natalie.

Advent Devotionals

Daily devotional materials for the Advent season (beginning November 28) are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Invitations Available

There are invitations to Advent and Christmas events. These are on the back table, along with envelopes. Use them to invite friends and family to these special events.

Disciples Study

Please join Pastor Natalie in the sanctuary at 9:15 on Sunday, December 12 for a one class study on what it means to be a disciple.



CWF/Women's Ministries

Youth

The annual Christmas Luncheon and Party will be held Saturday noon, December 4, at the church as a finger food potluck. There will be an inexpensive (\$5.00 or less) gift exchange. This year's secret sisters will be revealed and next year's selected. All women are encouraged to come and share in the fun and fellowship. Nursery care is available.

The CWF group's Christmas gathering will be Tuesday, December 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Dorothy Shuck, 3835 E. Farrin. All women are welcome.

Our youth group has created a *team ministry* called "THE MESSENGERS" They provided the Special Music for Pastor Yolanda's installation! It was b-e-a-u-t-i-f-u-l! The youth moved to music and sang. Everyone present enjoyed this addition to the installation. The youth group is planning on doing more performances in the future too. Unfortunately five of our youth that had rehearsed weren't able to perform on that day but look forward to them joining in for future presentations.

"THE MESSENGERS" are planning on doing more performances in our near future...If you are between 8-17 years old, and you are interested in joining "The Messengers" to honor and praise God, please contact Pastor Yolanda.

CWF – Service Project

The service project for the Christian Women's Fellowship for the next few months will be gathering small bottles and containers of shampoo, hair conditioner, lotion, bars of soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes. These will be donated to the St. Agnes Holy Cross Center for Women which is in need of these items. There is a basket in back of the sanctuary.

We are still collecting Campbell's soup labels, and also labels from Pepperidge Farm, Goldfish Snacks, Spaghettios, Swanson Broth, Prego and V8 products. Please cut out only the UPC bar code as they will not take a full label. These will be sent to our church affiliated home for the developmentally disabled at Woodhaven in Missouri. Please place these labels in the jar on the turn-around. Thank you.

Dorothy Shuck
Service Project Chair



Also... Do you smell something???
I smell lock-in!
Be sure to be in church to hear about it!

















Pastor Yolanda

December 2010



Friday morning custodial service is being done in the Church and the Church office.

☺Deadline for Bulletin material is noon, each Wednesday.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*	Saturday
 <p><i>Season to Rejoice</i></p>			<p>1☺</p> <p>5:45 pm Advent Study</p>  <p>7 pm Choir</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p>	<p>3*</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>6 PM-Open House @ the Hallier's</p> <p>6 pm PIC</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>8:00 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 am O.A.</p> <p>10:30 am O.A.</p> <p>12 noon Women's Luncheon & Christmas Party</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>†9:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>†10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>†<u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u></p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p> <p>4:00 pm IACC Meeting</p> <p>5:30 pm New Beginnings Meeting</p>	<p>8☺</p> <p>5:45 pm Advent Study</p>  <p>7 pm Choir</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p>	<p>10*</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>Ministry Council Reports Due</p> <p>6 pm PIC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 am O.A.</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>†9:15 am Sunday School & Disciples Study</p> <p>†10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>12:15 Young Adult Bible Study</p> <p>†<u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u></p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p> <p>6:30 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>15☺</p> <p>11:30 Minister's Cluster</p> <p>5:45 pm Advent Study</p>  <p>7 pm Choir</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p>	<p>17*</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p> <p>6 pm PIC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 am O.A.</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>†9:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>†10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>†<u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> <u>Christmas Sunday</u></p>	<p>20</p> <p>NO Bible Study at the Hodgson's</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p> <p>6:30 pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>22☺</p> <p>5:45 pm Advent Study</p>  <p>7 pm Choir</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p>	<p>24*</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>6:00 pm Bilingual Christmas Eve Service & Soup Supper</p> </div> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>9:00 am Christmas Worship</p> </div> <p>7:00 pm A.A.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>†9:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>†10:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NO Bible Study at the Hodgson's</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>29☺</p>  <p>7 pm Choir</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p> <p>10:00 am O.A.</p>	<p>31*</p>  <p>the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i></p>	<p>January 1</p> <p>3:00 pm Wedding</p>

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.