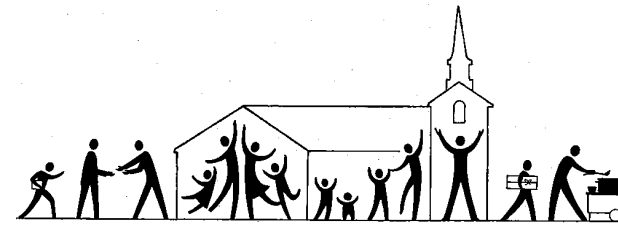


The United Church Of Christ in Medfield  
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# THE BEACON

## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

One of my favorite Christmas memories from childhood is playing with our nativity. When I was very young, my mother had a nativity that was very fragile. It had real, dried moss on the roof of the manger, and the figures were porcelain. For hours, I would re-enact my child-like understanding of the nativity. I nuzzled my favorite little lamb close to little-baby-Jesus because I thought the lamb was the cutest of all the figures, so Jesus would like him close by. Don't you love child-like reasoning?

Anyway, my family had never heard about keeping the Jesus figure put away until Christmas Eve, but that is a tradition that I have grown to love as an adult. Perhaps you haven't practiced this in your home before. I encourage you to give it a try. Keeping Jesus put away until Christmas Eve is a visible reminder that Advent is all about waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ – God in the flesh!

Waiting on God is one of the most difficult things for us to do. Well, forget waiting on God, how about waiting for anything! My family will tell you, I'm about as impatient as they come. Can you relate?

I often wish that I could manipulate situations to the way I think would be best. When I am feeling this way, I am usually reminded while

praying that #1: I'm not God and #2: that God's ways are not my ways and God's thoughts are not my thoughts (Isaiah 55:8). So I release a little grumble, and then a little repentance; and seek to put my trust back in God, rather than in myself. Gaining some perspective, I realize that God's ways are more loving and gracious than mine, and I am better off trusting and waiting on the One who created me.

Richard Foster in [Sanctuary of the Soul](#) says:

*God's ways are like the rain and snow that gently fall and sink into the earth... and up comes the life. What a contrast to our ways, which involve wanting to open up another person's head and tinker around in there a bit! But, you see, God's ways are all patience and love, all grace and mercy (p. 67).*

So, go ahead and keep Jesus tucked away. And as you tuck him away say a little prayer about whatever you would like to trust God with this season. Whatever this Advent season brings your way, I pray that you will wait for God, trusting that God's love will come through in God's time and in God's way.

Pastor Karen



## FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM A&O

Having completed the Extravagant Generosity stewardship campaign and Pledge Sunday just last week, most of you are probably very aware that with the Faith Promise pledge card we use here at UCC Medfield, the Administration and Operations (A&O) Team knows **who** has pledged and knows how much in **total** has been pledged. However, they do not know how much each of you has pledged. When budgets are created for each January's Annual Meeting, A&O uses the pledged amounts received along with an estimate for non-pledge contributions to provide income to support the many ministries and financial commitments of our church. While some allowance is made for unfilled pledges, the balanced budget proposal presented to the congregation assumes substantially all pledges will be honored.

Thanks to each of you and your commitment to support God's work at and through UCC Medfield, this has been the case every year the Faith Promise pledge has been used.

While we anticipate the same will be true for 2011, based on contributions received through the mid-November, we estimate we are running \$70,000 short of the 2011 budget. We ask each of you to prayerfully review your pledge and/or current giving and if possible, complete or exceed your pledge or planned giving to help us meet our financial obligations for the year.

*Mission of UCC Medfield*

*To love and worship God,  
and to love and  
serve others as  
spirit-filled disciples of  
Jesus Christ.*

## CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Philip Bauman pbauman@uccmedfield.org
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Minister of Music Choral & Handbells	Michael Olbash molbash@uccmedfield.org
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Office Hours:  
Monday thru Thursday  
8:30—4:30  
Friday 8:30—12:30

Church Website:  
www.uccmedfield.org

BEACON Editor: Laury Hunt  
Layout: Donna Matson

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### “Merry Christmas? But I feel lost.”

