

Letter from the Lead Pastor.....Mike Dominick

Dear Friends,

I'm reading a new book titled, "*Christmas is Not Your Birthday.*" It's striking a chord with me, and I'm going to share something in this letter that may stretch our thinking a little.

I long for a more spiritual Christmas. It's *His* birthday, not mine. Or yours. Or our kids' or grandkids'. I have become increasingly uncomfortable over the past several years with the commercialism of Christmas. According to the National Retail Foundation, as of 2010, adult consumers spent an average of \$830 per person on Christmas food, decorations and presents. That's \$1,660 for a two-parent family. We spend all that money on *us*, not for Jesus. The really sad thing is that some of this represents spending money we do not have for things we do not need to impress people we do not like!

I find myself longing for a more spiritual Christmas, and wondering if there isn't a better way. Jesus said, "*Whoever wants to find his life must lose it.*" God knows it's better to do great things for others than to get more things for ourselves. *Significance is really more important than spending.*

So I'd like to invite you to join me in seeking a more spiritual Christmas. I have two suggestions:

If you are thinking about some gift for me at Christmas, would you be willing instead to give what you would have spent on a gift for me to a mission project or charity you feel passionate about, and write me a note, telling me where you sent the money and why you are passionate for that ministry? I believe I we would both have a more **spiritual Christmas if that happens!** (If you can't think of a mission project you are personally passionate for, please consider a gift to the project described in # 2!)

Would you join me in giving *Jesus* a gift for *His* birthday? What I have in mind is this: what if we all presented to the Lord on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day the gift of clean water for His children in a village in Ghana? With a special Christmas offering of \$5,000 we could join Joseph Otsin in putting a well in a village in Ghana and giving the gift of LIFE to hundreds! You see, millions of children around the world die from diseases carried in unsafe drinking water.

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Letter from the Lead Pastor con't.....

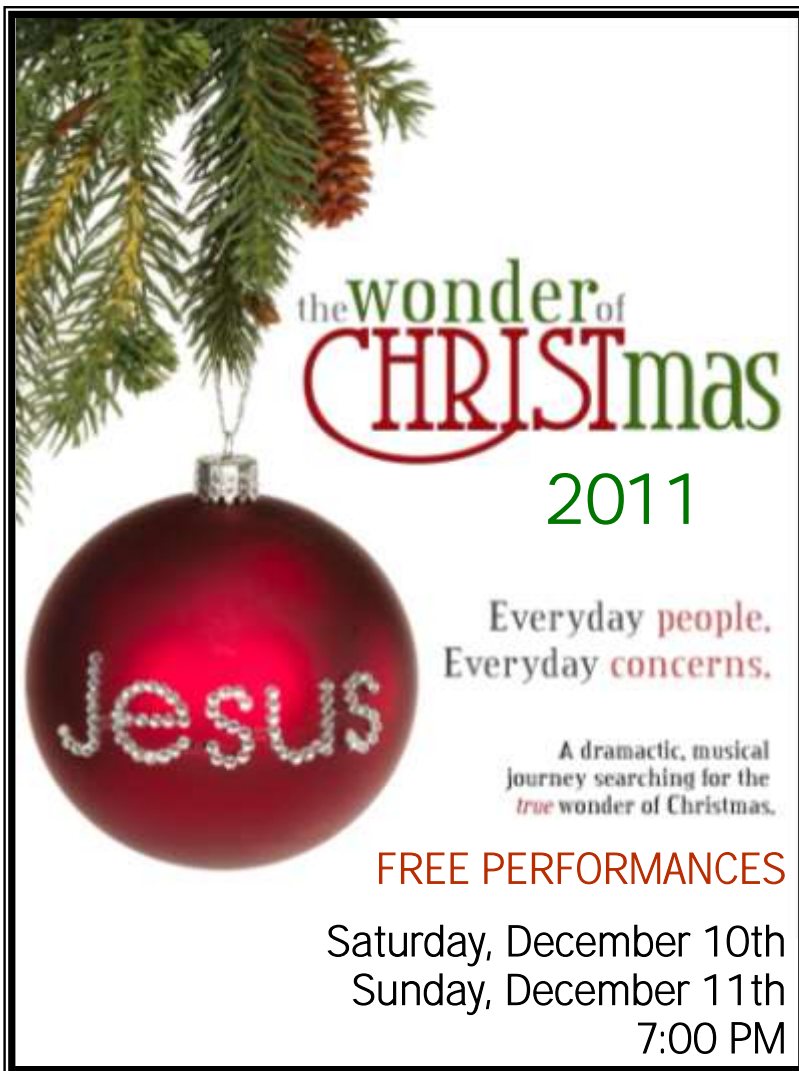
As a guideline for this Christmas gift for Jesus, I would suggest 10% or what we spend on Christmas as a starting point. (If we spend \$1,000 on Christmas, we put in \$100 for this offering) Or matching what we spend on us for Christmas in this gift to do something sacrificial and missional for some of "the least of these, His brothers and sisters." (If we spend \$1,000 on Christmas for us, match it with \$1,000 for this offering – what a blessing THAT would be!)

