

*Our mission is to create disciples who nourish faith
and work in ministering to the community.*

VOL. 59 | No. 12 | December 2013

Circuit Rider

Mark Your Calendar

12.7

UMM Service & Breakfast @ New Lenox

12.11

Senior Luncheon

12.14

UMW Annual Cookie Walk

Men's Breakfast @ IVO's

12.15

Heartland Blood Drive

12.22

Children & Adult Christmas Program

12.24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4pm ~ 6:30pm ~ 11:00pm

12.28

Feed My Starving Children

'Good' News

Sometimes our church creates its own programming and invites the community. Sometimes others in the community create a helpful ministry opportunity that we want to tell you about. One of those opportunities is a series of worship services in different locations called "Blue Christmas" (see article inside), pointing not so much to Elvis (who sang the song) as to the emotional challenges that many of us face this time of year, particularly because we're grieving the absence of someone special who isn't sitting at the table with us anymore. The festivities of the season sometimes feels like a cruel reminder that our world has changed and we don't feel as festive as the rest of the world seems to be.

In the Advent Adult class that Wilson Young and I are teaching (separately, on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings), author Adam Hamilton gives us some fresh insight into the familiar scenes of the original Christmas story: angels, Mary, Joseph, Nazareth and Bethlehem.

Continued on page 2...



'Good' News Continued

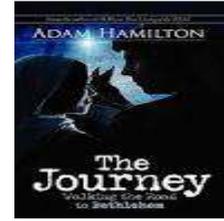
In exploring Joseph and his role, Rev. Hamilton invites us to pretend we're in his sandals. The day he learned that his fiancé was pregnant (and his wasn't the father) had to be the worst day of his life. Joseph was perhaps the first person to experience a "Blue Christmas". All his plans were dashed, and his future looked bleak and unknown. "Have you felt that your hopes and dreams had been crushed and you simply didn't want to go on? This is what Joseph must have been feeling that day. Here's what I want you to notice: At that very moment when Joseph felt at his lowest, God was at work in Mary's womb, doing the greatest thing God had done since the creation of the human race. Something amazing was about to happen, but Joseph could not see this yet.

"When life gets hard and even painful, we would do well to remember Joseph. Just as it all seems to be going wrong, it could be then that God is doing something remarkable that you or I simply cannot see yet. God takes our disappointments, heartache, and pain and uses them in profound ways." (p. 46, *The Journey*)

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a "Blue Christmas", remember Joseph and the bible's promise that "all things work together for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

Peace, Steve

Adult Advent Study



"The Journey" by Rev. Adam Hamilton is the 5 week Advent Study that CUMC will be offering, at two different times. "Journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in his fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heartfelt as you walk along this road. The accompanying DVD was filmed on location in the Holy Land."

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm

Facilitator: Pastor Steve

Sundays mornings at 10:30 am. Facilitator: Wilson Young

Cost: \$14 for Participant book

(an optional devotional book is also available for \$8, or both books for \$20)



Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule



Our 9am and 10:30 am worship will continue through December.

Our Adult and Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 22nd Christmas Program presented by our children and some of our adults at the 9:00 am worship service that day.

December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be offered at 4:00 pm, 6:30 pm, and 11:00 pm. Come hear the Christmas story, light a candle, and sing the songs of Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Special Guest at CUMC

Former CUMC Pastor to preach Dec. 29th

Dr. Lynn Pries, who was pastor of Channahon UMC 1971-1974, will be our guest preacher on Sunday December 29th. He was the first full time pastor for our church. For the last 20 years, Rev. Pries has been the campus minister of North Central College in Naperville (a United Methodist school since 1861). We are grateful for Rev. Pries' ministry and look forward to hearing his message for us at the 9 am and 10:30 am worship on this last Sunday of 2013.



Children & Family Ministries Bonnie Babich

Blue Christmas 2013 *Help for the Hurting During the Holidays*



The holidays are supposed to be a time of joy and happiness, a time to feel the magic of the season. For some people this is true. But for others, the holidays are a time of stress. Some may be overwhelmed by financial problems or family conflict. Recovering addicts may be tempted to stray from their sobriety. Others may be facing divorce, death of a loved one, or stresses related to military deployment. Whatever someone's personal situation, the reality is that the holidays can prove trying for many.

