



January *GLEAM*, 2012

Dear Church Family:

Many people approach the door to the future, the threshold of a New Year, with memories of the past which make them very cautious. They face their future with little hope, and with much "fear and trembling." We often hesitate when facing brand new challenges and opportunities, because we remember past disappointments, past hurts, and maybe even past failures. So we want to linger for a while in familiar territory, in a state of suspended animation. We look back, and sometimes what we see from our past may paralyze us, if we allow it to.

Despite the hesitation we feel about new adventures in our living, the door of our future will be opened for us, for God speaks both the judgment and the promise: "Behold, I set before you this day an open door, which no one will be able to shut." While God allows us to look back upon our past, our Creator will not have us linger too long in the comfort-station of nostalgia. God calls us to pick ourselves up, to listen to the gentle bidding of the Spirit, and venture forward into the unknown, where God is always found, and where God calls us to be. In God our past is received and forgiven, our present is affirmed and empowered, and our future is opened up to us. Our future is always open, because the heart of God is open.

Surely what lies in store for us does, in some way, depend upon the manner in which we receive and interpret the experiences of the past. There is much gone by of which we must "let go," and much in our past to which we must still cling; and we must carry our lessons from experience into this New Year, 2012. It is an individual, private decision each of us must make as to what has held us back, and what has helped us to grow. No one else can choose for us. I hope that some part of New Year celebrations will include prayerful reflection upon what has been, and what is yet to be.

But, as we look to the future and whatever fortune or loss it may bring, let us use our spiritual vision, and see everything through the eyes of faith. The door is open. As we wonder about what it is that lies on the other side of that door, let us remember the promise of our Lord: "Behold, I go on before you, and I prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also."

I wish for all the friends of our parish a spiritually rewarding, and adventurous New Year!

With Much Hope & Love,
Pastor Chuck

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Church Family:

Once again Anona and I would like to express our thanks to our parish for the many beautiful cards, messages, and goodies that were given to us during this Christmas season. It means the world to us to know that we are surrounded by such a loving, caring, and supportive church family.

With deepest appreciation,
Anona and Chuck Hartman



peace

Among Our People

Deaths

V. Edward Perkins ~ 12/5/11
Howard Lemack ~ 12/6/11
Leah Frederica Greene ~ 12/6/11

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Rev. Charles G. Hartman	Pastor
Michael Dauterman	Organist/Choir Director
Anne Hillman	Director of Christian Education
Calissa Kummer	Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
Beth Murphy	Office Administrator
Joseph Canova	Custodian

**Office Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday through Friday.**

January Worship, 2012

January 1, 2012 EPIPHANY/NEW YEAR SUNDAY
10:30 A. M. LOVE FEAST & WESLEYAN COVENANT SERVICE in the Library
Please note: One Service Only
An Informal Service of Sharing Our Faith through hymns, prayers, and personal witness

January 8, 2012 1st Sunday after the Epiphany BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Gospel *Mark 1: 4-11*
Sermon *The Heavens Opened*

January 15, 2012 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Gospel HUMAN RELATIONS DAY & Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday Tribute
 John 1: 43-51
Sermon *Can Anything God Come From There?*

January 22, 2012 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
Old Testament *Jonah 3: 1-5*
Epistle *1 Corinthians 1: 10-18*
Gospel *Mark 1: 14-20*
Sermon *Meet You There*

January 29, 2012 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Special Guest Preacher: Nory Leachon, Student Minister at Good Shepherd UMC, Malden
Old Testament *Deuteronomy 18: 15-20*
Epistle *1 Corinthians 8: 1-13*
Gospel *Mark 1: 21-28*
Sermon By Nory Leachon, Student Minister at Good Shepherd UMC, Malden



A Message from our Christian Education Director

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday full of good family fellowship and time to relax. I am excited to start off the new year with all of you.

First of all, we have some exciting news. Calissa Kummer has joined the church staff as our new Youth and Young Adult Coordinator! I am so glad to have her on board and am looking forward to the programming she will be leading this spring. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to solidify our youth program and start some young adult programming. Look for articles in a future Gleam for all the details.