It's that time again...time to try to keep in balance the excitement and fun of the secular celebration of the Christmas Holiday...and the real gift and blessing of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the revved-up pace of the next few weeks, we will all experience the full range of our emotions: anticipation, joy, anxiety, happiness, sadness, hope, concern, and exhaustion. All of these and more.

In the midst of the celebrations, many people feel lost or separated because they experience shadows of sadness or depression while everyone else seems to be so happy. This is not unusual, especially if you are ill or have lost a loved one or life's every day difficulties are weighing heavily on you.

### There Is No Need to Feel Alone!



Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing. God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, loneliness.

Stephen Ministers:

- Listen
- Explore feelings
- Share Christ's love
- Maintain confidentiality
- Attend to the care-giving process and leave the results to God

### I think I want a Stephen Minister. What do I do?

This is how the referrals process works:

- ◇ You (or someone close to you) are hurting and in need of Christian care.
- ◇ Our Stephen Leader learns about this need for care from the pastor, from you directly, or a friend, always with your permission.
- ◇ The Stephen Leader meets with you to talk about Stephen Ministry.
- ◇ With your permission, the Leader assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with you.
- ◇ The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for you in strict confidentiality.

For more information, speak to one of the Stephen Leaders—Pastor Phil, Pastor Karen, Heidi Groff, Gayle Edgar or Rick Cram—or call the church office at 508-359-2351 and ask for Pastor Phil.

STEPHEN  
MINISTRY



**MISSION POSSIBLE III**

**MP3—Serving to the Tune of God’s Love**



Back by popular demand! The third annual “Mission: Possible” church-wide work day is scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2012. This is an opportunity for people of all ages to join together to serve others in need locally and in the Boston area. Last year nearly 300 people donated 1000 hours of volunteer time at various sites including the Boston Food Bank, Cradles to Crayons, City Mission Society, and Healthcare for the Homeless, plus served meals to Boston’s homeless at three locations. Closer to home, others volunteered at the Medfield Food Cupboard, cooked for Soup To Go, or made creative craft items to be distributed to nursing home residents or others in the community. We also assembled caregiver kits for World Vision. New this year, a group will travel to Brimfield, MA to assist with rebuilding efforts which are ongoing after devastating tornadoes struck the community in early June. We also will be assembling care packages for those serving in the US military.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex beginning in early January. A brief description may be found at the top of each sheet and will also include a space for you to order this year’s must-have MP3 T shirt displaying the theme, “Serving to the Tune of God’s love”. As in the past, at the end of the workday, volunteers gather for dinner in the high school cafeteria to share their experiences and enjoy fellowship. Whether you have participated before or this is your first time, all are welcome. More details to come....stay “tuned”!

**ADULT MISSION TRIP**

Thanks to all of those who served the first week of November in Charleston, South Carolina with the adult mission team! A dedicated group of fifteen spent the week working on new homes through Habitat for Humanity. Just weeks before, Home Depot had framed three houses, and our time was spent building sheds, attic flooring, working on door frames, laying sod and roofing to name a few (and special thanks to the daring roofers!). We were especially honored to spend time with some future homeowners who were putting in their sweat equity hours; what a blessing these homes will be for the deserving owners, and we were thankful to work alongside them.

In addition to serving together as a construction team, this group spent many hours in fellowship preparing meals, sharing devotions, playing games and laughing, a lot! We give thanks for your support and look forward to serving again in Christ’s name. Perhaps you would like to join us next year?! In the meantime, thanks to all of you who felt God’s call to swing those hammers with a smile on your face – Cathy Shires, Art Davies, Joan Parsons, Pat Mormann, John and Gayle Edgar, Bill Southwick, Heidi Groff, Margi Goetz, Wendy Greaves, Jennifer Grant, Pastor Karen, Ron and Barbara Yates and Carol Cassoli.

