Simple Xmas

If you have been paying close attention then you know that our next sermon series is called “Simple Xmas”. I know some of you are indeed paying attention because I’ve already heard from some that are upset about the title fearing that we are Xing out Christ the way our commercialized and politicized culture does. Please have no fear for we are not leaving Christ out of Christmas. But I did get your attention which is crucial at this time of year. The title “Simple Xmas” simply plays off of one of the early Church’s designations for Christ, the Chi. The Chi is part of the Greek alphabet and is rendered as an X. The Greek X is interchangeable with the word Christ. Take a few moments to examine the Chrismon Tree in our sanctuary, and you will find many X’s decorating the tree from top to bottom.

One of the things I love about the X is that even if someone is intentionally trying to obliterate Christ from Christmas by using an English alphabet X, then all they have done is proclaim a far more ancient form of Jesus’s name. No matter how hard anyone may try, Christmas does not happen without Christ. Beyond this, the most pressing matter is not language. It is not X’s or “Happy Holidays”; it is what we have allowed Christmas to become. We all know that the billions of dollars Americans spend on Christmas has little of Christianity beneath the wrapping. According to the National Retail Federation, we will spend about $682 billion, with the average family spending $660 (https://finance.yahoo.com/news/heres-much-well-spend-holiday-gifts-year-150032936.html). For comparison’s sake, WWII cost the United States about $350 billion.

How did we get here? What can we do about it? This is what the sermon series seeks to answer. By examining the traditional Advent readings from Scripture, we can find the wisdom and direction, along with the inspiration we need to celebrate Christmas in a way that does not conform to the madness of our society. Christians have always been called to live by different norms than the prevailing culture. We are actually at our best when we clearly define who we are, over and against whoever may be ruling at any given time during history. Our time is no different, as the absurd values of our culture are vividly and ironically on display during Christmas. Can we join together, be faithful, and find a better way to celebrate Christmas than another year of stressful overspending? I know we can and I look forward to how X is going to surprise us as we celebrate the coming of Christ together.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Steve
OUTREACH

Helping Hands

There is so much going on in our community through this ministry. December is a great month to share Christ with others through service. Check out the volunteer opportunities below to see if one fits with your schedule this holiday season. A few hours of your time can make a difference to someone!

Items Needed:
- Model car kits for Asbury classroom projects.
- New underwear for ARC (Asbury Resource Center) in all sizes, especially for men and women.
- Sets of silverware to serve 8-12, cookie sheets, muffin tins.

Volunteer Opportunities:
- Dec 7th at 11:00 a.m. - First Thursday Lunch in the FLC. Homemade desserts are greatly appreciated! Contact Carol Brown at carolhwbrown@gmail.com for more information or to donate.
- Dec 20th at 2:00 p.m. - Lakewood Care Center Bingo. Help is needed and greatly appreciated. Contact Lisa Sullivan at lisacsul@cox.net for more information.
- Tutoring at Asbury Academy (English, Biology & Math). Contact Wendy Labar at wlabar@charter.net for more information.
- Mentoring at Asbury Academy. Contact Heather Bain at hnicolebain@yahoo.com for more information.
- Volunteering at the Furnish-a-Future warehouse to clean, package, label misc items. Contact Laurie Palmieri at furnishafuture@gmail.com for more information.
- AIM (Art Inspired Ministry) - currently has 3 openings for painters. No experience necessary! Contact Pat Pine at toppine@juno.com for more information.
- Amy’s Closet - help is still needed for sorting donations and on the retail floor. Volunteer shifts are Tues-Fri, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Sat 10:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Contact Linda Compagna at linda7313@aol.com or Debbie Smith at smithdeb@charter.net for more information.

First Thursday Lunch

Who doesn’t love homemade chicken pie or baked spaghetti? Grab a friend and join us for lunch the “First Thursday” of each month in our Family Life Center. Menu includes chicken pie, baked spaghetti or hot dogs, complete with sides and drink, for just $6. Pick your favorite homemade dessert for an additional $1. All proceeds help children in our community.

Our next lunch is Thursday, December 7th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed each month to help prepare, serve and clean up. It’s a great way to make new friends! Contact Carol Brown at (704) 530-2442 for more information.

