

The Memphis Unitarian

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Visit us on the web!
www.churchoftheriver.org

DECEMBER 19, 2011

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December 24, 2011
5:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Choir, under the direction of Dr. Charles Schulz has prepared a selection of Christmas Music from around the world. Cellist Jeff Jurcuikonis will offer his talent as a soloist and accompany the choir on several of their selections.



December 25, 2011
11:00 a.m.



Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols lead by Rev. Carley with special music by Jeff Jurcuikonis on the cello.

Rev. Carley will lead the service

January 1, 2012

OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN

SERMON: "The Road Revisited – No Simple Highway"

We encounter crossroads in our lives where we face a choice of continuing on what seems to be a prescribed path (the simple highway), or trying a different road even if we're less sure where it might lead. We make choices that guide and direct the courses of our lives. That simple highway... is the one we really want to follow, or do we choose some other road instead?

Dr. Lisa Jennings will preach the sermon at the 11:00 o'clock service



THE MEMPHIS UNITARIAN

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

On Sunday, December 25, the nursery and childcare providers will enjoy a rare day off. There will be no childcare or religious education for children and youth on Christmas Day. Everyone is welcome in the sanctuary at 11:00 for the worship service featuring special music, lessons, and carols.

Green Sunday project for children.

Middle School and High School students are invited to the worship service in the sanctuary.



GIFTS FOR THE BABY

Merry Christmas to all!

Our Candlelight Service has traditional ways. It opens with Santa Lucia in her crown of candles with her attendants coming down the center aisle. Then you are welcomed to the service by a young man.

On Sunday, January 1, the nursery and pre-school will be open and staffed. Children in kindergarten and older are invited to the sanctuary for a first Sunday Object Lesson.

Shortly after that during the singing of *We Three Kings* children in the congregation bring gifts for Baby Jesus down to the basket underneath the Creche. These are unwrapped presents for newborn infants through their first birthday. Everyone is encouraged to bring a gift and hand it to a child to take down to the basket. After Christmas the gifts are taken to the newborn unit at the Med where they are given to mothers in need.

Following the Object Lesson, Kim Lloyd will lead a

Then at the end of the service, the lights are turned off, our candles are lit and they reflect beautifully in the big windows.

CHURCH OF THE RIVER CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 20

7:30-9:00 p.m. Whose Are We? The adult education class led by Rev. Carley at the home of David & Lisa Jennings.

Wednesday, December 21

7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

Saturday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Cookie and Punch reception in the Mississippi River Room. Please bring a few cookies for the cookie table.

5:30 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 25

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

The Church Office will be closed between Christmas and 2012.

Wednesday, December 28

7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, January 1

Childcare in the Nursery for infants and pre-schoolers.

Children in Kindergarten and older are invited to the Sanctuary for a first Sunday Object Lesson. Following the Object Lesson, Kim Lloyd will lead a Green Sunday project for the children. Middle School and High School students are invited to the worship service in the Sanctuary.

Noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room

Merry Christmas from the folks at the Church of the River

*May the grace of this season bless you
with its promise that holiness swells in the
most unexpected places. bc*

*May the music of this
season provide you and
your family with blessings,
peace and magic.
Debbie*

*May you see with the eyes of
a child all the wonder of the
season—and may you feel the
love of God new born in you
and for you once again. Cindy*

*May all the blessings of the season
be an abundance to you. And may
you recognize them as blessings.
Chuck*

*Merry Christmas to all and a
Happy New Year.
David*

*Happy Christmas to all and to
all a good night! May there be
the jingle of sleigh bells in your
dreams. Margaret*



THANKS

to the Alliance for gifts to our outreach programs in honor of the church members who volunteer their time to MIFA Meals, Hospitality Hub, Manna House and St. John's Soup kitchen. Thanks to Lynn Jaseph Jones for a gift to the Christmas Fund in memory of her parents, **Larry & Carrie Jaseph**. Thanks also to Laurel Reisman for gifts to the Christmas Fund in honor of **Suzanne & Bill Landers, Tim Parks & Jeane Bleu, Ann, Joel and Rashad Reisman**, and **Dee & Jerry Billmeier**. Thanks to Tom & Mary Jo Miller for a gift to the Christmas Fund in honor of **Cindy Sakaan and the Religious Education volunteers**

THE MEMPHIS UNITARIAN

COR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

COR Board of Trustees member Amanda Myers wrote a guest column for *The Commercial Appeal*, Dec. 11, about the relationship between teaching young children vocabulary skills and breaking the cycle of poverty. Amanda is director of The Respect Program at the Exchange Club Family Center.

The January edition of *The Best Times* will include prayers for the New

Year by local clergy leaders. Burton is one of the contributors. The free magazine is available at locations like Kroger grocery stores.

The University of Memphis announcement about Dr. Charles Schulz: "Due to his overwhelming contributions and involvement with helping students achieve success, the U of M has started a scholarship fund in his honor for

the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music's tuba and euphonium program. The scholarship will support outstanding undergraduate and graduate students who have high academic and artistic achievements and the promise of future success. Supported students will be able to attend conferences, competitions, and professional auditions with your help."

THANKS AND NEWS

You are from the Church of the River, aren't you? When Juliet said "yes" the student broke rank with her line and gave Juliet a big hug!