**Calling All Women to the Women’s Retreat**

**Exploring Your Pathways to God**

**March 9-12, 2012**



**CHRISTMAS AT UCC MEDFIELD**

**Sunday, December 11** - Children’s Ministries will present an original Christmas play, “Christmas in Ho-Hum-Ville”, during both worship services.

**Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24** — Worship services will be held at the following times in the Sanctuary:

- 5:30\* PM** – Candlelight service with Cherub, Training, and Treble choirs
- 7:30\* PM** – Candlelight service with Sanctuary Choir, Chapel Bells Ensemble and brass ensemble
- 10:00 PM** – Candlelight service with Communion

*\*Because the use of folding chairs in aisles and hallways is unsafe and unlawful, we are again offering overflow seating in our parlor. If you arrive on Christmas Eve after the sanctuary reaches its capacity (records show that the 5:30 service exceeds capacity shortly after 5:00 pm), then the ushers will direct you to the parlor, where you may participate in the service via a direct feed on the TV.*

**Sunday, December 25** — **One** Service of Lessons and Carols will be held in the Sanctuary at **9:30AM**. There is no Sunday School or Praise Service that day.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** — During this Holiday Season, members and friends are invited to donate **\$10** to our church in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of the season. Funds will be used to purchase Christmas Poinsettias and decorations to glorify our sanctuary for Christmas services. Proceeds will also support a contribution to the Medfield Home Committee. The plants may be picked up after the evening worship services on Christmas Eve or donated. Order forms will be available on the table in the Narthex, in your bulletins and on the website. **The last day to order is Wednesday, December 14th in order to be listed in the Christmas Sunday insert!**

**MEMBER NEWS**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**  
Liz Cooney, Connor Shortsleeve and Alexandra von Ballmou were received into membership on Sunday, November 13 during the Praise service.

**MEDFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD**  
For December, they have asked for **cookies, crackers, juice, cereal, canned pasta, canned chicken, white tuna in water, pasta sauce, jelly, beef stew, etc.** but will gladly accept other non-perishable items. Please place your donations in the baskets located in the corner of the Narthex marked for the Food Cupboard. Thank you.

**QUIET SERVANTS OF THE MONTH**  
Thanks to **Kim Bodozian** who lovingly decorates both the inside and the outside of the church during our special seasons, setting up the cornucopias for Thanksgiving, and hanging the wreaths, stringing the lights and placing the poinsettias for Christmas with her elf helpers; and to **Dick Tlapa** who faithfully keeps the grounds mowed and raked and arranges the crèche scene outside the church every year.



## MEMBER NEWS (CONTINUED)

### BAPTISMS

**Hannah Marie Boyd and Wyatt Andrew Boyd**, children of Heather and Andrew Boyd, were baptized by Pastor Phil on November 13. Hannah and Wyatt's godmother is Pamela Ahmad.

**Viviette Priscille Hong**, daughter of Kyung Hee Chang (Lynne) and George Hong, will be baptized by Pastor Phil on November 27. Her godfather is James Hong.

### NEW BABY

Diane and Dick Tlapa's newest grandson **Ryder Jayce Holden Tlapa** was born to Holleigh and Paul Tlapa of Milford, NH on November 9 and was quite a bundle at 8lb 8ozs.

### UCC WOMEN'S ANNUAL ADVENT SUPPER AND COOKIE WRAP



Feeling those Christmas blahs? Why not get in the spirit and join UCC Women for our annual evening of soup and service on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 pm! All

you need to do is bring a double batch of cookies and help us fill treat boxes for our neighbors in need of good cheer. Please let us know if you can bring soup to share; look for sign-up in the narthex. Bread and drinks will be provided. Can't join us, but still want to help? Drop off cookies in the kitchen on December 6. Hope you can make it!

