



DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church, Cocoa
DECEMBER 2008
PASTOR GENE YOTKA

Preparing for Advent and the Coming Christ Child

The Scriptures are full of references to waiting, being still, longing, expectation and promises as God's people faithfully look to God. Of course the Scriptures are also full of impatience and a failure to be faithful as well. This Advent season I would like to ask that we, as a congregation, in one accord, are praying the Scriptures that follow. These are the sermon Scriptures that we will be studying over the coming weeks in worship. I would like to ask that each of us use an ancient spiritual discipline called *Lectio Divina* (spiritual reading).

What Is *Lectio Divina*?

Most of us have been taught to read “informationally”. Such reading is valid and essential, but there is another way to read—an ancient way called “*lectio divina*”. *Lectio divina* is designed to experience our reading as “formational”. Both the informational and the formational go hand and hand, but whereas informational reading is a way of mastering the text, formational reading allows the text to master you. This method of allowing God's Word to flow over you consists of five steps.

1. Hearing the Sacred Word.
2. Listening to how you are touched by the Sacred Word and pondering its effect on your life.
3. Responding to the sense of invitation created by an encounter with the Sacred Word.
4. Resting in the Presence of God.
5. Living out the calling of the Sacred Word.

Preparation:

Center yourself by quieting your hearts and minds in preparation to encounter God.

Lectio:

1. Listen to the word or phrase that attracts you. Repeat it softly, then write it down.
2. Listen to how the passage touches your life. Speak a sentence to yourself beginning with the words *I hear, I see, I sense*. Write down this sentence
3. Do you sense that there is an invitation relevant to the next few days? Write down any invitation that you may sense regarding the particular Scripture.
4. Rest in the Presence of God meditating on what God has spoken to you.
5. How is God asking you to move out in the world in response to what you have heard in this reading of Scripture? Write it down.

Spend time this each coming week meditating on one of the chosen weekly Scriptures using the *Lectio Divina* format. It has been my experience that this spiritual discipline can be quite a blessing for those who seek to internalize and be guided by the Word of God.

1. Week of December 1- December 7th, “*Desperately Longing for the Messiah’s Appearing*”

From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.^{NRS} **2**

Timothy 4:8

2. December 8th -December 14th, “*Look to God and Wait in Hope*”

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples.⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.^{NRS} **Isaiah 51:4-6**

3. December 15th-December 21st, “*Diligently Expecting*”

For thus the Lord said to me: "Go, post a lookout, let him announce what he sees.⁷ When he sees riders, horsemen in pairs, riders on donkeys, riders on camels, let him listen diligently, very diligently."⁸ Then the watcher called out: "Upon a watchtower I stand, O Lord, continually by day, and at my post I am stationed throughout the night."^{NRS} **Isaiah 21:6-8**

4. December 22nd – December 24th, “*Welcoming the Promised One*”

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.^{NRS} **Luke 2:1-20**

Enjoy immersing yourself in God’s Word this Advent and Christmas season. May all of you have a blessed and Holy Christmas in which you feel God’s glorious coming in a special way this year.

PASTOR GENE



Every fourth Saturday of each month we are having a **PRAYER WALK** around our community. This was started last month and has been very successful.

We meet at 4pm at our church and head out to neighborhoods, pray before each house and lift our neighbors in prayer.

We would love you to join us. Remember it is the **FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

After the walk come back and enjoy some time at the **Awakening Café**. Relax have a cool drink, cup of coffee/tea, enjoy a worship service this uplifting ministry.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Home: Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, Sharon Bauer, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Ernest Lindley, Ann Anderson, Betty Turner, Bill Green, Lou Kotopka, Jim Bishop, Sr., Peggy Morgan Halper, Peggy McCann, Fay Mallard, Elsie Bailey

Courtenay Springs Nursing Home: Gladys Williams

Rockledge Rehab. Bob Knuckle

A GREAT SUCCESS!

“THE SHEPHERD’S CLOSET THRIFT STORE”



A Big Thank You goes out to
Sheryl Henderson for her professional
setting up and organizing of our
thrift store
along with all the wonderful Volunteers.