January will be a much more relaxed month for Sunday School. January 1st will be the church **Love Feast** without Sunday School, but the rest of the month will be a normal Sunday School schedule for everyone. The Junior and Senior High will be joining together in January for Green Church: a study on environmentalism and Christianity.

New Adult Education opportunities will be available in February. Pay attention to your email and Sunday morning announcements as dates and classes times are decided.

There are a few important dates to know for upcoming fellowship opportunities. On **January 14th** is the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**, and our church is planning a project through Stop Hunger Now. There will be jobs for people of every ages, so plan on stopping by for an hour or two. Also, remember to bring in the folders that were sent home with the kids so that the money can be donated to Stop Hunger Now. I would love to see a great turnout from our Sunday School kids. Check out the Mission update for more details.

On **January 22nd** there will be a **Church Family Mini-Golf Fellowship** after church at 3pm. Open to all ages, come join your church family for a fun afternoon of Monster Mini Golf. We will also take advantage of the winter weather with a **Skating Fellowship** opportunity. After the 10:30 service on **February 5th** we will have a fellowship lunch and then head off for skating.

Dates to remember:

- January 1st – Love Feast – No Sunday School
- January 14th – MLK Service Day – 11am-4pm
- January 22nd – Family Mini-Golf Fellowship – 3pm
- February 5th – Fellowship Lunch & Skating – noon

Blessings,

Anne



A Message from our Chair of Finance

Where there is a Will there is a Way, Remembering Your Church By Charlie Rhuda, Chair, Finance Committee

It is nearing the end of the year and time when many people take stock (literally) of their finances going into the New Year. One area that is often overlooked is your estate planning, more specifically your will. Many people do not have wills, either because they don't want to think about their inevitable passing, they don't think they need one, or because they don't know what a will really does. Your will lays out your instructions for your assets once you die. This is especially important when you have heirs and wish to be able to leave your assets to them. If you die without a will, there are mandates in state law for how your assets are divided. But what about your church? Without a will, there is no provision in state law to set some aside for the future of your church. No matter how large or modest your estate is, you should remember to include the church. Bequests provide an important source of funds to care for the building itself, provide for mission work, as well provide as a backstop (a rainy day fund) for when times are lean. Please remember to include First United Methodist Church of Melrose when you are thinking about your estate planning.

No one truly wishes to face their mortality, but a will is an important way to assure your wishes are respected after you are gone. There is a wonderful reference *Making a Christian Will* on the UMC's website, it can be accessed at http://umfnelegacy.org/org_files/449/images/Making_a_Christian_Will.pdf

Your Committee Service and the New Calendar

Most of you know that we recently adopted a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), a "Church Year" if you will, to plan the activities and programs of our church. In keeping with that, we realized that officers and committee members are still on the calendar year. We also realize it doesn't make sense to have committee turn over in the middle of our program year. For those of you who serve on committees and as officers (i.e. Trustees), you know there are usually three classes, that each serve a one year term, for a total tenure of three years. With the adoption of our new church schedule it is necessary to align committee service to the new calendar. So therefore we (Chuck and I) are asking all committee members and officers **to extend their current term by six months**. That means if your terms were due to expire December 31, 2011, we ask if you can extend that term until June 30, 2012. If you are unable or unwilling to extend your term, please let either Chuck, myself, or your committee head know so that we may either find a replacement or plan for a six month vacancy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know Charlie.rhuda@novoco.com or 617-448-3864.



The following members and friends have sent Holiday Greetings to the First United Methodist Church:

Gayle Thistle
Priscilla DePetris
Holly, George, Jared &
Nicholas Peddle
Rachel Dunn

John & Dorothy Ramsdell
Beatrice Wadland
Susan Mayo
Delma Harrington
Sandy Swenson
Fred, Shirley & Cheryl Hayes
Beverley & Christine Lamson
Charlie, Sue, Gwen & Lily Rhuda
Lorna & George Philley
Regina Lucas
Alison, Ed & Alex Burke
David, Jackie, Mackenzie, Cameron
& Winston Comeau
Jane Shirley



UMW Yard Sale
Saturday, April 28,
2012

Save the date & your Treasures



A special thank you to everyone who helped make the UMW Christmas Tea such a wonderful success. The goodies, the setup and the gracious service is greatly appreciated.