### COME OUT FOR THE ANGEL RUN

The 2011 Angel Run will be held on Sunday, **December 4** at 2 p.m. at the Ralph Wheelock Elementary School in Medfield. On-site registration (\$25 per person) opens at 12:30 p.m. in the Wheelock gym. This family-friendly, holiday season-themed 5K fun run/walk has become a tradition in Medfield; all are welcome to walk, run, or cheer. Proceeds benefit local families in need through the UCC Medfield Angel Fund, and a kindness scholarship in memory of Natasha Domeshek for the Medfield High School class of 2012.



### ADOPT A SOLDIER FOR THE HOLIDAYS –

Laury Hunt has made contact with the chaplain for the Black Knights, 3-66 Armored Battalion stationed in Afghanistan. We will be assembling cheer boxes for the soldiers as one of our Mission: Possible III service opportunities on January 28. Chaplain Smith also asked if anyone would like to “adopt” a soldier during the holidays. If you are interested, let Laury know.

### DONATE YOUR OLD TEE SHIRTS

Tee shirts are needed for upcoming mission trip to White Lotus in Cambodia. We will be teaching the women to crochet rag rugs made from tee shirts of any size and color including white. Please put washed shirts in the marked basket in Fellowship Hall or call Michele Stahl, 508-242-9842, for pickup.

## MISSION (CONTINUED)

receive information about ideas for **City Mission Society** gifts through their regular education classes. **The final date for this collection is the church service on Sunday, December 4th.**

There will also be a Giving Tree in the narthex with suggestions for adult gifts for both **City Mission Society** and **Friends of the Mentally III**. We ask that all gifts for the Friends of the Mentally III and City Mission Society be brought to church by **Sunday, December 4th.**

We ask that you return your **new and unwrapped** gift to the appropriate collection box in the narthex. We greatly appreciate our congregation's generosity during this very special time of year.

### Gift Suggestions

#### City Mission Society

CMS is especially looking for gifts for teens (clothing size large or extra large) and gift cards (\$15+) to CVS, Walgreen's and Target

Infants: Snowsuits, clothing, blankets, sweaters, hats, soft toys, onesies

Girls 2 thru 12: Ethnic dolls, doll clothes, toys, games, books, craft kits, stuffed animals, clothing including warm jackets, hats, mittens

Girls 13 thru 16: Backpacks, games, books, sweaters, sweatshirts (with sports team logos) clothing including coats, hats, gloves, pants, socks, tops, gift cards

Boys 2 thru 12: Toy cars/trucks, games, action figures, balls, books, educational toys, craft kits, clothing (size large), sweatshirts, coats, hats, mittens

Boys 13 thru 16: Soccer balls, basketballs, games, videos, models, books, gift cards, Backpacks and gym bags, clothing (size large+), sweatshirts, jackets, hats, gloves

Women: Gifts for kids to give their parents like sweaters, gloves, hats, scarves, wallets, perfume, jewelry, blankets

Men: Gifts for kids to give their parents such as shirts, sweaters, gloves, hats, wallets, sweatshirts, socks, electric razors

#### Friends of the Mentally III

*Please — No glass!*

Clothing: Socks, underwear, jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts and sweatpants. They especially need plus sizes.

Toiletries: Hairbrushes, combs, cosmetics, nail polish, perfume, aftershave, soap, body lotion, pocket tissue packs. Travel or sample sizes are especially useful. Please keep in mind that all personal care items donated must be new and unopened.

Games: Playing cards, Uno, cribbage, crossword and word search books

Other: Watches, wallets, change purses, stationery, note pads, calendars (pocket or wall size), cassettes, batteries

#### Medway House Family Shelter

Look for the individual's wish list on the tag you have chosen.

