

What's on Wendy's Mind?

.Advent and Christmas at Unity Christian Church

I am looking forward to sharing in some of our traditional Advent and worship experiences as well as sharing in some new ones. May we all experience the gift of Christ being born anew in us again this Christmas. Here is the schedule of what is planned:

Advent Worship: The Inn, Housing the Holy Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 11am

Hollyberry Fair, Dec. 4, 9am-1:00

Word and Witness Wednesday, Advent Reflection Facebook Live 5:00

Mini Choir Cantata, Dec 19, 11 am

Blue Christmas Reflection, Facebook Live, Dec. 21 7:00

Angel Tree Collection

Open House for prayer, reflection, Nativity display
Dec. 22, 23, 11am-12 and 5-6:30

Christmas Eve Service In-Person and Virtual, 7pm



CWF sponsored ANGEL TREE is up! Please take a star or 2 as we help families in our community have a blessed Christmas Day. Please give purchased gift cards to: Betty, Anne, Janet Bratton, Gina or Teresa.



Donna Webster, former UCC member and soon-to-be graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary, will be ordained in our sanctuary on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. It is a great honor and privilege for our congregation to host this monumental event in the life of one of God's faithful servants. It is always a moving experience to witness an ordination service. Mark your calendar now so that you can be present to celebrate with Donna and her family.

December Daily Bible Readings		
Date	Morning	Evening
12/1	2 Peter 3	Ezekiel 40, 41
12/2	1 John 1	42, 43, 44
12/3	2	45, 46
12/4	3	47, 48
12/5	4	Daniel 1, 2
12/6	5	3, 4
12/7	2 John	5, 6, 7
12/8	3 John	8, 9, 10
12/9	Jude	11, 12
12/10	Revelation 1	Hosea 1, 2, 3, 4
12/11	2	5, 6, 7, 8
12/12	3	9, 10, 11
12/13	4	12, 13, 14
12/14	5	Joel
12/15	6	Amos 1, 2, 3
12/16	7	4, 5, 6
12/17	8	7, 8, 9
12/18	9	Obadiah
12/19	10	Jonah
12/20	11	Micah 1, 2, 3
12/21	12	4, 5
12/22	13	6, 7
12/23	14	Nahum
12/24	15	Habakkuk
12/25	16	Zephaniah
12/26	17	Haggai
12/27	18	Zechariah 1, 2, 3, 4
12/28	19	5, 6, 7, 8
12/29	20	9, 10, 11, 12
12/30	21	13, 14
12/31	22	Malachi

REACH UP

ATTENDANCE

Date	In House	FB Reached	FB Engaged	YouTube
10/31	72	144	75	12
11/7	79	96	64	23
11/14	71	290	96	16
11/21	71	118	66	3

Reconnect/Reach In

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Are you ready to party like it's 2012? Well, we know we can't do that right now, but we are getting ready to have a big celebration. On January 1, 2022, Unity Christian Church will be 10 years old!! So, on Sunday, January 2, 2022, the festivities will begin. The Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia, Bill Spangler-Dunning, will preach. The Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Calhoun, Evangelism Executive for the Division of Homeland Ministries of the denomination and UCC's transformation coach, will also participate. Worship will include other special moments, so plan to be present either in person or online to enjoy it all. There will be a reception following Worship catered by All Caked Out (Dani Hinkley's business).

It has been a whirlwind decade full of changes, but through it all UCC has relied on the Holy Spirit to guide us into ministries that make a difference for Christ in our community and in the world. Thanks be to God!!



In Sympathy and With Thanks

Our heartfelt sympathy to:

Wendy Hozik

Martha Owells

This winter our church building will be a **Warming Station** for those who do not have a warm place to stay when temperatures become extreme. RADical Change Commission will take care of all the details, but if you would like to help, please let Wendy know. Here are all the details:

1. What time of day is needed and for how long?

Typically, warming stations will open at dusk and close shortly after sunrise. Of course, this will be dependent upon the weather - if there is a storm ongoing, it would be reasonable to be more flexible and stay open through the day as well.