A big THANK YOU to Wendi Popoff and everyone who helped staff the Operation Christmas Child Drop-off Center this year. Your shoeboxes will reach children all over the world in the name of Jesus Christ! This year, 2866 shoeboxes passed through our Drop-off Center with over 450 coming from DUMC. Thank you for your generosity! This is our 10th year of being a Drop-off Center for the Denver community. If you would like to lead this ministry next year, contact Wendi Brooks at wendi.brooks@denverumc.org for more information.

Shut-in/ Elderly Christmas gift bags

Feeling the holiday rush already? Please take a moment to bring some joy into the lives of our shut-ins. Christmas bags for these special members of our church will be available at the Mission Center December 10-17. We’re hoping to fill the bags with cards, candy and small mementos of the season to let them know that their church family is thinking of them. Contact Judy Martin at gmaladyjudy@gmail.com if you have questions.
Solace for the Children is gearing up for the 2018 Summer Medical Program making our 11th year of serving children from war-torn countries. We hope to bring 8-10 amazing children from Afghanistan for medical care and peace building activities for six weeks during June/July, 2018. If you would be interested in being a host family (or a co-host family for an Afghan child or an interpreter), providing medical or dental care, or volunteering in another capacity (meal-preparation, team-building), please contact Dr. Anne McIntosh at Anne.McIntosh@SafeNClear.com, Lake Norman Coordinator (704) 606-2387 TEXT only or Dr. Ridgely Chapman at RidgelyChapman2@gmail.com, Executive Director (704) 654-6274 Voice or Text. Being the hands and feet of Christ doing mission work is very rewarding; you not only help these children; but, you positively impact their families and their villages.

Habitat Update
North Lincoln High School’s Habitat Campus Chapter hosted the first ever Community Build in Denver. Over 60 students, parents, friends, family, and church members joined together for construction on Vanessa’s home on November 10th & 11th. Through our efforts and collaboration, we made tremendous progress towards having the home finished in time for Christmas. We raised $25,000 in donations and gifts-in-kind. We are so grateful for the advocates and generous citizens in our community. If you would like to view pictures from the Community Build, friend NL Habitat on Facebook to gain access to the photo album.

Happy Thanksgiving!
McKenzie Jones, President
NLHS Habitat Campus Chapter

Office Hours
The church office will observe the following hours during the Christmas Holiday:

Dec 25th: CLOSED
Dec 26th: CLOSED
Dec 27th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Dec 28th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Dec 29th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
January 1st: CLOSED

Many thanks to all of you who came out for our flood bucket service project on November 19th. Together we packed up 250 of these, which were then transported to our local Mission Response Center. They will be distributed to hurricane victims all over the country who are still trying to clean up the pieces these massive storms left behind. What a great way to be the hands and feet of Christ!

OUTREACH
SOLACE for the children

We are excited to report that the church has received donations of $1,970 in memory/honor of loved ones to purchase books for needy children in Lincoln County. Helping Hands has been working with the Social Workers at several of our neighboring schools to ensure that the books purchased will be of interest to the students. These books will be displayed during the worship services on Dec 3rd and 10th and then distributed to the children. Thank you so much for your generosity in providing books for children in need.

Administrative News

An Administrative Board Meeting and Charge Conference was held on November 9th. If you would like minutes from either meeting, please email Wendi Brooks at wendi.brooks@denverumc.org.
Students, as a church, we are changing the focus of Christmas from material items (gifts) to simplicity (joy in Christ). This advent season, each Harbor Youth gathering falls under one of the four advent tenants (hope, peace, joy, and love). Come and take part in the beautiful community of young people Jesus is forming at DUMC.

Launch 68 (previously Confirmation)
We are changing the name from Confirmation to Launch 68 because we want to transform what is traditionally understood as a boring class for 6th graders into an exciting journey that will act as a launchpad for the young people in our church to see the joy and beauty of following Jesus. Launch 68 is an opportunity for 6th-8th grade students to explore who Jesus is. We know that our kids will not always be in Denver, NC, and because of this, we want to give them a firm foundation in Christ. Launch 68 will be centered around 12 weeks of class on Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. which will culminate in a weekend retreat (April 20-22) and ceremony (TBD). It is open to ALL middle school students.

Launch Dates:
- December 15th - DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP (Email me)
- January 7th - Parent Meeting in FLC 204 at 4:30 p.m.
- January 14th - First Launch Gathering at 10:45 a.m. in location TBD.

What’s Going on?