***“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none”***

***- Luke 3:11***

Thank you from the Missions Team

## MISSIONS

Our neighbors in Western Massachusetts, who are trying to rebuild their homes and lives after June's tornado and subsequent hurricane and tropical storm, were hit very hard with the recent Nor'easter snow storm. The Tornado Relief Center at the 1st Congregational Church in Brimfield has identified a new need: gift cards. Since there are no major national chain stores in the area, they are looking for gift cards that can be used anywhere (Master Card, Visa, American Express and Discover). The relief team uses gift cards for gas to help survivors who are commuting further distances to work, for diesel/gas to operate the equipment that is being used to help the cleanup effort, and for the emergency needs of families.

We will be collecting gift cards in \$10 denominations, which you can drop off any time in the church office in the decorated box through December and January. The \$10 amount is suggested for ease of distribution as there are 900 families affected by the series of storms, 50 of whom have lost nearly everything. We have also planned a **Brimfield workday on Saturday, December 10th**. Please prayerfully consider coming to serve with us in this important local effort by contacting Wendy Greaves at 508-359-6185 ([wendy.greaves@bsci.com](mailto:wendy.greaves@bsci.com)) or Marti Cross 508-520-8935 ([mcross@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:mcross@bidmc.harvard.edu)).

### **Sharing Our Blessings this Holiday Season**

The Missions Team invites you to share your blessings this Christmas season. Our church is supporting the following groups during the upcoming holidays, and we are looking forward to making the season a bit brighter for those in need. Please remember that all items need to be new and in their original packaging, and that we are unable to accept food and candy.

### **City Mission Society**

CMS, which has strong ties to the UCC in Massachusetts, was founded in 1816 to address the needs of the urban poor. Each year, they establish "Christmas stores" where families can "shop" for presents for their family members. In the past, 400 adults and 1,000 children per year have benefited from these Christmas donations, and CMS expects the need to be even greater than in the past.

**Friends of the Mentally Ill** (formerly Friends of Medfield State Hospital) This group is looking for presents for the more than 900 patients at the three remaining state hospitals in Taunton, Worcester, and Tewksbury, as well as those transitioning into community living.

### **Medway House Family Shelter**

This shelter provides emergency housing for homeless families while they work to find a home. They provide a unique service in being able to keep the family together while they seek housing. Our church supports them year-round with donations of food, clothing, toys, and household items.

### ***How do I give a gift?***

The gift tags for the **Medway House Family Shelter** will be located on a board in the Narthex. These tags will have a specific name and gift request. If you choose to take one of these tags, we ask that you please print your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet next to the recipient's name. Then it will be assured that a gift will arrive in time for a merry Christmas! The tags will be posted for Sunday, November 27th. **We ask that these gifts be dropped off at the church on or before Sunday, December 4th.**

Kindergarten through Senior High students will

## SOUP TO GO

### *Consider this:*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently reported on the USDA website, "The fundamental cause of food insecurity and hunger in the United States is poverty — marked by a lack of adequate resources to address basic needs, such as food, shelter and health care." In its annual report on food security USDA noted that the picture continues to be bleak ... 17 million U.S. households didn't always have access to food last year — up from 13 million households in 2007. The director for American Poverty, an organization of photojournalists looking to alleviate poverty in the US through the project "In Our Own Back Yard", said they are seeing "how thin the line is between middle class, working poor and poverty."

### *Consider this:*

How can we watch and not act? Please consider when you can volunteer for Soup To Go. This ministry continues to employ members of the congregation to help feed and clothe hungry and homeless neighbors "in your own back yard" in the Boston community. On November 5th a group of volunteers served about 100 individuals with chicken soup, chili and home made cookies. On November 12 a group of volunteers served the unsheltered hungry/homeless poor at South Station. News of our visits is spread by word of mouth; people are waiting and looking forward to the food, clothing and fellowship offered through these simple gestures. Most of these folks have few places to turn. Please join the Soup To Go team by signing up in the narthex for one of the upcoming outings.