We need plastic bags, tubular coat hangers
skirt hangers.

Please keep all the donations coming!



COMING FEBRAURY 13TH 2009

CapPucino &

Chocolate dessert

**“Celebrate Valentine’s Day with us”
6PM—10PM February 13th 2009,
Hughlett Hall**

Dress: Black and White (business attire)



Backyard Ministries Need Your Help!

Please leave a message for Victoria Gillis at the Church office if you could make a dessert for the Cappacino and Chocolate Dessert evening on February 13th or help in another committee.

We need a variety of special chocolate desserts cut into small portions, placed into small muffin papers, and arranged on real glass or silver trays.

Committee: Decoration, Beverage Server, Clean Up, Food and Ticket Sales.

Donations: Napkins (fine paper), Glass party plates, use of Silver plated forks, China coffee cup and saucers.

CHAPEL SERVICE

Come join us for Chapel Service Every Week.

Wednesday: 6:00pm (Evenings) A Service of Song

Friday: 8:30am A Service of Presence (Holy Communion)





DECEMBER CALENDAR 2008

- Dec. 1 5:30pm Finance Meeting
Dec. 2 *4:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Gene
NO DINNER TO NIGHT
Dec. 3 * UMM Prayer Meeting
9:30AM Ruth Book Group (Parlor)
5:00pm. Backyard Ministry
- Dec. 4 **6:00pm Ball Room Classes (H. Hall)**
6:30pm Trustees Meeting
- Dec. 6 ***5:30pm Awakening Café**
- Dec. 9 *5:30 Tuesday Night Dinner
- Dec. 10 10:30am UMW General Meeting
- Dec. 12 8:30am Day of Prayer—Chapel Open
- Dec. 13 Bell Rehearsal in Sanctuary (all day)
- Dec. 14 2:00pm Christmas Ring (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 17 Circle Meeting
- Dec. 19 5:30pm Christmas Celebration on grounds at Derby Street Chapel
- Dec. 20 Christmas Cantata Practice (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 21 **Christmas Cantata 11am Traditional Service**
- Dec. 24 **7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)**
11:00pm. Christmas Eve Casual Service
- Dec. 25 **A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL**
- Dec. 26 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- Dec. 31 7:00pm Watch Night Service

Please check your bulletins for any additional events to take place here at our church.



UMW Continued

Ruth Book Group will meet for their Annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday Dec. 3 at 9:30am with Nancy Glass in the Church Parlor. The book “There’s Something About Christmas” by Debbie Macomber will be reviewed by Pat Van Riper. The dessert for the luncheon will be “Sampling” 3 different fruit cakes—recipes from contest told about in the book. (One is a Chocolate Fruit Cake, one is an unbaked fruit cake). Nancy will be serving a “delicious lunch” before the dessert.

REMEMBER “Home For Christmas” for a Family (see Nov. DW) give money after church (all services) December 7, 14 and 21 to go to “Habitat for Humanity.” Make Checks payable United Methodist Women. Say “Merry Christmas” to your church friends and give the money you save on cards and postage for this worthy cause. Questions to Elsie Vasilevich, Marianne Wright, Vivian Scott or Mildred Page.

READING PROGRAM

The names of person recognized for Reading Our UMW Books were omitted from November’s DW. Here they are:



Four books

Eight Books

Twelve Books

Twenty Books

Sue Oden, Vivian Scott, Betty Turner

Marcene Jackson, Peggy McCann, Marianne Wright

Nancy Glass, Dot Sholar

Laurel Lightowler, Flo Newhouse, Mildred Page, Carol Reid, Pat Van Riper, Ruth Warden

Questions on this program can be directed to Ruth Warden, our Secretary of Program Resources or Marcene Jackson our Education for Mission Secretary.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: The Unit will “Man/Woman” the Angel Tree in the Mall on Thursday Dec. 4th for the Salvation Army. Thanks to all those who volunteered. Stop by the Angel Tree on Dec. 4 to visit and maybe take an Angel.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY: was attended by LaVonn Simpkins and Marianne Wright. This was held at Grace UMC on Merritt Island. The Annual Meeting for Church Women United will be January 9, 2009 at Riverside Presbyterian Church.