December 3rd - Harbor Youth 6:00 -8:00 p.m.
  • Advent Part 1 (HOPE)

December 5th - Foster Care Christmas Celebration in Lincolnton (LOVE)

December 9th - Middle School Defy Gravity Outing and High School Escape Room (JOY)

December 10th - Harbor Youth 6:00 -8:00 p.m.
  • Advent Part 2 (PEACE)

December 17th - Christmas Party 6:00 -8:00 p.m.
  • End of the semester (JOY)

Mike Sciascia, Director of Student Ministry
mike.sciascia@denverumc.org
As we approach the end of our fiscal year I am grateful to share that our financial position is strong as God has greatly blessed our congregation. Thanks be to God and thank you all for responding faithfully to God’s blessings. As of 11/30/17, we have received $976,526 towards our budget of $1,059,848 leaving us the month of December to meet our budget goal. The bottom line is we need $83,322 to meet budget by the end of 2017. This is remarkable as we received $156,637 in December of 2016 (15.55% of last year’s budget offerings). If we match last year’s December numbers, we will be left with a significant budget surplus. It is my hope that we will make a large surplus our goal as we have significant needs in our church and community.

Recently an ad hoc advisory team completed an assessment of our property (capital) needs. Their report detailed many areas on our campus in need of attention. Some of these concerns are readily apparent such as the need to repave parts of our parking lot and the sealing and restriping of other areas. Other areas are harder to see such as mechanical and technological shortcomings. One example is heating and cooling as we have 26 HVAC units - several of which need to be replaced in the coming 12 -18 months. This past year we replaced and repaired HVAC units at a cost of over $30,000. The current capital needs of our church are estimated at almost $400,000. Some of these items are not emergencies, yet - but the longer we put off necessary repairs and replacements the more we will pay for the same capital needs in the future.

Capital needs are just one area in which we have a need for more resources. When the church receives more money, we can do more for more people. An excess at the end of the year gives us the chance to support vital missional initiatives that our church is already committed too. There are needs at home, needs in our region, and needs abroad. We are called to do more than merely take care of ourselves. Please consider how God has blessed you and your family in 2017 and please do not think that the church does not need your money! When we all give what we can we get to see how amazingly God uses our church to help other people. So here is my goal for DUMC as we come to the end of 2017. Last year we took in 15.55% of our budgeted needs in December 2016 for $156,637. If we receive the same percentage this year we will take in $162,108 in December 2017. The additional funds will be wisely stewarded by our leadership so they can do the most good for church and community. A complete report will be made to the church of how the excess is allocated in early 2018.

God is blessing DUMC and calling us to be a blessing to our community and our world. Thank you for your faithful generosity and willingness to invest in the Kingdom of God that is growing right before our eyes.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

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**Stewardship Report**

TOTAL Received in 2017 = $976,526
TOTAL Budget for 2017 = $1,059,848

**Budget Offerings Goal for December = $162,108**

**Worship Attendance**

Nov. 5 657
Nov. 12 562
Nov. 19 760
Nov. 26 482

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**First Fruits**

Proverbs 3:9 says to “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce.” Now, most of us do not farm or grow produce, so it is difficult for us to give the best of what we have grown. “Produce” in our life is the income that God has allowed us to earn.

We are closing out 2017 and looking to the first fruits of what God has in store for us in 2018. Amid all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season this can be a great time of reflection as well. What will our “first fruits” for the Lord look like in 2018? Do we have the faith to take a step towards increasing our giving to the Lord? Can I do 1 or 2 percent more? Can I do it cheerfully? God tells us throughout the Bible that we will be blessed by returning our gifts to Him. I pray that He allows that to settle on all of us so we can reach more of His people and more of His kingdom in 2018. And always remember that through your generous giving we will continue to be A Harbor of Hope in a Chaotic World.

Many Blessings,
Greg Clarke, Chair
Finance Committee

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to all who helped make the Fall Bazaar a huge success! With your help, we were able to raise over $7,550 to help with CORC renovations.
**Matthew 1:21**

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins.”

**New Year’s Eve Recommitment Sunday**

On New Year’s Eve we will be having one special service at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. At the service you will be given the chance to recommit your baptism in a memorable way!

**Tech team**

If you are interested in sound, lights, video or anything technical please email us at adam.rose@denverumc.org or call (828) 461-8040.