**December 3 and 17** for cooking/serving lunch at the **Woods-Mullen shelter**; cook from 7:00 AM-9:30; meet at 9:30 to carpool in to shelter to serve meal returning about 1:00

**December 17** for serving dinner (no cooking involved) at Boston Health's support facility for the homeless at the **Long Island shelter**. Meet to carpool at 3:45 and return by 8:30 PM

**December 10** for delivering food cards, toiletries, sweatshirts and blankets to our friends at **South Station**; meet to carpool in around 5:30 PM returning about 8:00

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PLEASE NOTE - December dates for Prayer Shawl — we will only meet on the first Thursday, December 1st, at 1 PM and the second Tuesday, December 13, at 7:30 PM. Hope you can join us. Also if you know of someone who would find comfort in receiving a prayer shawl, please let us know. Each shawl is made with prayers and loving thoughts as a reminder of God's constant presence and abiding love.

We conduct our meetings in the Parlor and there is always someone there to teach you how to make a shawl as well as supplies. For additional information please contact either Michelle Luhrmann 359-1586 or Donna Luft 359-4420 for daytime meetings, and Sally Harris 359-4203 for evening meetings. If you prefer email please contact Carol LaFreniere at [cladedah@aol.com](mailto:cladedah@aol.com).

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<b>December 4</b>	8:30	<b>Teacher Meeting &amp; Communion</b>
	9:30	<b>Children's Church</b>
	11:00	<b>Multi-age SS</b>
<b>December 11</b>	9:30 & 11:00	<b>Christmas Play</b>
<b>December 18</b>	9:30	<b>Regular SS</b>
	11:00	<b>Regular SS</b>
<b>December 25</b>	9:30 & 11:00	<b>No SS</b>
<b>January 1</b>	9:30 & 11:00	<b>No SS</b>

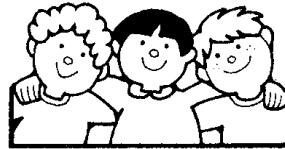
### PEEKING THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WINDOWS YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN:

- The children in the **pre-k class** practicing their cherub choir song for worship on November 20th and then learning about Adam and Eve.
- The **kindergarten students** talking about God's steadfast love and how He always loves us and then making pyramids with God's steadfast love written on them.
- the **first graders** brainstorming ways they can show generosity and then putting their ideas on a big red construction paper heart.
- The **second graders** "carding" wool to clean and separate the wool fibers on Heifer Education day.
- The **third graders** learning all about water buffalos by reading a Heifer storybook about a child in India named Choti.
- The **fourth grade students** sharing which of the 10 Commandments meant the most to them.
- Our **fifth grade students** reading the story of Jacob and Esau's reconciliation and discussing the importance of forgiveness.
- The **multi-age class** reading some of David's psalms of thanksgiving and then making and decorating grateful journals as they prepare their hearts for thanksgiving.

### New this year - Advent Workshop

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27th, all Children's Ministry students will participate in a special Advent workshop during their Sunday School class time. The children will all gather in Fellowship Hall after being dismissed from worship and discuss what Advent is all about. Then they will rotate through various craft stations to make some "take-home" items for their families Advent journey.

We invite you to visit the Children's Ministry Center and borrow a book or two to read at home. We have a huge selection of books and DVDs that you are sure to enjoy. Adult, family and children's Advent devotionals will be available in the narthex and outside the Great Room.



### Christmas Play "Christmas in Ho-Hum-Ville"

Join us on December 11th when 24 of our 3rd through 5th graders present a play written by Judy Weiner called "Christmas in Ho-Hum-Ville" during the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. **Children K and up will remain in the service with their parents.** Many thanks to Judy Weiner, Jan Cree, and Lynne Miller for their leadership and support on this play.

## YOUTH NEWS

Share Christmas Blessings!!!

**Focus on Youth students, 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation students and all Senior High Fellowship students** are once again invited to participate in the City Mission Society's Christmas Shop Program. Gift suggestions were distributed to students before Thanksgiving. Students in **Sr. High Fellowship and 9th Grade Confirmation** are asked to bring their gifts in on **Sunday, December 4th. FOY and 8th grade Confirmation students** are asked to bring their gift to FOY/C8 on **Monday night, December 5th.** PLEASE DO NOT WRAP the gift you bring! These are the only gifts that some families receive on Christmas and these families are **so** grateful. Thanks for your generosity.