Another way to do this match would be to agree together as families that we will give to each other much simpler Christmas gifts and save half of what we would have spent – giving that half to the well project. (\$500 on us and \$500 for this offering, instead of \$1,000 on us) I'm confident the Holy Spirit will guide each of us to respond in the way that fits our own situation and gives us the most spiritual Christmas!

Christmas is Jesus' birthday, not mine or yours. I believe the best present we could give to Him for His birthday is to do something selfless for someone in need. That will make for a more spiritual Christmas. Will you join me?

Have a blessed Christmas!
Pastor Mike

Christmas Musical.....Pastor Eric



the wonder of
CHRISTmas
2011

Everyday people.
Everyday concerns.

A dramatic, musical
journey searching for the
true wonder of Christmas.

FREE PERFORMANCES
Saturday, December 10th
Sunday, December 11th
7:00 PM

You won't want
to miss the
**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service**
6:00pm

The Bulletin Board



Women's Ministries

December Service Committee:
Reva Greeson, Brandy Burger,
Bea Yoder, Kay Moore, Kent & Mindy
Stader, Dawn Rathburn



Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day Service
10:00am
One Service—No Sunday School
This service will be identical to the Christmas
Eve Service with the same message.

To get something you
never had, you have
to do something you
never did.

The task ahead of us is never as
great as the Power behind us.

Did You Know...
We are always looking
for good volunteers for
Multi-media and
Children's Ministry?



Craig & Emily Spray
are the proud parents of
Landrey Katherine
Born October 25th.

Matt & Tennille Darnell
are the proud parents of
Macoy Morris
Born November 10th.

Ministry Spotlight



"Kitchen Staff"
WOW! What an amazing job the kitchen staff
have done during Family Night Live! They
have planned, purchased, prepared and
served very nice meals for six weeks. And
even though the different classes helped
clean up the kitchen each week, the kitchen
staff did more than their share with that
also. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Make It•Bake It•Fake It•Take It

All ladies of Dayton UM Church... On Friday evening, January 27, 2012, our fabulous and fantastic “Make It-Bake It-Fake It-Take It” yearly mission benefit will occur. This is our opportunity to contribute to a worthy mission project that will benefit those much less fortunate than we. This year we will give all of the earnings from the evening to help defray costs for the young women at Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge of Lebanon, IN is a missionary organization that participates in our Global Impact Celebration.

Last year was our first year for this project and it was a rousing success! Be sure to check out the article in next month’s newsletter and for bulletin inserts for full details on how you can participate. Mark the date right now on your calendar and plan to join us for the “Make It-Bake It-Fake It-Take-It” night to remember!

Note: If you’re new or didn’t participate last year, talk to any of the committee members for a heads-up on what this is all about: Cara Knochel, Julie Hamilton, Susan Bixler, Kathy Hill, Christy Bennett, Cindy Jones.