**Christmas caroling**

One way we can unleash compassion is by Christmas caroling with our church family to our shut ins! We will be meeting at the CORC at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 3rd. After we complete the caroling, we will have a time of fellowship and refreshments in the CORC.

Adam Rose, Director of Worship Arts  
adam.rose@denverumc.org  
Cell 828-461-8040

**Christmas Musical**

“Born Is The King - It’s Christmas!”  
December 17th  
at the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services.

Come experience the wonder and joy of the season as we rejoice and praise the coming of our King! This multi-generational musical is for all ages, young and old. Hope came down to save us. The mystery of love born in a child. Peace personified. He alone deserves our admiration and worship. Born is the king, it’s Christmas!

**Christmas at the library**

Feel the cool wind of winter, see the twinkling lights as the Denver UMC Choir performs at the 10th annual Christmas at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte on December 22nd. The choir will be performing at 6:00 p.m. on site at the Covered Porch and Adam with Joanna Perry will be performing at 7:00 p.m. on the Strolling Path then at 7:30 p.m. at the Carriage venue. Great music and great atmosphere to celebrate the holiday season.

David Adams, Associate Director of Worship Arts  
david.adams@denverumc.org

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**Laity Training 2018**

The Catawba Valley District is excited to offer training opportunities to our laity. The District theme this year is "Light the Fire of Discipleship." Our vision is to empower each local church to live into the disciple-making model, creating churches filled with disciples making disciples, churches that foster transformation through small-group ministry, and churches that model a community which loves, learns, and leads together. the first opportunity will be the District Leadership Conference, which will be held on:

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
St. Luke’s UMC (Hickory)  
52 16th Ave. NW  
Hickory, NC 28601

The following courses are available:

- “The Discipleship of Faith and Generosity”
- “The Mission and Ministry of Staff/Pastor Parish”
- “Do’s and Don’ts of Local Church Finance”
- “Single-Board Governance - It’s About Vision and Leadership”
- “Local Church Historians”
- “Ministry of the Trustees”
- “Children’s Ministry”
- “Building Relationships through Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW) Ministries”
- “In the Beginning”
- “Igniting the Fire of Youth Ministry”
- “Baptism is the Ordination of the Laity”

There is no cost for these courses, but registration is required.  
Registration deadline is January 1, 2018

For more information including course descriptions or to register for a course, visit [https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/DistrictLeadershipConference2018](https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/DistrictLeadershipConference2018)
Denver UMC
Old Sanctuary Renovations

Denver UMC is undertaking a much needed renovation project in the Old Sanctuary (which will now be referred to as The Chapel). Renovations of the 67 year old building are focused on lowering the ceiling, updating lighting, preserving the stained glass windows and updating the flooring. These renovations will create a more pleasant and useful space that can be used for small worship services, performances, as well as a larger group meetings. Renovations to the Old Sanctuary are scheduled to continue through the fall. Stay tuned for more updates and photos as the work progresses!

Prayers needed

Please keep the church office updated about the progress of the individuals for whom you have requested prayers. Unless otherwise requested, names will be removed from the list after 90 days.

Please remember in prayer:

Judy Anderson
Jim and Molly Boyce
Frances Burnside
Karl Campbell
Dwayne Dixon
DUMC GriefShare Ministry
DUMC Stephen Ministry
Jean Durham
Cynthia Early
Eileen Ellis
Joyce Freeman
Gary and Edna Garlow
Deborah Gentry
Joel Graham
Sheila Graham
Cynthia Hall Family
Rose Hammiel
Sandy Heavener
Charlotte Laney
Kent Laney
Martha Leonhardt
Robert Leonhardt
Alan McBride
Bob Moss
Susan Nickel
Ann Padgett
Tim and Kelley Pardue
Bill Phelps
Sam Redmond
Wanda Reynolds
Larry Rogers
Jane Roy
Becky Schafer
Dot Sherrill
Debbie Smith
Buddy Stasney
Ed Stelling
Sherry Tyler
Jean Tyson

Cookbooks make a great Christmas gift for your loved ones with lots of great recipes for your upcoming get togethers! The cost is $11 each and proceeds will help support the Community Outreach Resource Center (CORC) Remodel. Contact Lisa Morris at clmorris0813@charter.net or (704) 966-0435.

Our Sympathy to Ruth Cline on the death of her father, Robert Runion, who passed away on November 5th.