2. Do you have any guess as to how many people need this care?

We can never be sure, but I believe it will be very few to none in the beginning, and then increase as word gets out.

3. Will this be for any overnight stay?

Yes - Typically the weather is most intolerable at night and at a minimum people can have a place to sleep that is safe and warm.

4. Who will supervise during the times required?

We'll establish a volunteer list ahead of time and take shifts when the time comes, with others

available "on call" if needed. Volunteers can be composed of both UCC members and RADical Change volunteers. We require that a minimum of two volunteers be present, but preferably three.

5. Will food need to be provided?

Yes - but it doesn't need to be anything fancy. We can do simple fruits, granola/protein bars, and brown bag lunches with water bottles. We could also just order pizza if needed depending on the numbers.

6. Does Radford utilize the "To Our House" program and is there any interface if not?

To Our House serves the homeless and is housed under the NRCC (New River Community Action) umbrella. It's located in Christiansburg and it typically remains at capacity. Radford is underserved and the RADical Change Commission has housed our homeless neighbors on many occasions. There will be no interface, only additional community support.

7. Liability -

We will require our guests to sign liability waiver forms upon arrival. We will also do a quick screening (checklist) with guests to assess for mental health stability. If there are concerns, we will contact ACCESS to coordinate support. Guests will be advised at the door that this is a drug and weapon free zone and that they will be asked to leave the premises immediately if any concerning personal property is identified.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

	12/18	Carlton Altizer
	12/18	Michael Davis
12/4	12/19	Doyle Barton
12/6	12/19	Tim Moore
12/8	12/20	Lisa Altizer
12/10	12/20	Chanz Hopkins
12/10	12/29	Sarah Akers
12/14	12/30	Amanda Hopkins
12/15	12/31	JoAnna Fox
12/16	12/31	Randi Lemmon
		Andrew Thomas
		Holly Moore
		Max Mottesheard
		Sophia Hurst
		Adam Turk
		Maggie Turk
		Jeremy Rhea
		Jerry Cornell

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/17	David and Angela Thompson
12/24	Ken and Janet Bratton

DECEMBER ELDERS

Anne Chrisman
Wes Wilson

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

The Christmas Special Offering will be received on December 12 and 19. Envelopes are available at the church. This year's theme is "Imagine God's Love Revealed" based on 1 John 4:9 – "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world that we might live through him." All the money given will support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia (e.g. Craig Springs Camp).



CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship) is open to ALL women within Unity. We have 2 circles (day & night meetings) so you can choose the one that fits your schedule. If interested in more information concerning what we do, please reach out to President Anne (anne@prestarpackaging.com or 540-239-1633). We would love for you to join this active and energetic (& a bit crazy) group of ladies!

CIRCLE MEETINGS: No CWF or Circle meetings in December

THANKSGIVING COOKIES: Thanks to Janet Bratton and team for delivering cookies to our Special Friends within our UCC family. This is a small way to reach out and let folks know we are thinking about them and love them.

ANGEL TREE: Our tree is up! Please consider purchasing a gift card to help local families in need. Details on page 3.

HOLLYBERRY FAIR: Saturday, December 4th from 9:00 – 1:00.

Lunch: Hot Dog, Chips & Drink: \$4.00

Need baked goods, candy, brownies, canned goods, homemade treats: please bring to the church by Friday evening (3rd) for pricing (by 7:00). DO NOT CUT. Please use disposable pans if possible (if you use your pan, please put name on it). Label what the item is along with who made it.

We will be working at the church Monday-Friday (November 29-December 3) from 10-12 and again from 6:30-7:30/8:00 so please come help if you can

Pack Up/Clean Up Team: Pam, Betty & Penny. Let them know if you can help with this (Monday, December 6th) and they need a TRUCK!!!

We will make a decision about mask requirements based upon UCC's directive and will share that with everyone prior to the event.

A great BIG thank you to Janet Whitt for the beautiful bows for all of Charlotte's fabulous baskets!