### FOY/C8 Serves!

Our first outing to Cradles to Crayons on November 6th was so much fun! Our next outing to serve at Cradles to Crayons is on **Saturday, December 10th from 9AM-12:30.** Parent drivers needed. Please call Wendy Ludwig if you can help. Info and permission forms were sent home with students. Sign up is on a first come, first serve basis.

### Senior High Serves!

Senior High students will help to lead the "**Christmas Movie Night**" on **December 16th from 6-8:30PM.** Pizza and a movie for your kids (ages 3 and up) while you get some Christmas shopping done! Go for it!

### Senior High to Help at City Mission Society Christmas Shop

**All mission trip participants, 9th grade confirmation students** and any other interested **Senior High Fellowship students** are invited to serve on the **December 18th** trip to **City Mission Society's Christmas Shop.** We will **leave church at 12:00PM on the 18th** and will arrive back to church around 4PM. All students are required to bring a completed permission form in order to participate. Permission forms available at the [uccmedfield.org](http://uccmedfield.org) website. **WE NEED PARENT DRIVERS!** Please call the church if you can help.

**Senior High (10-12 grade) ski trip to Mt Sunapee** is planned for early **Saturday, January 7th** and returning Sunday afternoon January 8th. Spaces are limited. Info will be sent home for those students who sign up. Stay tuned.

**Focus on Youth and 8th grade confirmation** will meet on Monday December 19th for their last class of 2011! We will meet again on January 9th, 2012 (there's no school on January 2nd).

**Senior High Fellowship and 9th grade confirmation** will meet at noon on December 18th to go to City Mission Society for our last 2011 meeting. Our first meeting of 2012 will be on Sunday January 8th.

The Youth Ministry team feels very blessed to work with you and your students! We pray that you and your families have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

## MUSIC

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SING:** Join us for our annual carol sing after the town tree-lighting on Friday, **December 2**, at 7:30 p.m., to hear a preview of our Christmas service music along with plenty of opportunities to sing your favorite carols. This year will feature children's voices for the first time, including the Blackstone Valley Catholic Youth Choir and our very own UCC Medfield Treble Choir, joining forces to demonstrate some of the music they have been preparing for the 2012 Choristers Guild festival. Also, Ugandan composer/vocalist/percussionist Michael Mukisa will be helping us reprise his beautiful arrangement of the Ugandan Advent hymn "Bin Emmanuel" and accompanying the choir on a native Ugandan drum. As always, carols will be led by our Sanctuary Choir and Chapel Bell Ensemble. Brass preludes begin at 7:15, so please come early to choose your favorite seat!

**CONCERT & WORKSHOP:** On Sunday, **December 11**, Quinta Esencia will be presenting a one-hour concert at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, featuring their usual brilliant array of classical, Latin American, and newly-composed works for flute, clarinet, and other instruments. The concert is free and open to the public. Following the concert, at 5:00 p.m., Peter Krasinski will be leading a workshop for children's choir directors, music teachers, conductors, and anyone else interested in learning more about sacred music for children. The workshop fee is \$20, and it is open to all.

## YOUTH CONCERT

We will be featuring our talented youth musicians at the 2nd Annual UCC Medfield Youth Concert on Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 4:00pm in the Great Room. All student musicians in 2nd grade and above are encouraged to participate. Michael Olbash and Heidi Willson are available for accompaniment and assistance with music selection, and will schedule any necessary rehearsals on a one-on-one basis. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please contact Michael or Heidi with any questions.