Congratulations to Tony & Tiffany Chaffin on the birth of their daughter, Isabella Clark Chaffin, born November 22nd. Isabella weighed 9 lb. 9 oz. and was 22 1/2 inches long.

LifeGroups had a remarkable first round! There are 8 groups established and doing life together! LifeGroups are gathering, serving, and growing on their own schedules during December. We will resume together in January and add new groups too! If you’re curious about LifeGroups, talk to Pastor Anita (anita.sain@denverumc.org).

Start 2018 right. Make some new friends. Tend to your soul. Grow in your faith. Join a LifeGroup!

Looking for a way to get connected and serve? Join the First Impressions Team! Serve as a greeter, usher, parking lot host, or cafe host during Sunday morning worship. We’re putting our roster together for 2018 now, so contact Pastor Anita at anita.sain@denverumc.org to join the team!

Thank you to Faye Helton and helpers for decorating the church. We are blessed!
**SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES**

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**Christmas Eve Worship**

As you know, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. This means we get to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and evening Christmas Eve Candlelight worship on the same day! There’s no better way to spend Christmas Eve than worshipping the newborn King - Jesus! We hope you’ll make worship a central part of your Simple Christmas!

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**Christmas Eve Services**

**Morning Worship**

4th Sunday of Advent  
(Pastor Anita preaching)

*We will have ONE worship service on Christmas Eve morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center.*

**Evening Worship**

Christmas Eve Candlelight

3:00 p.m and 5:00 p.m

Come celebrate Christmas! Join us for Family-Focused Worship where the children will have a chance to dress up and be part of the manger scene as we tell the story of Jesus birth. There will be candlelight at both services.

11:00 p.m.

Come rejoice this Holy Night! Join us for a more traditional Christmas Eve service filled with carols and candlelight and the awe and wonder of Jesus’ coming.

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**New Year’s Eve Service**

On Sunday, December 31st we will have ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Please join us as we all worship together!

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**Christmas Musical - “Born Is The King - It’s Christmas!”**

December 17th at the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services.

Come experience the wonder and joy of the season as we rejoice and praise the coming of our King! This multi-generational musical is for all ages, young and old. Hope came down to save us. The mystery of love born in a child. Peace personified. He alone deserves our admiration and worship. Born is the king, it’s Christmas!
Table Talk is resting for the month of December. Join us again in January! Merry Christmas! A BIG THANK YOU to all the dinner servants that make sure dinner is prepared and served. You are a blessing!

Please inform the church office when a member of the congregation or a friend is in the hospital, or if someone would appreciate a pastoral call or visit. Due to privacy laws; we are unable to check hospital registration lists for our members. The ONLY way we know when people are in the hospital is if our members and friends call the church office at (704)483-1601.

**December Birthdays**

*If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office so that we can improve our records*

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**NEWEST MEMBERS!**

Last month we welcomed the following new families to Denver UMC:

On November 26th

**Jane Begert** joined by transfer from Webbs Chapel UMC,
Denver NC.

On November 26th **Lynnette Kraklan** joined by transfer from Unity Presbyterian, Denver NC.

**Church Office Hours**

- **Monday - Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- **Friday:** Closed

If you are in immediate need of a pastor outside of office hours, please call (980)247-0033.

**Table Talk**

Join the conversation

**December Birthdays**

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<td>Anita Sain</td>
<td>Parker Powell</td>
<td>Max Kennedy</td>
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<td>Lisa Vemon</td>
<td>Andrew LeFevers</td>
<td>Carol Sronce</td>
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<td>Alden Home</td>
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<td>Krystle Santelia</td>
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<td>Avery Powers</td>
<td>Meagan Palmer</td>
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<td>Brian Reeves</td>
<td>Rich Wilson</td>
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<td>Jeremy Morris</td>
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<td>Andrea Henry</td>
<td>Megan Turner</td>
<td>Betty Carpenter</td>
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<td>Judy Martin</td>
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<td>McKenzie Mull</td>
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<td>Lizbeth Woodby</td>
<td>Elaine Haynes</td>
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<td>Matt Anderson</td>
<td>DeAnn Hedrick</td>
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<td>Dana Plummer</td>
<td>Ingrid Easton</td>
<td>Chris McBride</td>
<td>Billy Ahders</td>
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<td>Julie Robinson</td>
<td>Bryan Miller</td>
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<td>Jillian Aganad</td>
<td>Ken Shelton</td>
<td>John Renegar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Kimmons</td>
<td>Mary Beth Al-Hussaini</td>
<td>December 22</td>
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<td>Billie Ann King</td>
<td>Linda Cork</td>
<td>Kathye Cochrane</td>
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<td>Robin Riddle</td>
<td>Addison Upton</td>
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**NEWEST MEMBERS!**

Last month we welcomed the following new families to Denver UMC:

On November 26th

**Jane Begert** joined by transfer from Webbs Chapel UMC,
Denver NC.

On November 26th **Lynnette Kraklan** joined by transfer from Unity Presbyterian, Denver NC.

