

VANNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 25, 2016

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rainbow Pantry served 50 families, a total of 163 individuals this week. Please remember this ministry with your prayers and gifts.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

First Candle: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ, our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. **O come, O come Emmanuel.**

Second candle: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way. May the word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation. **O come, O come Emmanuel.**

Third Candle: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ, our joy. May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation. **O come, O come Emmanuel.**

Fourth Candle: We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. **O come, O come Emmanuel.**

Christ Candle: We light this candle as a symbol of the light shed by the Incarnate God. With praise and thanksgiving, we shout Joy to the World our Savior reigns. **Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us!**

Dates to Remember

Wednesday – Coffee & Conversation @ 9:00 A.M. at the parsonage

January 15 – Receive Human Relations Day General Conference Offering

January 17 – Appointment preference forms due to district office

January 22 – There will be a laity reception for/with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson at Watkinsville First UMC at 3:00 P.M.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember to pray for all of the people we are currently carrying on our prayer list and for our servicemen and women, wherever they serve. Please remember there are many who are unnamed who need our prayers.

J. D. & Diane Hollis	Ken Ashley	Austin Mabry
Sue Holcombe	Sarah White	Elaine Allen
Deborah Rice	Brian Smith	Martha Mueller
Frances Osley	Grace Branyon	Virginia Dickerson
Eddie Williams	Dalton Berry	

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST

Alton Whittemore, 12/4	Michael Hall, 12/18
Sandra Brown, 12/20	Holly Hall, 12/22
Cohen Royston, 12/24	Patta Walford, 12/30

WELCOME

TO

VANNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 25, 2016

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2 : 11

**ENTRANCE** *Joseph and Mary stand outside the sanctuary, accompanied by youth and children. One member of the group knocks on the sanctuary door and says:*

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (REVELATION 3:20)

*The following sections are sung to the tune ST KEVIN (UMH 315).*

People outside the sanctuary sing:

**In the name of God, we beg: will you let us enter?  
We are tired and we are cold. May we please have shelter?**

*People inside the sanctuary sing:*

You look dirty and you smell. Will you please keep moving.  
For your kind there is no place, for our inn is decent.

*People outside sing:*

**It is not by our own choice that today we travel.  
But the emperor has said that all must be counted.**

*People inside sing:*

For your reasons we care not, every room is taken.  
Can't you see the place is full? You are bad for business.

*People outside say:*

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through  
him; Yet the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,  
he gave power to become children of God.** (JOHN 1:19, 12)

*People inside say:*

Who are the children of God?

*People outside say:*

**All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**  
(ROMANS 8:14)

*People inside say:*

To what does the Spirit of God guide us?

*People outside say:*

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
And with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** (MATTHEW 22:37,39)  
**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,  
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** (GALATIANS 5:22-23a)

*People inside say:*

How do we know we love the Lord and have faith?

*People outside say:*

**What good is it, my brothers and sisters,  
If you say you have faith but do not have works?  
Can faith save you?  
If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,  
and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your  
fill," And yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of  
that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.** (JAMES 2:14-17)

*People outside sing:*

**Will the child be born tonight out on a street corner?  
Can't you find a place for him? Do you have no pity?**

*As the outsiders come into the sanctuary at this time, the people inside  
stand and sing:*

Oh, my goodness, do come in. You can use the manger.  
For the rooms that we do have are for a rich trav'ler.

*All sing:*

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.**

*All pray:*

**God all-powerful,  
grant that we may rid ourselves of the works of darkness,  
and that we may invest ourselves with the weapons of light  
in this life to which your Son, Jesus Christ,  
with great humility came to visit us;  
so that in the final day,  
when he returns in majestic glory to judge the living and the dead,  
we shall rise to eternal life through Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
Now and for ever. Amen**

**THE CANTICLE OF MARY** Luke 1:47-55

**THE PRINCE OF PEACE IS BORN** Isaiah 9:2-7

**HYMN** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

**UMH 221**

**RESPONSIVE READING** *Psalm 98* (Choral Response 2)

**UMH 818**

**HYMN** *Love Came Down at Christmas*

**UMH 242**

**SERMON** Having Seen the Great Light, Why Continue in Darkness?

**PRAYER**

*A child prays:*

Visit your family, O God.

Give us love, joy, and your peace.

Purify our thoughts, words, and deeds, so that when Jesus Christ comes,  
He will find a place prepared for his coming.

*A Youth prays:*

O heavenly Father,

as we prepare ourselves for the coming of your Son,  
fill our hearts and lives with praise.

Grant that we may be just and merciful,

ready to help in the needs of our neighbor

and conscious of your great love for all the world.

Fill the Christian family with your spiritual gifts

of forgiveness, patience, mutual love, and unending joy.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

And all God's people say, **Amen**

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

God bless you, brothers and sisters.

May Christ keep us in the faith

until the day we shall appear before his presence.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**UMH 224**

*During the singing of the third verse leave the sanctuary by the side door,  
go to the fellowship hall for refreshments.*

# VANNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## DECEMBER 24, 2016



### ***A Christmas Eve Service of Shelter for The Holy Family***