Advent.....

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing.

The candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent.

The light of the candles itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6). The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. As the candles are lighted over the four week period, it also symbolizes the darkness of fear and hopelessness receding and the shadows of sin falling away as more and more light is shed into the world. The flame of each new candle reminds the worshippers that something is happening, and that more is yet to come. Finally, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle is lighted at Christmas, and worshippers rejoice over the fact that the hope and promise of long ago have been realized.

The first candle is traditionally the candle of Expectation or Hope (or Prophecy). The remaining three candles of Advent may be associated with different aspects of the Advent story in different churches. The center candle is white and is called the Christ Candle.

Our Faithful Servants

First Service	Nursery NB-18 mo Room 6	Preschool Room 13 & 14
Dec 4	Sandy Guinn	Martha Graves
Dec 11	Sheri Mellady & girls	Martha Graves
Dec 18	Sarah & Tim Row	Martha Graves
Dec 25	Martha Graves	Martha Graves



	Coordinators	
Nursery & Toddler 1	Sarah Null	296-4525
Toddler 2		
Sunbeams	LeeAnn Williams	538-3558
K-6	Jim Hiestand	296-3155

Sunday School	Nursery NB-18 mo Room 6	Preschool & Kindergarten Room 13 & 14	Early Elementary Grades 1 & 2 Room J	Middle Elementary Grades 3, 4 & 5 Room A
Dec 4	Martha Graves	Camille Ummel Linda Teller Maraya Phillips	Rebecca Conner & Mindy Stader-Team 1 Kori Perdue-Team 2	Susie & Tommy Null- Team 1 Vicki & Al Millburg- Team 2
Dec 11	Martha Graves	Camille Ummel Linda Teller Maraya Phillips	Rebecca Conner & Mindy Stader-Team 1 Kori Perdue-Team 2	Susie & Tommy Null- Team 1 Vicki & Al Millburg- Team 2
Dec 18	Martha Graves	Camille Ummel Linda Teller Maraya Phillips	Rebecca Conner & Mindy Stader-Team 1 Kori Perdue-Team 2	Susie & Tommy Null- Team 1 Vicki & Al Millburg- Team 2
Dec 25	Martha Graves	Camille Ummel Linda Teller Maraya Phillips	Rebecca Conner & Mindy Stader-Team 1 Kori Perdue-Team 2	Susie & Tommy Null- Team 1 Vicki & Al Millburg- Team 2



Second Service	Nursery NB-18 mo Room 6	Toddler 1 18 mo-2 1/2 yrs Room 12	Toddler 2 2 1/2-4 yrs Room 13 & 14	Sunbeams 4-5 yrs Room 8	Jr. Church Grades K-2nd Polka Dot Room	Jr. Church Grades 3rd-5th The Shop
Dec 4	Lisa Unkel Amy Willoughby Lindsey Starr	Wendie Vanette Kay Moore	Linda Hancock Ashley Conner	Don & Julie Wallace	Lori & Chris Brandon	Al & Deb Baldwin Sub- Denise Hiestand
Dec 11	Deb Beck Julie Null	Chris & Sara Huffer	MaryAnn Downan Ed VanDame Maraya Phillips	Shawda & Layne Lumley	Todd & Jill Adams	Al & Deb Baldwin Sub- Denise Hiestand
Dec 18	Elizabeth Golden Sarah Null	Chrisy Wickes Jenn Tilley Holly Unkel	Susan Overdorf Lisa Hosier Victoria Heltzel	Clint & LeeAnn Williams	Julie & Travis Null alternating with Brook Roberts	Al & Deb Baldwin Sub- Denise Hiestand
Dec 25	Janet Hall Bridget Winger Angela N	Colleen Moore	Renee Dexter Emily Brandon	Erin Perdue	Lynn Heltzel	Al & Deb Baldwin Sub- Denise Hiestand