Here is a listing of free opportunities for support and renewal that can help you find the magic of the season:

Friday, December 6th, 7 p.m. – Campbell Memorial Park in Coal City
~ Angels of Hope Candlelight Remembrance Vigil - a vigil for those suffering from the physical absence of a child.

Monday, December 16th, 7 p.m. – First United Methodist Church, 118 W. Jackson St., Morris. All are welcome. For more information please contact the church office at (815) 942-0809.

Friday, December 23rd, 7 p.m. – Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City. All are welcome. For more information please contact the church office at (815) 634-8670.

These opportunities are brought to you by the Behavioral Health Alliance of Grundy County. To learn more, contact Devan at (815) 941-0852.



Did you know.....that CUMC Youth Small Group grew from a few youth and a couple of adults who wanted to have a homework club in a safe and caring environment?

Did you know... that the Sr. High Small Group adopted a child from Compassion International Sponsorship Ministry?

Did you know..... Tom Leatherwood has loaned the Youth his outdoor lights until the church installs permanent outdoor lights so that the Youth can be outside longer at night.

Did you know ... that the Sr. High Small Group adopted a child from Compassion International.

Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, December 28th - 11:30
a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

“Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.” Proverbs 22:9

CUMC has reservations for 40 people to help pack meals at the FMSC Schaumburg, IL location. Invite your friends and relatives – anyone over age 5 is welcome to participate in this mission. To reserve your space you can either sign up on the sheet in the narthex or go online to www.volunteer.fmssc.org and use group code **394938**.



*“Feeding God’s Starving Children~
Hungry in Body and Spirit.”*

Haiti Mission Fundraiser – “Souper Sunday”

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraiser by buying soup! 495 pints of soup were made – 395 pints of soup was sold – 75 of which went outside of the congregation. Thank you Bobby Babich, Mary Easton and Nancy Geldean for extending this fundraiser into the community!

Special thanks to Joi and Kellen Walker for providing their expertise and helping to gather ingredients and packaging.

Great job **“Channahon 6”** along with Beth Couch, Bonnie Ciolkosz-Gray, Nancy Geldean and Joan Waller for helping

to prepare, package and distribute the soup.

A profit of \$1200 was made to support the work in Haiti.

Church in Action

The extra 100 pints of soup was delivered to Coal City United Methodist Church on the evening of Sunday, November 17th in the aftermath of the tornados. The soup was used to help fee 1st responders, volunteers and families taking shelter at the church.

Thank you to Anita Young, Bonnie Babich, Mike, Deb and Cody O'Brien, Wendy and Katie McSteen and Kellen Walker for delivering the soup and other needed supplies to Coal City!

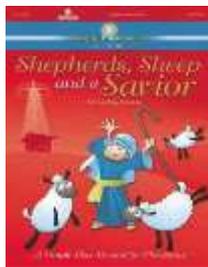
Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



Adult & Children's Christmas Program

Presenting:

Shepherds, Sheep and A Savior



December 22nd, 2013

9:00am Service

*Main Practices will be held during
Kidz Club on Wednesday evenings
6p-6:15p and Sunday mornings*

10:15a-10:45am

*(additional Practice times
will be scheduled as needed)*

*Anyone wishing to participate, is able to
help with our program or need more
information, please contact*

Brittany Alcantar at

Balcantar05@yahoo.com / 815-603-9851

Or Mike Geldean



Five scouting units from the Channahon & Shorewood area worked together to collect food through the '*Scouting for Food*' program.

Boy Scout Troop 444, Cub Scout Pack 444 (both chartered from CUMC), Venture Crew 402, and Girl Scouts, spent one weekend distributing bags to all of the neighborhoods in Channahon. On Sunday, November 3rd the units met in the parking lot of CUMC and headed out to collect the donations.

In all, over , close to 8,000 lbs. of food was collected and delivered to Chanooka Wish – that organization's largest donation to date!