Nancy Jackson



Senior Saints

Will be meeting on

Tuesday, January 10 at 11:30

for Pizza and Planning.

Snow date: Tuesday, January 17

Food Pantry

Our food pantry needs your help as they are feeding more families than ever. In an effort to increase our giving we ask that you and your family concentrate on bringing one type of product during the month. **Please give each or any week of the month!**

January—Peanut Butter

Suggestions: Creamy, Crunch, Honey Nut or Old Fashioned

A Big Thank You from Sally Frank's Farmers Market

On behalf of the Sally Frank's Farmers' Market, we would like to thank the First United Methodist Church for their kindness and generosity. You allowed us to use your front grassy area, storage for our various things, electricity, and the use of your tables and chairs for the market. All of these saved us from having to find other ways to do those things. You have been true friends. It was exceedingly helpful in our trying to both grow the market and find a permanent location. Special thanks to Cory Allen, who is one of the most easy going people we know and helped us get everything we needed. Also thanks to Beth Murphy who was always there at the church to answer any questions we had. And thanks to the Pastor Chuck Hartman who we know we inconvenienced accidentally on a couple of occasions by blocking the driveway - thanks for putting up with us while we learned not to do those things. Finally, we would like to thank the greater First United Methodist Church Family for all of your help and volunteerism with the Farmers Market over the past two seasons. We hope the market is a success next year in our new location at Bowden Park at Cedar Park - come see us starting June 14, 2012!



Heather Macdonald, Cindy Chabot, Renee Tennison
Co-Market Managers

Sally Frank's Farmers' Market <https://sites.google.com/site/sffmmelrose/home>

A special thank you to Anona for all her help on Saturday, December 17 with setting up the Poinsettias in the Sanctuary.



Frank & Jan



Feeding Ministry
Tuesday, January 24th
St. Paul's Church
26 Washington St.,
Malden

Please sign up to donate deserts, helping hands or cash. Any questions, please contact Kelly Ilebode at 781-397-7813.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE – Saturday, January 14, 2012

We are undertaking a big project this year as part of Melrose's Martin Luther King Day of Service. We ask that each and every one of you participate to make this a successful venture!

Our Project: STOP HUNGER NOW

What: Packaging 50,000 meals!

Why:

The Stop Hunger Now program was founded in 1998 to eradicate the international hunger problem. The food that is packaged is a Rice/Dehydrated Veggie/Soy Vitamin mixture. It is sent to schools and served as a meal for those being educated. The program works in two ways - to break the cycle of poverty and hunger - by providing education and nutrition.

There are several great videos on You Tube that offer you more information about Stop Hunger Now's mission and videos on packaging events completed by other Church groups.

60 Second Meal Packaging Promo: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCp4zQ2eRZE>

You may remember that our Annual Conference participated in the Stop Hunger Now mission. They packaged a few hundred thousand meals in a very short amount of time.

How can you help?

Fundraise

The program asks that we provide 25 cents for each package.

Participate in our upcoming fundraisers for Bruggers & Kelly's restaurants.

And share it with your friends too!

Provide a gift during our special collections, one each month until this mission project.

Participate

Day Before to set up the event.

Day of - packaging with several other members of our church family and neighborhood.

Promote

Tell your friends & co-workers about the event. They may want to contribute their time or dollars.

Please watch your bulletin for more exciting information on this project! Our Church is organizing the largest MLK Day of Service project that Melrose has ever seen.

Join me Diana Heise (Diana_Beasley@Hotmail.com) in making our Church the talk of the town... for a good cause!

Upcoming Events.....

MLK Day of Service	January 14
Family Fellowship Mini Golf	January 22
GLEAM Deadline	January 23
Feeding Ministry	January 24
Staff Meeting	January 30
Fellowship Lunch & Ice Skating	February 5



TV Ministry

Telecasting of the Sunday morning 10:30 worship services are on MMTV (**Melrose Cable Channel 3 & Verizon Cable Channel 39**) at the following times:

Sunday at 9:00 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. and
Monday at 8:00 P.M.



**First United Methodist Church
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**FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE**

This material was mailed January 3.

February GLEAM Deadline
Will be on Monday, January 23rd .