Epiphany and Worship through January

“The Epiphany of the Lord” (January 3rd) is an ancient church holy day older than Christmas. During the very early centuries of Christianity Epiphany was observed by remembering the nativity, incarnation, and the baptism of Christ all rolled in one. This ancient observance was to make known the sacred ways in which Jesus revealed his divine glory, Immanuel; God with us. Epiphany literally means manifestation, and as time passed Epiphany worship included the revelation of the Star and visit of Magi. This also added dimension to “revealing”, and even Magi gifts help us to comprehend ways to worship and honor Jesus.

As we begin a new year, January is a great time to ponder and choose the invitation and practice of worship. Worship is a place to re-discover we belong; we are welcomed by God, and faith people become family. Worship is where we discover who we are in Christ. Worship is a place where we bring our family and friends to remember and celebrate our common rootedness in God.

The start of a New Year is also a good time to re-remember worship as more than just making our way to church. Worship also invites attitude and heart; attitude of humility, as we come to embrace the love and grace of God, and a heart of openness, so that we may encounter the presence of Jesus.

The result of worship is often a renewed sense of orientation and connectedness. God’s redeeming enlightens a clearer self-understanding of who we are in Christ, and the Spirit connects us as faith family, nurturing caring bonds. All of this points us toward God’s invitation and opportunity to live God’s claim and call upon our lives. Come to worship on Sundays! Celebrate our common faith, and affirm our corporate call. See ya at church! Blessings, Pastor Joe.

Sunday Jan 31st Church potluck and 2010 calendaring:
Here is your invitation!

Put on your calendar now this church fellowship meal. We plan to eat right after worship, and give a focused window of time to share our church’s ministry plan, dream a bit and communicate portions of our church 2010 calendar. Sharing ideas can create energy and inform our larger church of the total ministry picture. Committee and team chairs will have opportunity to communicate planned events-with brief descriptions, and “prospective” coming opportunities. During this event we will also distribute our church’s slate of 2010 leadership, projected church budget, and 2010 calendar. Here is my goal and promise; we will conclude this important and fun time by 1:30PM. There is no better way for you to spend the Sunday before Supper Bowl, and enjoy some great eats. See you for lunch and a rich time for our church; Pastor Joe
Sundays in January:

January 3rd - Epiphany Sunday and Celebration of Holy Communion  
Title: “The Majesty of God’s revealing”  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Isaiah 60:1-6

January 10th - Baptism of the Lord and Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant  
Title: “Baptism covenant: promise and commitment”  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
Isaiah 43:1-7

January 17th - Second Sunday after Epiphany  
Special Note: Church Lay Leader Doug Borkosky will bring the message, come and be blessed by his words and inspiration.  
I Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

January 24th - Third Sunday after Epiphany  
Special Note: Jessica Cavinee our Children’s and Youth Ministries Coordinator will share her giftedness in proclaiming the Good News.  
Title: “What’s the Duck?”  
I Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

January 31st - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
Commissioning of our church workers and leaders for 2010  
Special Note: On this Sunday after worship, all are invited to share a carry-in-meal, and to a fun time of calendaring and dreaming for 2010 (details coming).

Pastor’s Vacation and Clergy on Call  
Bo and I will be headed to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for some vacation. We will leave January 15th and plan to return on January 23rd. We have rented a cabin in the heart of the Smokey Mountains, and our plans swirl around doing a lot of rest and relaxation. We’ve talked about the possibility of doing some hiking, but the emphasis is about taking it easy and setting in the hot tub. Oh yes, Bo also mentioned doing a little shopping. As I am gone, my friend and colleague Rev. Harry Scott will be on call for your pastoral emergencies. Rev. Scott serves the Arlington United Methodist Church (church phone 419-365-7004) and will be on call. While I hope that none of you will need his care, I know that you will find Pastor Harry caring and competent pastor. Additionally, Jessica is also open to your pastoral needs and would serve you well. To reach Rev. Scott in the event of an emergency, call Tammy at the church office (419-694-3245), or call the Arlington UMC (419-365-7004).
The Troop had their Christmas party on December 8 and the scouts and the adults enjoyed pizza and desserts. The scouts passed out gag gifts to each other. The month of December is our slow time with all the Christmas and New Year activities, we try not schedule any activities during the holidays.

Bradley Deeter whet in front of the District Advancement Committee for his Eagle Rank Application and review. Brad passed and he was approved for his Eagle Rank. The Deeter family is planning a celebration for both Bradley and Mikael's Eagle achievements. They wanted to wait until Bradley received his award to plan a celebration. They want to put together a photo to show that the Eagle Scouts in their family over the years. The Eagles in the family expands over three generations and include the following Eagles, Bradley's brother Mikael Deeter, Bradley's father Bryon Deeter, Bradley's uncle Kevin Deeter, and Bradley's grand-father Gene Deeter.

The Scout Troop wishes everyone a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year". We hope that everyone stays safe and healthy over the holiday season and the upcoming New Year.

December 22 & 29, 2009: No Scout meetings
January 15 or 16, 2010: Ski trip

Liturgist Ministry – I would like to thank everyone who used their gifts as liturgist this past year. It is a key ministry as we help to lead our congregation to the heart of God in Sunday worship. Thank You! I will once again be caring for this ministry in the coming year (2010). If you would like to share your gifts as liturgist one week, one month, fill-in, etc., please get in touch with me. 419-694-2484, 567-208-2550 or bchrisman2@woh.rr.com
Thank you all for allowing me to share in this ministry as well. It is important and close to my heart. Bo
Pondering our Positioning for Prayer

My earliest childhood memories of learning to pray included the steps: bowing my head, folding my hands and closing my eyes before a word was prayed. There are also moments in life when I feel kneeling is yet another practice of connecting with the divine in an act of humble submission and prayer. I think the whole idea of these gestures is an attempt to remove or at least reduce the distractions that might hinder our prayer.