[molbash@uccmedfield.org](mailto:molbash@uccmedfield.org)  
[hwillson@uccmedfield.org](mailto:hwillson@uccmedfield.org)

## MOVIE NIGHT

The December 16th movie will be "The Polar Express". Parents are invited to drop their child(ren) off (age 3 and up) at 6:00 for pizza, a Christmas craft and the movie. Pick-up will be at 8:30. Our senior high students will be providing child care. The sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex. Please contact Heidi Willson at [hwillson@uccmedfield.org](mailto:hwillson@uccmedfield.org) with any questions.

Upcoming movie nights: February 10 "Evan Almighty" (all ages)  
 March 16 to be announced



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Stewardship Projects

**October** - Thank you for your generous support of our Living Gift Market for Heifer International on November 6th. Contributions to date are over \$18,000 which will buy more than three "arkfuls" (15 pairs of animals in each ark) for needy families around the world.

**December** - UCC Medfield is collecting Christmas gifts for the City Mission Society's (CMS) Christmas Shop program. Last year, through the generosity of churches and organizations in the greater Boston area, more than 4,000 adults and children were blessed with holiday assistance. Children are asked to bring in a gift for a child their same age and sex. Some suggestions are outlined below:

- Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts
- Toys, games and books
- Hats, mittens, gloves, scarves
- Socks and underwear
- sneakers and boots

You will find donation boxes in the narthex to collect your contributions. **GIFTS SHOULD BE UNWRAPPED AND NEW. DECEMBER 4TH WILL BE THE FINAL DAY FOR COLLECTIONS.**

### Children's Church on December 4th

Our monthly Children's church service will be held on December 4th during the first part of the 9:30 worship service. All pre-k through 5th grade students and their teachers gather in the Great Room at 9:30 am for this 20 minute worship service. Our focus this month will be on Advent.

**January Beacon  
Deadline:**

**Thursday, December 15**

### Classroom Volunteers - December

As part of our Safe Church initiative at UCC Medfield, two adults are required each week in every Sunday School classroom. Each month several Sundays will be staffed by teacher aides and the other weeks will be staffed by parent volunteers. If you are unable to attend your scheduled date, please try to switch with another parent or call Susan Holbrook at church (359-2351) or at home (359-8378).

	<u>12/4</u>	<u>12/11</u>	<u>12/18</u>
Pre-k	OPEN	Stanfield	Thomson
Kindergarten	Van der Linden	PLAY	Malvese
1st Grade	Hatch	PLAY	Colleran
2nd Grade	Smith	PLAY	Wilson
3rd Grade	Fuqua	PLAY	Anderson
4th Grade	Marmai	PLAY	Masella
5th Grade	Coogan	PLAY	Caro

The fourth quarter of the year (October - December) is the busiest time period for the Cradles to Crayons organization. During the first few weeks of November, Cradles packed over 1,100 "kid packs" in a 7-day period!! Several members of the congregation will be participating in C2C's 6th annual "Un-gala" on Saturday, December 3rd. Called *Bundled Up Fun*, it is a day of philanthropy and volunteer service to help thousands of local children stay safe and warm this winter.

We hope you can join us on one of our scheduled workdays in C2C's Brighton warehouse. You can sign up for any OR all of the upcoming dates on the C2C clipboard in the narthex. Feel free to serve with a friend.

12/6; 1/11; 1/28 (Mission Possible 3)  
2/10; 3/13; 4/11; 5/18

We meet at the church at 9:10 and the carpool to the warehouse for a 10-12:30 work shift. We are back in Medfield by 1:15 pm.

**Urgent Needs**

- ◇ 11/12 to 18/20 boys pants
- ◇ 2T/3T winter coats for boys and girls

**Local Donation Site**

Kathy Mills' House,  
6 Wild Holly Lane, Medfield, MA 02052  
No need to call ahead - donations may be left on Kathy's covered front porch.

**Off-site Sorting Bags**

Stop by the Cradles to Crayons shelving unit in the main stairwell (right off the narthex) to pick up a bag or two of socks, underwear, tights or newborn caps that need to be packaged into Ziploc bags. Detailed instructions are included with each bag including a suggested prayer before you start!!.