**Church Office Hours**

- **Monday - Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- **Friday:** Closed

If you are in immediate need of a pastor outside of office hours, please call (980)247-0033.
## December Days to Remember
There are a variety of simple ways to enjoy Christmas at Denver UMC this year. Bring your family and friends, and keep Christ at the center of your Christmas celebration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3 (Sun.) 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Christmas Caroling</td>
<td>Local shut-ins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 4 (Mon). 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Upper Room Class Party</td>
<td>Denver UMC CORC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 10 (Sun.) 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Kids Christmas Play</td>
<td>Denver UMC Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 14 (Thurs.) 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>JOY group Party</td>
<td>Denver UMC CORC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17 (Sun.) 8:15*/10:45 a.m.*</td>
<td>Adult Choir Cantata</td>
<td>Denver UMC Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17 (Sunday) 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Youth Christmas Party</td>
<td>Denver UMC Family Life Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 22 (Fri) 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>DUMC Choir Performs</td>
<td>Billy Graham Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 24 (Sun.) 8:15*/9:30*/10:45* a.m.</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Advent Worship</td>
<td>Denver UMC Sanctuary and FLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 24 (Sun.) 3:00*/5:00*/11:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship</td>
<td>Denver UMC Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31 (Sun.) 10:00* a.m.</td>
<td>Service of Renewal</td>
<td>Denver UMC FLC gym</td>
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* Denotes Childcare available

## A NOTE FROM ANITA

### Don’t Miss It

As I’ve reflected on and prepared for our December worship series, “Simple Xmas”, I’ve made an Advent promise to myself. **This Year, I Will. Not. Miss. Christmas.** Do you sometimes arrive at Dec. 26, wondering how you got there? You know you did many “Christmas” things because your littered calendar and exhausted body tell you that you did. You bought gifts, wrapped gifts, made food, ATE food, went to parties, hosted parties, decorated a tree, hung lights, went hunting, helped someone in need, went to church, and so on and so on. But somehow, you did all those “Christmas” things and you still feel like you missed Christmas. Honestly you’re just relieved when it’s over. Has this ever been you? I know I have been there, and that’s no place to be! Christmas is a time to rejoice and celebrate Jesus. It’s a time to remember that God so LOVED the world that he GAVE us the gift of his only son. A simple child born in a simple manger. All the joy of heaven wrapped in swaddling clothes, so that we know God’s love completely and eternally. So this year, I will not miss Christmas. I will still do Christmas things, but not because my calendar says so. Simplicity does not depend on the abundance or scarcity of activity. Simplicity is a matter of the focus of my heart, so I hope to do Christmas things with my heart filled with simple joy of a perfect savior. I invite you to journey with me toward a Simple Christmas. It’s all a matter of focus. As we do Christmas things this year, may God focus our actions and our attitudes on Jesus.

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. Psalm 119: 130*

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. John 1: 14*
**Strickland LifeGroup**

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.  
WAB 101

This LifeGroup will continue to meet through the holiday break. We will meet in WAB 101 and will begin at 7:00 p.m., and generally end no later than 8:30 p.m. All of the sessions listed below are available via the internet on the “RightNow” media website; to gain access, send an email to Business Mgr. Cameron Wilson at cameron.wilson@denverumc.org to get set up. All are welcome to join.

- 12/6  “Your Move”  Andy Stanley
- 12/13  “Faith, Hope, and Luck”  Andy Stanley
- 12/20  “An Invitation to Christmas”  Andy Stanley

**We will not meet the Week of Christmas.**

- 1/03/18  “Titus”  Chip Ingram  
  (will need to decide if we meet the week of New Year).
- 1/10/18  “Ask It”  Andy Stanley  
  (this is when Table Talk begins again, we will see what the church is planning.)