There are both internal distractions (pride, un-forgiveness…) and external disturbances (noise, hectic schedules…), both create clutter and hinder our ability to hear and connect to the heart of God. Let us all be committed to discovering a deeper intimacy with God through Christ in the rhythms of our prayer.

Yet there is another side of me that yells, “we need to pray with our eyes wide open”. I mean to allow God to move us out of our norms of comfort to see something new. Praying with open eyes is the willingness to look beyond familiar routines, to be attentive to the God possibilities. The thought of praying with our eyes open is layered with hopes that grow both outward and inward beyond our limited perspectives.

Open eyes beckons us to see with greater depth the risen Christ; the refreshing and transforming grace of God.

Open eyes is the vision to look inward prayerfully discerning and recognizing our spiritual blindness; that we might “remove the plank from our eyes”, so that we can see to help and encourage fellow sisters and brothers.

Open eyes is the new invitation to pray with an awareness of the people in our community. That we can become sensitized to who they are as God’s children and their individual needs.

Open eyes is our willingness to comprehend God’s preferred future for our church, grasp the hope that God has ordained and called us to.

Within our spirits there grows the anticipation of what the world could be, this future longing rests deep in God’s heart and is made known. As you and I open our eyes to see what God sees, then we are ushers of that heavenly reality. In our daily lives, we become ambassadors of the coming of the kingdom of God.

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; …that the creation itself will be set free from bondage… and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God... For by hope we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience”. Romans 8:19, 21, 24 & 25 selected

A fellow pilgrim, questing for God’s 20/20 vision. Pastor Joe

Many thanks to my Mt. Blanchard UM Church family for the prayers, cards, the beautiful blanket, and expressions of love and concern. A special thanks to Charlotte Dodge, Tina Kelly, Jason Alge, Dan Haas, and the Boys in the Back Row for the music you provided for the celebration of Karen’s life. You helped to make it a very special service.

Our love to all of you, Tom Fourman and family
Please help us keep our prayer list current by calling the office when it is time to remove or add names. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

- **Sunday School** – 9am
- **Worship** – 10:30am
- **4th Sunday Contemporary Service** – 9:00 am

**Pastor Joe Chrisman**

**Special Ministries**
Children & Youth Director,  
*Jessica Cavinee*
Office Manager, *Tammy Dunbar*  
Financial Secretary, *Tammy Dunbar*  
Treasurer, *Julie Miller*

**Office Hours**
Mon—Fri, 9am – 2pm  
Phone: 419-694-3245  
E-mail: mbumcoffice@wcoil.com  
Website: www.mtbume.org

Jan. 3 11:30 am Potluck after church
12:45 pm Celebration and Remembering of Rev. Karen Fourman’s Life
Jan. 5 11:30 am 1st Tuesday Fellowship
Jan 7-11 Jessica on vacation
Jan 15-22 Pastor Joe & Bo on vacation
Jan 18 Messenger Articles Due!
Jan 24 2:30 pm SOLD Christmas Bingo
Jan 31 11:30 am Potluck and Calendaring for 2010

...and all others silently lifted up in private prayers of our hearts.
Month at a glance...

Jan. 6 FROG LEGS
Jan. 10 SOLD
Jan. 13 Tweens
Jan. 17 KFC
   SOLD
Jan. 20 FROG LEGS
Jan. 24 Christmas BINGO
Jan. 27 Tweens
Jan. 31 SOLD

Tweens and FROG LEGS are after school programs that end at 4:30. FROG LEGS is for children in 1-6 grade and Tweens are for children in grades 4-7. SOLD is from 2:30 to 4:30 every Sunday and is for grades 7-12.

If you have any questions about the programs we are currently offering please contact the church and speak with Jessica for more information.

We are blessed to have many programs and activities going on at our church. If you are interested in participating in any activities, either as a youth or an adult please join us! We have so much fun growing in Christ together!!!

KFC is moving!

Due to many scheduling conflicts we are moving the days that KFC meets from the last Sunday of every month to the third Sunday of every month.

Please take note of this change and be sure to remind families with children in KFC so that they can remember too. We have so much fun with these kids and can’t wait to see them all again!

Meeting dates for the rest of the year are as follows:
   January 17
   February 21
   March 21
   April 18

We look forward to seeing you at KFC!
Coming This January!!!!

Did you get a gift this Christmas that you just don’t think is “you?” Well, don’t get rid of it! Put it up because in January the youth are hosting Christmas BINGO again!

That’s right...

Christmas BINGO is January 24, 2010.

Wrap up that item you have around your house or that gift you just won’t use and come have some fun.

We will begin at 2:30 and we will finish when everyone has won a prize. The youth are so excited to be hosting this event and would love to see you all there. Come and have some fun!!!
# JANUARY 2010

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<td>12:30 PM Celebration &amp; Remembering of Rev, Karen Fourman</td>
<td>6:00 PM Fitness/FH</td>
<td>11:30 AM 1st Tuesday Fellowship/FH</td>
<td>3:15 PM Cub Scouts Weblos II/U</td>
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<td>Thursday 11:30 AM 1st Tuesday Fellowship/FH</td>
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<td>3:15 PM Cub Scouts Weblos II/U</td>
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<td>6:00 PM 6:00 pm Youth Board Meeting/U</td>
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<td>10:00 AM Pastor Joe on Vacation 15-22</td>
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<td>Joe's Birthday 6:00 PM Fitness/FH</td>
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