What a wonderful example of "*ministering to the community*"! Thank you to Wilson Young for stepping into the role of Charter Organization Representative for Boy Scout Troop 444 and Cub Scout Pack 444 both Chartered by Channahon United Methodist Church. In this role, Wilson will act as a liaison between Rainbow Council and both scouting units.



New Bulletin Boards

You may have noticed the new bulletin boards that have been placed throughout the church,

Front breezeway

Edu. wing wall and side entrance.

Please use these bulletin boards for hanging any announcement flyers and avoid putting them all over the front doors, windows and walls. We are trying not to have so many posted all over the church. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Youth News

Roger Beitzel
& YG Leaders

December Youth Group Calendar

Dec. 1	No Senior High Small Group
Dec. 4	Junior High Small Group 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Ultimate Frisbee Noon – 2:00 Youth Group Outing @ Family Fun Zone 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Senior High Small Group 6 – 8 p.m.
Dec. 11	Junior High Small Group 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Ultimate Frisbee Noon – 2:00
Dec. 15	Senior High Small Group 6 – 8 p.m.
Dec. 18	Junior High Small Group 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 22	Senior High Small Group 6 – 8 p.m.
Dec. 25	No Junior High Small Group
Dec. 29	No Senior High Small Group

A Special Note to Our Jr. High Small Group

For those of you who don't know me, I am Kathy Leatherwood, part of the team of adults leading your child's junior high small group at CUMC. We are off to a great start, building relationships and having fun!

A few notes about Junior High Small Group through the end of the year:

- **Wednesday, December 4th** - we will travel together from the church as a group to Walmart in Morris to purchase Christmas List items for a needy family in the area. The family and their wish list have been provided to us through Easter Seals of Joliet, and I have participated in this mission several years in a row. We would like to ask that each of our Small Group Families make a cash donation to fulfill this list. The suggested amount is \$10. This will allow the youth to shop for the items and participate in the choosing, purchasing, and wrapping of the items. If you would like to participate, please send the donation with your child to Small Group on Wednesday.
- **Wednesday, December 11th** - we will have an Advent Party, anticipating Christmas and prayerfully preparing for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. We will wrap our mission gifts on this night as well.
- **Wednesday, December 18th** will be a movie night!
- *We will not meet again until January 8th.*

Please feel free to email, text or call me anytime with any questions, concerns or comments! :)

Thank you,
Kathy

KMLwood@yahoo.com / 815.260.9196)

Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." (NIV)



Youth Group Reflection

Roger Beitzel

The Christmas Orange

Jake was a resident of an orphan's home, one of ten children supported by what contributions the home could secure in a continuing struggle. There was very little to eat, but at Christmas, there always seemed to be a little more than usual to eat, and the home seemed a little warmer. It was a time for more than usual enjoyment, but more than this, there was the orange.

At Christmas time, each child received an orange; the only time of year, that such a rare item was provided. And each child treasured that orange like no other thing the children ever possessed. They would save it for several days, admiring it, feeling it, loving it, and contemplating the moment when they would eat it. Truly, it was a "piece de resistance" to the Christmas celebration. And, even the year, for many of them would wait until New Year's Day or later to eat it.

This Christmas day, Jake had broken the rules at the home in some way and his punishment was the loss of the orange privilege. After a year of waiting for this rare occasion, and this most desired of all rewards, it was to be denied. His pleas fell on deaf ears. His offense was rather minor, but still it was an infraction of the rules that had to be followed in order for the orphanage to run smoothly.

Jake spent Christmas day empty and alone... it even seemed the other children didn't want to associate with a person who didn't have an orange.

Night time arrived and this was the worst time of all for Jake; he could not sleep. There could be no God for who would permit such an apologetic little soul to suffer so much by himself. Silently, he sobbed into his pillow because he didn't have an orange like the other kids had.

A soft hand placed on Jake's shoulder startled him momentarily and an object was quickly shoved into his hands. The giver disappeared silently into the darkness. Jake was left with something round and odd feeling in his hand. He brought it close to his face, trying to see it in the dim light. Suddenly, that rare scent filled his nostrils. The smell of an orange! Not a regular run-of-the-orange, but one made up from segments of nine other oranges. Nine other highly prized oranges that would, by necessity, be eaten tonight, rather than several days later.