Monday Night	Nursery Toddlers Room 13 & 14	Jr. Church Polka Dot Room
Dec 4	Martha Graves	Shirley Dominick
Dec 11	Martha Graves	Shirley Dominick
Dec 18	Martha Graves	Shirley Dominick
Dec 25	Martha Graves	Shirley Dominick



Attendance RegistersPastor Eric

Do you ever notice those little black folders at the end of each pew? If you are unfamiliar with them, they are DUMC's attendance register. They help the church with several things. First, they are there to help us identify newcomers. However, if they don't give us their information, then we don't know they were there. That is where you come in. If you, our regular attendees fill out those forms every week (including your address), and pass it to the newcomers, they will be encouraged to fill it out as well. Then the newcomer's committee can begin their work to help them feel welcomed into our congregation. Second, the attendance register gives you an easy way to communicate with the church staff a change of address or the desire for a phone call to discuss something. Third, the attendance register helps us to see if you have missed, so we can check up on you. I know it can be a hassle, but it is a great tool. So, lets make it a habit to fill out that attendance form every Sunday. Thank you for your help.

Senior Teens.....Bea Yoder

Good Morning,
We were able to gather 40 of our 43 family members for Thanksgiving early so each could go their way on the 24th. By the time you read this we will have another addition to total 44 in our Yoder family. Yes, Dane and I started enlarging America June 3, 1951!
Our Senior Teen year flew by quickly as we journeyed as far as Ohio to the Air Force Museum to all the way down St Rd 38 to Subaru. Seems our hair may be getting grayer or thinner but our love of doing and being together keeps getting stronger. Our 3rd Friday at MCL has come to a halt, but believe we discovered that Hour Time on St Rd 26 is just as good or even better. Yes, our Lord did provide for us in "His" year 2011.
I personally want to give my deepest heart of joy for each and everyone who joined us on our outings and 3rd Friday of each month. Seems that rascal the old devil tried his best to get me down, but God and YOU gave me love and encouragement.
May God give each of you a thankful Thanksgiving as we prepare for the celebration of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus' birthday. He is the reason each and every one of us awake each morning and lay our head on our pillow each night. YES!
Merry Christmas to each,
Dane & Bea

Thank You.....Church Family

June Ammon
Thank you to the wonderful group of young people that came to my house one Sunday evening and raked my yard. They did a wonderful job, and it was a true joy to see all those happy smiling faces when I opened the door for them. May God Bless each and everyone of them and also their most wonderful Youth Pastor Austin Bender. Thank you again and love to all.

Don Robertson
I want to thank all my brothers and sisters for all their prayers and cards on my behalf. I can testify that prayer works!! As you may know, diabetics are usually slow healers. Not so when God is in control. On November 8th, I was operated on to remove part of my colon and gallbladder. I had about a 12 inch incision. The doctors and nurses are amazed at how quickly I have been healing. We have an awesome God! Thanks again for all your prayers. Bless you all.


Linda & Richard Stair
The Edna Stair family would like to say thank you for the wonderful dinner and pretty rose. Thank you Pastor Earl for the beautiful service and the times that you came to pray with mom. Thank you for the Gideon bibles that were donated in her name. Mom loved her church like she loved life.