We give thanks to Sue Myers and Jeff for donating the live Christmas tree for the Mississippi River Room, and to Bobby and Nancy Walton for the donation of an artificial tree to decorate the hall.

Our heart goes out to Dennis King on the death of his wife Ann Garrison. Ann served on the COR Board of Trustees and the King family was among

the original members that left COR to help establish the spin-off congregation in Cordova, Neshoba UU Church.

The scarves for every student at Shady Grove Elementary School was a big success. One of the students saw Juliet ("Gigi") Wischmeyer last week in the hall and said, "You are from Church of the River, aren't you?" When Juliet

said "yes" the student broke rank with her line and gave Juliet a big hug. Many thanks for Sue Strong and the many COR multigenerational members who created and distributed the 460 fleece scarves.

For Association Sunday the congregation raised \$1,800.00. Thanks from Rev. Papa.



A New Course is Forming

Race, Redemption and the Future of Memphis

Course description: This course is designed to deal with evocative and powerful matters. We will reflect on racism, its meaning, definition and articulation in the context of our life together and apart in the local community, America and the world. Growing our souls through changed hearts is the goal. Through sharing experiences across racial lines, we hope to forge deeper relationships with one another, create more ownership in our church and translate this change of heart into meaningful action in our daily

lives. We also hope to channel this energy in our outreach efforts, forming partnerships with those whose values we share. Spiritual writings will guide us as we begin the search for expressions of racial reconciliation that are personal, social and universal.

Beginning January, Jeffrey and Lonette Stayton will lead this course after church on the last Sunday of each month in the Chalice Room. Dr. Jeffrey Stayton is a fiction writer who teaches American literature at The University of

Mississippi. Lonette Stayton is a creative non-fiction writer who teaches junior-level English at Central High School. Both are enthusiastic new members of the church who encourage anyone to attend their course.

THE POETRY CONNECTION

*Proposal for a
Small Group
Ministry—
Poetry offers an
opportunity for
expression in any
realm that the
heart may seek.*

The Poetry Connection is intended to provide a small group (or groups) of participants with the regular occasion to write, read and discuss poetry both their own and that of others. The goal for each participant is to produce a collection of poems over their time of participation, and to have the opportunity to share those poems with the group.

The leaders will be Kim Oller and Rachell Ander-

son.

We will meet once or twice monthly at the Church of the River on a weekday late afternoon and evening (perhaps Tuesdays from 5:30—8:30.) Anticipated numbers of participants: 6-12. If numbers were to become too large we could form sub-groups.

Light meal at the beginning of each evening (potluck or catered at cost of participants.)

EVERYTHING IS HOLY

A WINTER RETREAT WITH SINGER-SONGWRITER **PETER MAYER**

JOIN LAY LEADERS & RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONALS FROM THROUGHOUT OUR REGION FOR THREE DAYS OF INSPIRING MUSIC, HANDS –ON TRAINING, SOULFUL WORSHIP & TIME ENOUGH TO TAKE IT ALL IN.

FEBRUARY 10-12. 2012 FRIDAY, 7:00 P.M. UNTIL SUNDAY, NOON

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS **DFW** NORTH, DALLAS TEXAS

WORKSHOP INFORMATION & DETAILS TO FOLLOW

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT WWW.FORMDESK.COM/SWUUC1/WINTCON12

WHO IS THIS CONFERENCE FOR? ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN THE WAYS WE NURTURE FAITH AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OURSELVES, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS. LAY LEADERS INCLUDING TEACHERS, PARENTS, YOUTH ADVISORS, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS, DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. MINISTERS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PARISH MINISTERS ARE ALL INVITED!

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**“One spends one’s life waiting.”
—Elie Wiesel**

THE CARE COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER IS LISA JENNINGS. YOU CAN REACH LISA AT 682-7838. THE CARE COORDINATOR FOR JANUARY WILL BE MARTI HOLLADAY. YOU CAN REACH MARTI AT 725-4103.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Our hearts go out to Elizabeth and Sam May on the death of their infant son Troy. The memorial service is Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.

“Holiday Greetings to everyone from Armenia. We are entering our 7th month of a 27 month commitment to service in the U.S. Peace Corps in Dilijan, Armenia. It is a beautiful, mountainous town which has been called ‘Little Switzerland’ because of the snow and the gorgeous natural setting. It is definitely cold though! We are settled in and trying to impact at least a few people with our work. (Dave, in business development and Judy in teaching English to students who must take it as a required foreign language.) Christmas is celebrated on January 6 in Armenia so we’ll have 2 Christmases this year. Even so, we’ll miss the Candlelight Service and other holiday events at COR. We wish each of you a Merry Christmas, happy holiday and above all, a peaceful and healthy 2012.” David & Judy Smith

A warm welcome to our newest members, Daniel Lees and Susheela Prakashan and Jason Belcher and Diana Harris. Both couples signed the membership book on December 18, 2011.



Daniel is a computer tech who enjoys flying and fitness. Susheela is a lead systems analyst.

Diana is an accountant who enjoys sewing, running and crafts. She also enjoys reading and her children. Jason enjoys running, camping and flying.