All of the above have multiple sessions; we will only utilize the first session in each. (Except for “ An Invitation for Christmas”).

Please contact Tim Strickland at jstrick@charter.net if you have questions.

**“That the World May Know” Co-Ed Bible Study**

Would you like to walk the streets of Jerusalem? Feel what it was like to attend Passover? Learn things you never knew about the disciples, King Herod, Pentecost, etc.? This Bible study will open your eyes and give you "aha" moments, while sharing how the faith message applies to your daily life. Each class is an independent co-ed study using videos and research of top scholars in archaeology, history, culture and the politics during Biblical times. Join "That the World May Know" class weekly on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in FLC 204. Contact Karry Brockman at (770) 330-7140 or karryb@bellsouth.net for more information.

**Prayer MINISTRY**

Susan Nickel  
 snicke@bellsouth.net

The DUMC prayer ministry team will meet December 7th at 9:00 a.m. and everyone is welcome. If you have any prayer concerns, you may contact the church office or any member of the prayer team. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Members of the prayer team are Ann Padgett, Judy Brockman, Gail Moretz Walker and Susan Nickel.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy God-filled New Year!

**Prayer:** Gracious God, thank you for welcoming us with open arms and for the many prayers of intercession offered by those who care about us. Amen.

**JUST OLDER YOUTH (JOY)**

Judy Brockman  
 jabrockman@bellsouth.net

JOY movie night will feature "The Young Messiah" at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at The Terraces Clubhouse. This fictional work from "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" by Anne Rice is an inspirational story about the childhood of the Savior. Follow the young Messiah as He and His family take the dangerous journey from Egypt to Nazareth and on to Jerusalem - where His true identity and profound destiny are revealed. Movie goers may bring Christmas cookies to share. **NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE DUE TO HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE TERRACES.**

Put on your holiday outfit and join Just Older Youth for their Christmas luncheon and entertainment at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 14 in the CORC. Cynthia Jones and the Dulcimer Girls along with Adam Rose will entertain us with a variety of holiday music. Roasted pork loin and country style steak will be provided. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert serving 10.
**Joy Marie Circle**

Susan Nickel, snicke@bellsouth.net  
Gail Moretz, gamor@bellsouth.net

The Joy Marie Circle will celebrate Christmas on December 18th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Lineberger’s SteakHouse in Sherrills Ford. The Circle has been blessed this year with mission-minded programs, generous donations to special projects, good attendance and new members.

The Circle will resume its regular schedule in the New Year by meeting on January 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the CORC. All women are invited to join us for learning and fellowship.

**MOPS and MOMSnext**

MOPS and MOMSnext is having a big ‘ol cookie exchange at our December meeting! We will also be Putting Ourselves First in the middle of this crazy holiday season. Our nighttime meeting is December 11th at 6:30 p.m. and our daytime meeting is December 12th at 9:00 a.m. Both meetings are in the FLC. For more information contact Jamie Sidler at (704) 914-6673 or jsidler07@hotmail.com.

**Wednesday Morning Bible study**

On December 6th we will be finishing up the study “Finding I Am”. There will be a Christmas brunch at Dava Lackey’s home on December 13th. We will be taking a holiday break through the first of the year. We will start back on January 10th at 10:00 a.m. with a new study. Contact Dava Lackey at dava@thelackeys.net for more information.

**Sisters in Prayer Bible study**

Sisters in Prayer Bible study will be doing a 7 week DVD series "What Love Is" by Kelly Minter. The letters of 1, 2 and 3 John were written to encourage followers of Jesus to remain faithful to the truth.

Come join us on Thursday, January 11th - February 22nd, From 6:45 p.m. til around 8:15. Meeting room TBD.

Must register before December 31, 2017 so the books can be ordered: Cost $14.00. Contact Jo Killian at mamajos04@gmail.com with any questions and to get registered.

**Friday Ladies Bible Study**

The Friday Ladies Bible study will begin a new study on January 5th. We will be discussing “The Will of God” by Leslie Weatherhead. This is a series of 5 sermons given in London by Rev. Weatherhead during World War II after his church was reduced to rubble by the bombings. We will meet from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. in FLC 204. Childcare is available upon request.

Must register before December 27, 2017 so that the books may be ordered in time; Cost: $9.00. Contact Sara Lee (gigisaralee@yahoo.com) for more information.