May we all share a part of ourselves this Christmas season.

Senior High Small Group & Compassion International



The Sr. High Small group was given an opportunity to sponsor a child in need through Compassion. We jumped at the opportunity and were given a 5 year old boy from Brazil. His name is Wellerson Lucas Ferreira Dos Santos and his birthday is January 14, 2008. His status was labeled PRIORITY which means he was needing help immediately. He has been waiting 8 months and we are so glad we were able to jump in and help.

He lives with his mother and father and his duties at home are running errands. His parents work off and on as laborers. As part of Compassion's ministry, Wellerson participates in Bible class and Vacation Bible School. He's in kindergarten and his performance is average. Soccer, playing with cars and playing with marbles are his favorite activities.

Because of our sponsorship, Wellerson will have new opportunities to learn and grow physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Our group is throwing change together every month to be able to send him what he needs every month. If you find yourself with extra change and you would like to get involved, we will have a jar with a picture of Wellerson in the education wing of the church. You can also write letters to Wellerson that we will be sending to him as much as we can. Feel free to write to him and give your letter to Kellen Walker, Mary Caher, or Nancy Geldean.

God Bless, The Senior High Small Group



Sustainable Youth Ministry (CYM) Model Taking Shape at CUMC

Several years ago Channahon UMC leaders asked the question: What do we want our Youth Ministry to look like? Through prayer, a long, thoughtful process, and lots of meetings, the Youth Visioning Team decided to work to develop the Sustainable Youth Ministry Model (SYM) here.

What does that mean? Many churches depend solely on a youth leader to create and maintain their youth program. This can lead to a lot of unrealistic expectations on the part of the parents and congregation and a lot of burnout and dissatisfaction on the part of the youth leader. So, a burned out, disappointed youth leader resigns or gets terminated far too soon for the best interests of the youth. The average length of employment for youth pastors is 18-24 months.

In contrast to this “all or nothing” approach, SYM does not rely exclusively on the youth leader to create a successful youth ministry program. Instead, SYM recommends that the youth leader’s primary role is to help the youth in the church develop lasting, real, relationships with other faithful adults in the church.

That means a key part of Roger’s job is helping our youth connect with faithful adults in our church, adults who will build genuine relationships with students and mentor them. Of course, that means another vital part of his jobs is supporting and equipping our youth volunteers. Our entire youth ministry team works to help foster an environment where these volunteers and our youth can become close friends.

Teens are growing away from their parents and looking for other role models. Look around our church and you will soon realize we are blessed with a lot of excellent role models for the young people in our church. Helping our youth find those role models and develop lasting relationships with them is a primary goal of SYM.

One key to making SYM work is a core group of committed volunteers. We have worked long and hard to find the right people to commit to our Small Groups. Nancy Geldean began a Junior High Guys Small Group three years ago, meeting every week for fun, fellowship, and, oh yeah, popcorn! Our Small Group Ministry has grown and changed since that time, and we now have two Small Groups, one for Junior High and one for Senior High that meet weekly. Other committed volunteers for Small Groups include Mary Caher, Kathy Leatherwood, Brent McMurtry, Ryan Sartori, Tom Sweet, and Kellen Walker.

We have developed a Small Group Ministry that is a perfect example of how SYM works. Our next goal is to get the Youth Group and Ultimate Frisbee parts of our Youth Ministry working this way as well. If you feel called to be a significant part of the lives of the young people in our church, we would love to have you join our team.

Just let Roger or any of our Youth Volunteers know.

More Youth Small Group News:

In November, Dave and Stephanie Hoover opened up their home for the Sr. High Small Group meeting (14 of us - not so small anymore). We hung out in their "man cave" (actually a four season room) with a fireplace. We enjoyed conversation, laughter, pizza, playing Catch Phrase and ending with Stephanie's wonderful dessert she provided. For those of you who have not yet met the Hoovers, they have recently moved to Minooka from Bloomington, IL and are my neighbors. Stephanie is a member of Hope Circle and also a personal chef. They have a one year old daughter and are expecting another daughter in early January. They enjoyed having our group so much that they have invited us back. Yea!! I hope everyone gets a chance to meet Dave and Stephanie. We feel very blessed to have them involved with our youth.