MEMBERSHIP TEA The Unit would like to say a BIG thank you to LaVonn Simpkins for hosting a Membership Tea on Sunday, Nov. 16th. We will report on our New Members next month. Each new member received a Packet of Information about the Purpose, Program, Mission Studies and other activities. If anyone missed this opportunity to become informed about United Methodist Women—plan to attend the January 14th at 10:30am in Hughlett Hall.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

UMW Web-Site: gbgm-umc.org/umw

Executive Board will not meet in December. If there are any concerns contact either Marianne Wright or Vivien Scott.

Unit Meeting will be in Hughlett Hall on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 10:30am. The program will be given by Norma Ronstrom and friends. Some special friends from Asbury Arms will be sharing their musical ability—**“The Asbury Arms Choir.”** **The program is entitled “O Come Let Us Adore Him.”**

The luncheon will be catered by our own Margaret Russell. The cost \$5.00 Circle leaders should get registration number to Marianne Wright by Friday, December 5th. General members are encouraged to attend. Give your reservation by Dec 5th to Marianne.

CHRISTMAS (Salvation Army) Stockings: Instead of filling a stocking we will be taking an offering for toys for the Salvation Army so-o-o bring some extra money. Anyone not able to attend who would like to help can give money to Eslie Vasilevich. If by check—make payable to United Methodist Women.

CIRCLES:

Lydia Circle will meet Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 10:00am with Pat Van Riper.

Rachel Circle will meet Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 10:00am with Esther Hanson. **The program will be presented by Mildred Page and is entitled “The Christmas Child”** by Max Lucado. The group will enjoy a Christmas Lunch prepared and served by **Esther. This is Esther’s Annual Christmas Gift to her friends in the Circle.**

Mary Deborah will meet December 15 (Monday) in the Church Parlor at 7pm.

Martha Circle will enjoy a **“Lunch Out”** on Thursday, Dec. 18th

Continued



Christmas Ring
Sunday -- December 14, 2008
2 o'clock

featuring our Handbell Choirs
PLEASE JOIN US!!

Have Bells, Will Travel
The Handbells of First United Methodist Church
are "out and about."

Watch for us!

Sol Ringers at Titusville Towers

Assisted Living Facility

Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 pm

Small Ensemble at Parrish Medical Center

"Gift of Life" Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 pm

Celebration Ringers at Disney

Grand Floridian Resort Lobby

Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 & 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS RING

Sunday December 14 at 2:00 pm (Sanctuary)

Spirit Ringers at Disney

Wilderness Lodge Lobby

Monday, December 15 at 7:00 & 7:45 pm

Echoes of Faith at Disney

Animal Kingdom Lodge Lobby

Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 & 7:30 pm

Spirit Ringers at Asbury Arms

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 pm

Echoes of Faith at Lighthouse Christian Church

Annual Christmas Dinner and Program.

Saturday, December 21 at 6:00pm.



General Info

WANTED Bird and Flower Magazines. Give to Jean Romprey or Mildred Page. Jean shares them with shut-ins with a **“Walker Caddy” she makes for some of our** older friends.

Searchers enjoyed an evening at Duane Myers home on Nov. 8th The group “ate well” and then shared experiences they had in childhood and travels. Example: All school children use to drink water from a common dipper and pail. Think about that—our own bottled water, etc. The Searchers invite new members. They meet in Room 102 at 10:00am on Sundays. Questions to Mikael Hardee, president of the class.

The Adult Fellowship Class will have had a fellowship evening by the time you read this and be looking forward to their annual Christmas Dinner. The group had over 40 enjoy a wonderful dinner in Hughlett Hall. This evening was enjoyed by all as they got to know each other better. The group meets in Room 316 at 10:00am **every Sunday. Don McCarter is the President, Byrds & Glass’ are Social Chair persons** and Mildred Page the teacher.