Let Anne or Charlotte know if you can help in any way.

This is the only fundraiser the CWF has to support many local missions such as The Women's Resource Center, Our Daily Bread, Fairview Home, The Clothing Bank, August Kids Project & Craig Springs so please come, bring a friend, shop and eat lunch with us!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the CWF and all of our ministries/missions this year such as August Kids Project for The Clothing Bank, Angel Tree for The Women's Resource Center, Sock It To Me & Undie Sunday's for The Clothing Bank; Paper Towel drive for Daily Bread and many others. UCC has a dedicated hard working group of women that continue to work together during the ongoing pandemic to serve our church and our community.



Here's the good news to report for December:

Hayden Cran and Haley Stike are engaged to be married. Congratulations to this special couple and their families.

13 people signed up to prepare **Thanksgiving desserts** for Grove United Methodist Church's Thanksgiving Day dinner. Thanks to everyone who is Reaching Out with the love of Jesus in this way.

UCC members donated \$500 to Radford's Elf Shelf through the church! The money will go a long way toward making Christmas special for Radford's children and youth.

Tim Moore has been called as the Pastor of First Christian Church, Pulaski. UCC remains his sponsoring congregation for the Commissioned Ministry program. Congratulations, Tim!

Andrew Thomas will graduate from the University of Lynchburg in December. He plans to attend Seminary at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California.

Caroline Pappas and Erin Wilson were in the RHS production of "Antigone," which placed second in the super-regionals in November.

Kevin and Renee Law are expecting a second daughter in late January. Your prayers for the whole Law family are appreciated as they anticipate the birth.

Thank you, Jenny!

For the past 2 years, Jenny Doud has led our congregation as board chair with wisdom, grace, and courage. The past two years have been a real challenge with the pandemic and navigating through all of that and making decisions for the entire church family. Jenny immediately knew that we needed to put in place an Emergency Task Force that would help make decisions for the safety and comfort of our congregation. Along with that she and Chair-Elect, Pam Vicar-Runnals knew that because of the pandemic we would not be able to do congregational business "as usual," so they along with the By-laws/Constitution Team went hard at work to make changes that would help our current situation as well as help us in future planning. Jenny put in place the Listening Sessions to help us see where Unity was at and how to move forward. There have been many other jobs and responsibilities that she took on over the two years. She acted with faith and prayed through every situation as well as got feedback from the executive team and myself. I hope you will join me in thanking Jenny for her dedication and hard work as our Board Chair during this extra challenging time. Jenny, we appreciate you and love you!!!

Pam Vicar-Runnals worked very closely with Jenny as our chair-elect. She was always a support for Jenny and me. Along with assisting in all these pandemic related issues, as Personnel Chair she had to deal with the need to hire a custodian, Praise Team Coordinator, and work through the challenges of losing our Director of Faith Formation, Hayden Cran. As Nominating Chair, a great deal of work was put on her plate as she guided us through finding a new slate of officers. No easy task. Pam also worked and served with grace and wisdom and faithfulness and always had a smile on. Pam we appreciate you and love you and know that you will lead us well as the new chair in 2022, 2023. Again, I hope you will join me in thanking Pam.

Please continue to keep both Jenny and Pam in your prayers as well as all the leaders of our congregation. In spite of the challenges of the last two years, we have continued to engage in ministry. May we all act with gratitude as we seek the will of God for our continued ministry here at Unity Christian Church. May 2022 be a year of reconnection and reimagining as we reach up, reach in, and reach out.



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REACHING UP: Worship in Advent:

The Inn: Housing the Holy

As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Nov. 28 Making Room, (Hope) Jeremiah 33:14-16

Dec. 5 A Place at the Table (Peace) Baruch 5:1-5, Philippians 1:9-11

Dec. 12 How Much is Enough? (Joy) Isaiah 12:2-6

Dec. 19 A Room with a View/Choir Mini Catata (Love) Micah 5:2-5a

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service, “The Inn”

Dec. 26 The Christmas Story through carols and scripture