Kellen, Mary and Nancy



Church News



9th Annual Channahon UMW Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 14th 2013

9am - until cookies are gone!

Channahon United Methodist Church
24751 W. Eames - Channahon
815-467-5275

\$12.50/bucket

.50cents off if you bring your bucket
from last year

Sponsored by
Channahon United Methodist Women
to raise funds for mission work
benefiting women and children.

Bakers are Needed

**UMW needs your help. Please consider
contributing your favorite homemade
cookies. See Barb Powell to volunteer!**

>Annual Cookie Sale will be held December 14 at 9 A.M. at the church. All proceeds will benefit mission. If you can bake cookies to donate, please let Barb Powell know. All are invited to buy their cookies for Christmas. This is the UMW's only fund raiser for 2013. Invite your friends!

>Many thanks to Elaine Coen for helping to plan our Thank Offering Service on November 17 and securing ladies to serve for that service. UMW has had a great year and to date \$756.00 has been donated for our World Thank Offering. We are so thankful!

>Our online circle will be discontinued in 2013 unless we hear of interest in it. If you are interested in keeping updated on UMW but are not able to commit to a circle, please contact Lana Stafford: lantwin@sbcglobal.net.

>Winter Mission u is January 10-12 at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon. This will be a great week-end of education and fellowship.

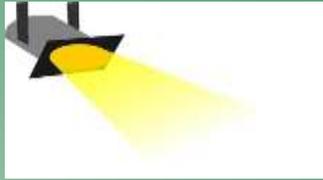
>Our next newsletter will be published in December, please check it out on our church's website.



News

This year's Turkey Supper raised \$5504.18.

Thanks to Beth Couch, Joannie White, Mike Geldean and all those who gave their time, talents, and donations for making this a success. This is the Church's largest fundraising activity. The amount raised is approximately \$10 more than in 2012. General Fund donations have fallen behind pace - 79% actual through 83% of the year (budget).



A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR CHURCH STAFF MEMBERS

This month we will highlight our Youth Leader's (Roger Beitzel) job responsibilities. Roger was hired to provide programming opportunities for the youth of our church (Grades 6th – 12th).

Here are a few of his job responsibilities:

- Organize and direct regular fellowship meetings for Jr. and Sr. High Youth.
- Assist Pastor with Confirmation.
- Hold Parents meetings a couple of times a year.
- Communicate with parents at least monthly through newsletter, flyers and email.
- Resource and support Small Group Leaders.
- Teach Senior High Sunday school in conjunction with volunteer teachers.
- Assist in recruiting and training volunteers for youth ministry.
- Coordinate with Director of Children & Family Ministries to choose, coordinate, promote, and lead mission experiences, including one summer mission trip.
- Coordinate youth participation in major church events such as Turkey Supper and Antique Fair.
- Meet regularly with Pastor and Director of CFM.

So next time you see Roger, thank him for his service to our church!.

Lisa McMurtry/Staff Parish Relations Chairman



The Prayer Blanket Ministry at CUCM is available for anyone who might be battling a serious illness, going through a difficult time or suffering a loss. Church members, as well as non-members can receive these blankets. All you need to do is fill out a request on the Joys & Concerns sheet (in the pews) and place the request in the offering plates or hand over with Joys & Concerns. The blanket will be set out that following Sunday for tying of the knots and prayers. The office will contact you for pick up.



Thrift Shop

Thrift Shop will be closed on Thursday November 26, 2013 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

We are preparing for a 25 Cent sale which will be held on Monday, December 2, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and this includes all items.

We will have our Christmas / Thank You Luncheon on Dec. 6, 2013 at noon in the narthex as a way of thanking all of our Helping Angels.

We will have a Ten Cent Sale on Thursday, Dec. 12th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and again on Monday, Dec 16th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and everything is a dime regardless of price marked.