Members we lost in 2008

Laura Beverage	February 27th
Jim Ratcliff	March 2nd
Rebecca Kennedy	March 20th
Edna Earl Rollins	May 24th
Jo Anne McLeran	June 17th
Andy McCann	July 31st
Curt Reed	September 13th.
Lolly Hinsley (past member)	

Daisy Gattis Merritt, age 92, of Roswell, Georgia, passed away Sunday Nov. 16 at Roswell Nursing Home. She is survived by her loving son and daughter-in-law, Tracy and Linda Merritt, her two grandchildren, Jennifer and Matthew, and her sister, Joanne Tucker of Chattanooga. A Memorial Service will be held on January 3rd, 2009 at 11amat First UMC Cocoa. As a form of remembrance, donations may be **made in Daisy’s name to the Church, First UMC Cocoa.**

May God Bless them and all their families.



DECEMBER 2008

- 12/01 Joyce Berry
- 12/02 Bill Lingenfelter, Dan Click
- 12/05 Beth Fisher, Fay Hammond
- 12/06 Janice Brown
- 12/08 Lucille Taylor, Murray Millard
Rick Thrift
- 12/09 Olive Artelli, Ruth Garland
- 12/10 Frank Childers,
- 12/11 Emma Jean McKinley,
Lilly Hibbard
- 12/12 Betty Turner, Alfred Stephen
- 12/14 Betty Matern, Victoria Gillis
- 12/15 Glover Robinson
- 12/23 Ed Barnett, Hal Matern
Betty Donnell
- 12/24 Mildred Page, Carol Reid
- 12/25 Sheryl Williams
- 12/28 Bill Green
- 12/29 Dorothy Rodecker
- 12/30 Peggy Morgan-Halper.

JANUARY 2009

- 01/01 Shannon Finn, Debbie Yosheda,
- 01/02 William Chumley
- 01/03 Anita Kruger
- 01/04 Lou Kotopka, Bill Barnett
- 01/06 Marilyn Mayo
- 01/08 Joanna Ramsey
- 01/09 Tim Wilson
- 01/10 CL. Colston, Mickey Furman,
Chris Mitchell
- 01/11 Jim Ross, Carlos Page
- 01/12 Donita Chace
- 01/13 Alex Bowlby
- 01/14 Lenny Faculo
- 01/18 Dick Glass
- 01/19 Chet Wilcox
- 01/24 William Anderson
- 01/28 Florence Newhouse
- 01/31 Marian Culpepper
Frances Winner, Arlene Reed
Barbara Catalfamo,
Janice Paul



REMEMBER THE
BIRTHDAY BOX
IN THE NARTHEX
OF THE CHURCH.



Youth/Children's Happenings!

Christmas is just around the corner. Time for Christmas Caroling. It's my favorite part of the year standing in front of people's homes and singing just puts joy in your heart. The youth will be caroling on Sunday December 14th. If you would like to be part of this blessed event just bring your voice and a smile (maybe a jacket). Also if you know someone who would like to have carolers come by let me know.

Our pretty pink snow birds are making their rounds again. Oh how the youth loves litter someone's yard with these eye catching flamingos. It is better to give than to receive, so if you don't want to receive a flock, you should probably give them to some one else. Help your neighbors decorate for the holidays. Flock someone today!

Our second batch of T-shirts are on there way just in time for Christmas presents. Everyone loves a t-shirt right? Our first batch of shirts sold really well. Thank you for your support.

The playground is coming together but we still need help. Lots of it. The new school will be arriving in January so we don't have much time. We need mulch spreaders and set builders to lend a hand. Also, the great church shuffle or "move a bunch of stuff" around the church to make room is coming very, very soon. If you or someone you know has a strong back and some free time I would love to have some help rearranging it. We can't just wait till the last minute we need to start NOW so we are not so busy with it at Christmas time.

The food pantry has had great response to our cry for help. We appreciate your continued support through your gifts, prayers and your talents. UCF is doing a can drive for us this month. Thank you UCF,

By the way, if you haven't stopped by to see our amazing thrift store you are really missing out. Everyday there are great new items arranged so nicely. A huge thank you to all the many volunteers who have made this possible. You all have done wonders for this church already. From 3 moldy rooms to 3 incredibly productive rooms. God has truly blessed this great ministry.

David Russell, Youth/Children's Director.





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