Sharon Butler	01-Dec	Dylan Loft	11-Dec	Archer Tilley	23-Dec
Jenna Morrison	02-Dec	Marva Denham	11-Dec	Michael White	23-Dec
Linda Stair	02-Dec	Jim Newton	12-Dec	Ryan Hamilton	23-Dec
Craig Hurley	03-Dec	Jan Glascock	14-Dec	Cindi Findlay	24-Dec
Mildred Halsema	03-Dec	John Lahrman	14-Dec	Dylan Allen	24-Dec
Dave Barnett	04-Dec	Rosalind Ummel	14-Dec	Nancy Pyatt	24-Dec
Emily Brandon	04-Dec	June Bruinsma	15-Dec	Mike Boas	25-Dec
James Ayres	04-Dec	Kole Miller	15-Dec	Reuben Ewellindley	25-Dec
Joe Mellady	04-Dec	Mike Burger	15-Dec	Bob Burris	26-Dec
Lynn Beck	04-Dec	David Locks	16-Dec	Kyle Bowman	26-Dec
Ashley Conner	05-Dec	Katie Willoughby	16-Dec	Averi Loft	28-Dec
Ashley Kelly	06-Dec	Kinsey Williams	16-Dec	Bud Walker	28-Dec
Juanita Buck	06-Dec	Jeff Moore	17-Dec	Dondi Walker	28-Dec
Mary Rutan	06-Dec	Lillie Tansey	17-Dec	Ginger Strup	28-Dec
Aaron Bull	07-Dec	Michele Dauby-Drake	17-Dec	Diana Ruse	29-Dec
Don Long	07-Dec	Angel Damron	19-Dec	Edythan Rogers	29-Dec
Josh Rabanus	08-Dec	Camille Ummel	20-Dec	Bonnie Oxley	30-Dec
Owen Golden	08-Dec	Robin Warren	20-Dec	Joan Knochel	30-Dec
Adrie Hiestand	09-Dec	Tracy Cross	20-Dec	Jason Vanette	31-Dec
Leanne Shideler	09-Dec	Carol Hicks	21-Dec	Tom Mellady	31-Dec
Emma Null	10-Dec	Mike Adams	21-Dec	Tyler Morrison	31-Dec
Alice Adams	11-Dec	Wyatt Darnell	22-Dec		



Leonard & Rosalie Etter	Dec 1	Greg & Linda Brewer	Dec 23
Darl & Carol Hicks	Dec 1	Jeff & Connie Gamble	Dec 23
Frank & Priscilla Fossnock	Dec 4	Mike & Janet Hall	Dec 24
Mike & Pam Boas	Dec 8	Stewart & Margo Saunders	Dec 27
Randy & Lena Dispennett	Dec 11	Gentry & Carly Sheets	Dec 30
Lowell & Angel Damron	Dec 15	Frank & Jerri Stockberger	Dec 30
Jerry & Bonnie Oxley	Dec 17	Bill & Cindy Huffer	Dec 31
Brad & Diana Wickes	Dec 17		

<u><i>Acolytes</i></u>	<u><i>Ushers</i></u>	<u><i>Greeters</i></u>
Samantha Stader Madeline Stader 	Sunday First Service Dave Locks, Jim Newton, Keith & Julie Hamilton Sunday Second Service Duane Adams, Ned Dickerson, Dale Crum, Tom Heltzel, Tom Landes, Marc Plybon, Allen Millburg, Monday Evening Steve Ratcliff	Sunday First Service Jim & Kelly Newton Sunday Second Service Kenny & Bonnie Smith, Ron & Karen Datzman

Dayton United Methodist Church

Connecting God's Word to Everyday Life



DON'T THROW ME AWAY!
If you don't read our newsletter, please let us know. It costs money and time to print the newsletter, keep the mailing list updated, and prepare the newsletter for mailing. So PLEASE remove your name from the list. Thank You!

P. O. Box 40 * Dayton, IN 47941
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DAYTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NON PROFIT ORG.
PERMIT NO. 2
DAYTON, IN
47941

Ministry Team:
Mike Dominick, Lead Pastor
Deke Jones, Minister of Administration & Finance
James Hiestand, Minister of Counseling & Children's Ministry
Dr. Earl D. Owen, Minister of Visitation
Kathy Burris, Counseling Minister
Eric Schneider, Minister of Outreach, Discipleship & Worship
Austin Bender, Minister of Youth

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship Service (Formal)
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School For All Ages
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Casual)
Monday 6:30 p.m. Worship Service (Casual)

Secretarial Staff:
Brandy Burger
Kathy Hill
Julie Hamilton

Custodians:
Sheri Mellady
James Bishop

Pre-School:
Jenny Rabanus, Director

Daycare:
Kathy Burris, Director

Christian Education
Jim Hiestand-Children
Eric Schneider-Adult