Thrift Shop will be closed from Dec. 17, 2013 until Jan. 9, 2014. If the bin has the closed sign on it please do not leave anything outside the bin or inside the church...we are over capacity and have no room to safely store it until we open again.

We want to thank everyone who has worked to help us, donated items or was a customer in 2013. We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year and we hope to see you all next year in January when we open.



Heartland Blood Mobile Unit

Will be here at CUMC on Sunday December 15th from 10a-1p. Reservations are suggested. You can do so by calling the church office or signing up in the narthex with Donna Szoke.

Wednesday
December 11th



Senior Lunch is offered the second Wednesday of every month at 11:30am at CUMC. The lunch is sponsored by the Senior Service Center of Will County and Channahon Township. We are very thankful for Channahon United Methodist Church for hosting our lunches. Suggested Donations are \$4 and Reservations are appreciated by calling 815-467-2569

2013 PAUMCS of Northern IL Conference

Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries

As a newly appointed UMC secretary and PAUMCS attendee, I must say it was very insightful, encouraging and supportive to know that this group expresses an abundant effort to aid and assist the UMC secretaries all around the world. I met some wonderful people, learned so much, and most importantly that *'we matter to the life of the church'* and that this is not just a job but truly a ministry in so many ways. I look forward to being a part of this support group to better serve the congregation of CUMC.



CUMC Photo Gallery

Got great photos of church events?
Send them in to share in the
CUMC Photo Gallery

Meet the 'Haiti 2014 Mission Team'

Pastor Steve, Bobby Babich, Bonnie Babich,
Wilson Young, Jim Waller, Madison Leatherwood.



Having Fun with Trunk & Treat / Pumpkin Carving



Thank You....

Dear Family, We have heard from so many people that say they don't know what to say or that they don't have the words to express their sympathy. We understand because we don't have the words to express our thanks.

The kindness, support, caring, nurturing and huge outpouring of love that you have all show us is awe inspiring.

God puts us where we are supposed to be whether we understand or not. We came to this church when Gavin was here. My faith was surely shaken if not shattered. Gavin offered encouraging words and a challenge of sorts. He said church wasn't a particular faith, it wasn't an idea and it wasn't a building. He said churches were made by the families that worship there together. God brought us here, but all of you restored our faith, helped us continue to grow and became our family.

So many of you were right there for us so quickly and we didn't have to ask.. You cooked, cleaned, held our hands, hugged us, dried our tears, thought of things when we couldn't even think. You remembered things that we couldn't, made sure our kids had everything they needed when we couldn't even take care of ourselves. You filled the broken and missing pieces of our hearts with parts of your own. WE saw God through our tears so many times.

You have helped us start to get through what we believe will be the hardest thing we will ever have to live through. And you are still here, still helping, still understanding what we need even if we don't. We are overwhelmed and so very grateful for all of the love that you have shown us. You are an amazing church family and we are so very blessed to have you in our lives.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We love you all.