**MEN’S MINISTRIES**

**Men’s Bible Studies**

Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in FLC 204 - Small group Bible study, discussion, and prayer. Ages range from 30-70. Led by Dean Mosteller, deanmosteller@gmail.com.

Friday Mornings at 6:30 a.m. in WAB 101 - For men on a schedule to nurture a relationship with Christ. Average age is 50. Led by Stephen Ringel, swringel@bellsouth.net and Greg Clarke, gclarke@charter.net.

Friday Mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Stacy’s Restaurant - Bible-based video series followed by discussion. Family men ages 40-70 from various places, backgrounds, and careers. Led by Dennis Lee, lkndawg@yahoo.com.
Anchor Point: We prepare to celebrate Jesus birth.

Bible Verse: *The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous descendant from David's line, and he will rule as a wise king.* (Jeremiah 23:5)

December 3: A Baby Is Coming
December 10: Mary and Joseph
December 17: A Baby Is Born
December 24: The Shepherds' Visit
December 31: Simeon and Anna

**Please join us Saturday, Dec. 2nd, to be on our float in the Christmas parade!!**

**See Jennifer to sign up!!**

We will have our Christmas Party on Dec 24th during the 10:00 a.m. service. Wear your Christmas Pj's!!

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**Denver Christmas Parade**
December 2nd at 12:15 p.m.

DUMC's float "Gingerbread House" will be in the parade. If your children would like to walk with the float, contact Jennifer Ingalls at jennifer.ingalls@denverumc.org or (704) 277-7996 for more information or to sign up.

Jennifer Ingalls, Director of Pre-k Ministries
jennifer.ingalls@denverumc.org
We have had a **fantastic** year in the children’s ministry area! Friendships have been made, Bible stories have been learned; the Easter Eggstravaganza, Vacation Bible School, and the Fall Festival were wonderful community activities, and we are closing off the year by celebrating our 2nd annual Christmas play!

Sshh! Grab your dark shades and go undercover to join the exciting Christmas mission of We Three Spies. Agents E, L and F are recruits with the CIK (Christmas Intelligence Kids), a covert group of spies who secretly bring Christmas cheer to the needy. But this year they’re facing an especially difficult challenge: keeping Ms. Harriet (pronounced “Har-rett”) King, a Scrooge-like landlord, from evicting them from their headquarters, confiscating donations, and cancelling their Christmas Nativity program. It takes a little expert espionage and a lot of God’s unconditional love for Ms. King to change her tune as she finally joins the CIK and the entire town in a musical celebration of the true meaning of Jesus’ birth.

**There are only 3 more rehearsals for the play!**

- Sunday, December 3rd: 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Wednesday, December 6th: 5:00-6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Saturday, December 9th: 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Join us for the production on December 10th at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary! There is no admission fee.

2018 will be bringing big changes for our K-5 program. There is a meeting scheduled for January 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the newly renovated Chapel! Please be in prayer for everyone involved in our ministry; and if you are interested in joining our team of leaders, please plan to attend this meeting. There is a place for you!

Contact Cortni if you have any questions.

*Cortni Bazzle, Director of Children’s Ministry*

cortni.bazzle@denverumc.org
We had a great time in November. The children learned about being thankful. They thanked the Denver Firefighters for coming to visit by decorating their tables at First Thursday lunch by singing to them. They also learned all about the very first Thanksgiving and how the Pilgrims came to America on a boat called the Mayflower.

In December we will be concentrating on the Christmas story. The children will learn that Jesus was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph. They will learn that the Shepherds and Wise men came to visit Him and the Wise Men even brought Him gifts. God wants us to give gifts to others too. Gifts can be presents, but they can also be doing nice things for others.

Sara Lee, Preschool Director
preschool@denverumc.org
## Church Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Steve Autrey</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steve.autrey@denverumc.org">steve.autrey@denverumc.org</a></td>
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<td>Sherry Tyler</td>
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A Harbor of Hope

**In A Chaotic World**

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Denver United Methodist Church
3910 Hwy 16 North | P.O. Box 661
Denver, NC 28037
Ph: 704.483.1601 | Fax: 704.489.2488
Email: denver@denverumc.org

Visit us on the web at:
denverumc.org | facebook.com/DenverUMC/

Our Worship Services
- 8:15 a.m. - Traditional
- 9:30 a.m. - Contemporary
- 10:45 a.m. - Blended
- 9:30 & 10:45 a.m. - Children’s Worship

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