Love ~ Deb, Mike, Jessica, Ben, Cody Liam, Brendan and especially Richie who loves you for taking care of us.

~~~~~  
**John 16:33** – I have told you these things so that you will have peace of heart and mind, Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows, but cheer up, for I have overcome the world,

**Matthew 5:4** – Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Chanooka Area Crop Hunger Walk,** This year's walk on October 6<sup>th</sup> raised a grand total of \$7044.50. Channahon UMC raised \$2,042.50 of that! Wow, thank you to Harry Breen and all who helped organize and make this a success by recruiting, walking, donating money, baking cookies and donating your time. There were 32 walker from MUMC, Channahon UMC 35 walkers, Channahon Jr. High Beta Club 36 walkers, Minooka Jr. High Beta Club 20 walkers, and Resurrection Lutheran Church 2 walkers for a total of 125 walkers for the day.

25% of the raised comes back to our community to be share equally by our Helping Hands Food Pantry and Chanooka Wish. Thank you to all.

Bob is home and slowly getting better. Thank you all for prayers and love. That is truly what is keeping us going.

**Bob & Pat Williams**

It is a joy to be back in church. Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, meals and visits. A special thanks to Pastor Steve for his visits and prayers. It is so great to be part of such a wonderful church. **Dawn Brick**

Thank you all for so many prayers over the years during my part-time and limited employment. I am so thankful. I was offered (and accepted) a full-time position at JJC.

**Jennifer Doyle**

Mom is home. Thank you all for your prayers and words of encouragement. It means a lot. Please continue to keep mom in your prayers as she still has a long road of recovery ahead and for her to stay positive and patient.

**Brittany Alcantar**

Huge thank you for all of the personal hygiene items. Keep them coming. We will be heading to the city in December and January. **Stephanie Friel**

A very big THANK YOU to Tom Sweet for his support with Wednesday night 'Small Group'. He won't be able to join us at this time, but we thank him for the support he has given. **Youth Small Group Leaders**

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Relay for Life of Grundy County

The Minooka National Honors Society will be hosting a Mini Relay for Life on Sunday, January 19th - 12n-11p at Central Campus to help 'Strike Out Cancer'. All are invited to participate. Details, registration and information can be found by visiting http://main.acsevents.org/site/tr?fr_Id=60605 or call Donna Engel at *15-467-2140 ext-164 /dengel@mchs.net

OUR CHURCH'S CONCERNS

Surgeries/Hospitalizations

Janet Mitchell, Dick McLaughlin, Bob Williamson
Jim Buckley, Stacy Laysalle & family,
Corie Deering and family, Barb Bergman,
Dom Fodero, Aaron Platt, Jim Breen, Alexis Barga,
Dawn Brick, Janet Sanders, Laure Raeburn.

Health Issues

Allison Babich, Gladys Cogdal,
Joyce Skoog, Jake & Marge Gruel,
brother Michael, Godmother Joan, Austin,

Other

Families and victims in the Phillipines and the towns and villages of Illinois who suffered from the recent tornado, Daryn Dunbar, CUMC Good Samaritan recipients, our veterans.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

Linda Corp and her family
on the recent passing of her dad James Korinek

Cindy Powell Boyer and family
on the passing of her sister-in-law Cindy Boyer

Cindy Prokop and family
on the passing of her other Nellie Tomich.

McSteen Family
on the passing of Ray's cousin John Chair.

Waters family
on the recent passing of Bob Waters Sr.

OUR CHURCH'S JOYS

Kellen Walker - The Mathew West, Sidewalk Prophets and Jason Castro concert ROCKED! Many thanks to all of our drivers!

Gwen Tunney - Thank God for the healing of my sister from leukemia and my nephew from 2 cancers!

Jim & Donna Buckley - Son-in-Law John Sergeant has been promoted to lieutenant for Naperville Fire Dept.

Connor Knott - my kickball team won a championship game to raise money for cancer and the 6th graders even beat the 7th graders!!!!

Stephanie Friel - I am collecting hotel and travel size toiletries to distribute throughout the City of Chicago to the homeless in December.

Donna Szoke - my son's girlfriend donated her long hair to 'Locks of Love'.

Ellery Olson - I am going to be a big sister. Mommy is due May 16th!!!!

Babich Family - Daisy the Mission Pup has received a clean bill of health
Elena Warren - Wonderful experience with the Turkey Supper this year.

Mary Caher - proud of Megan and nephew Jacob for their hard work serving at the Turkey Supper. Thank you to the Turkey Supper team, what a wonderful evening.

Donna Szoke - Minooka HS Girls Cross Country team placed 6th in State.

Lyman Family - Allison & Bailey competed in their 2nd 10k - Bailey finished 3rd and both girls earned High Honor Roll and athletic scholar awards. Congrats to Jenifer Doyle for her new full-time job at JJC.

Cindy Prokop - Happy 238th Birthday to the United States Marine Corps. Proud to be part of the scouting and collecting food for Chanooka Wish and going door-to door!

Tim & Cherri Taylor - Tim's grandmother celebrates 103 years!!!

Kobe Family - Congratulations to Kyle for making Jazz Band and the basketball team for MCHS.

Beitzel Family - were happy to have Laura and a friend home for a weekend in November.

December Birthdays

2	Matthew Leatherwood	15	William McClintock
3	Hailey Pennington	16	Matt West
6	Veronica Easton	18	Paul Weller
6	Joey Hoffman	19	Gary Musser
6	Danny Hoffman	20	Barb Wilkinson
8	Kellen Arnold	21	Riley Boyer
8	Sandy Fletcher	22	Randy Platt
8	Anthony Sartori	23	Bob Beaudry
8	Gwen Tunney	25	Martha Hoffman
9	Jennie Olson	25	Marcia Kezerle
10	Meagan Hoffman	25	Clay Schuler
10	Joni Meyer	26	Madison Leatherwood
11	Lynette Bassett	26	Melissa Traver
12	Shelby Walker	28	Ashley Snow
14	Alyssa Cogdal	30	Vicki Breen
14	Justin Craig	31	Susan McMillin
14	Chris More		

December Anniversaries

12/4	Bob & Mary Easton
12/5	Nick & Cindy Pappas
12/27	Ron & Mary Ann Lehman
12/31	Matt & Jamie West

Christmas Eve Service Helpers

4:00pm

Liturgist
Greeters
Audio/Visual Steve Olson & Liam O'Brien

6:30pm

Liturgist
Greeters
Audio/Video Anita Young & Bobby Babich

11:00pm

Liturgist
Greeters
Audio/Video Mike & Andy Geldean

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary and would like it to be added to our Circuit Rider and bulletin announcements, please contact the church office 815-467-5275 or email: cumc_church@cbcast.com

December Worship Service Helpers

This Month's:

Church Ambassadors June Pelkey
Counters Vicki Breen & Mike Geldean

December 1

9:00am

Liturgist Nancy Allen
Greeters Chip & Joyce Williams
Audio/Visual Mark Lindstrom & Adam Taylor
Communion Sonny & Sharon Hedgren
Stan & Sandy Yenerich

10:30am

Liturgist Bailey Lyman
Audio/Video Lauren & Erin Sweet
Communion Dave McMurtry/MaryCaher
Nancy Geldean

December 8

9:00am

Liturgist Dottie Priddy
Greeters Mary & Clara Essary
Audio/Visual Anita Young & Adam Platt

10:30am

Liturgist Joi Walker
Audio/Video Bobby & Max Babich

December 15

9:00am

Liturgist Barb Powell
Greeters Knott Family
Audio/Visual Mike & Andy Geldean

10:30am

Liturgist Mary Caher
Audio/Video Lauren & Erin Sweet

December 22

9:00am

Liturgist Lou McCoy
Greeters Jack & Vicki Breen
Audio/Visual Steve Olson & Adam Platt

10:30am

Liturgist Allison Lyman
Audio/Video Bobby & Max Babich

December 29

9:00am

Liturgist Amy Geldean
Greeters Yenerich's
Audio/Visual Mark Lindstrom & Adam Taylor

10:30am

Liturgist Mary Essary
Audio/Video Lauren & Erin Sweet

*The Channahon United
Methodist Church*



24751 W. Eames (Rt. 6)
Channahon, IL 60410

www.channahonumc.org

Pastor: Steve Good

Cell #: 815-922-6872

pastor@Channahonumc.org

Youth Leader: Roger Beitzel

Youth@Channahonumc.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries

Bonnie Babich

Director@Channahonumc.org

Office Ministry Assistant:

Kris Hayden

Cumc_church@cbcast.com

Office Hours

Mon. – Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 815-467-5275

Fax: 815-467-7435

The **CIRCUIT**
RIDER

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Editor: Kris Hayden

CUMC reserves the right to edit all submitted materials.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship	9:00 -10:00am
Coffee & Donut Fellowship	10:15-11:00am
Sunday School	10:30-11:30am
Contemporary Worship	10:30-11:15am

**The church office will be closed
December 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st
in observance of Christmas
and the New Year Holidays**

CHANNAHON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

24751 W. Eames St. Channahon, IL 60410



We are especially Thankful for: