

**\*Christmas Carol** (Verse 1)  
"He Is Born"

†UMH Pg. 228

**Sixth Lesson**

Luke 2:1-7

**\*Christmas Carol** (Verse 1)  
"The First Noel"

†UMH Pg. 245

**Seventh Lesson**

Luke 2:8-16

**Prayer**

ALL: O God our Creator, you have brought us again to this joyous season, when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this special day, we give thanks for the birth of Jesus and the great light he brought into the world. Now, more than ever, we desperately need his light to break through the darkness and gloom of a time filled with fear and anxiety. Grant that Jesus' spirit may be born anew in our hearts this Christmas Day. Be always present in our lives, O God. Strengthen and support us as we seek to be faithful disciples of him, whose birth we celebrate. In his name, we pray. Amen.

**\*Christmas Carol** (Verse 1&4)  
"Joy to the World"

†UMH Pg. 246

**Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 2:1-11

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

†UMH Pg. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace** (At this time the congregation is welcome to stand and greet each other in the love of Christ.)

**\*Christmas Carol** (Verse 1)  
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

†UMH Pg. 229

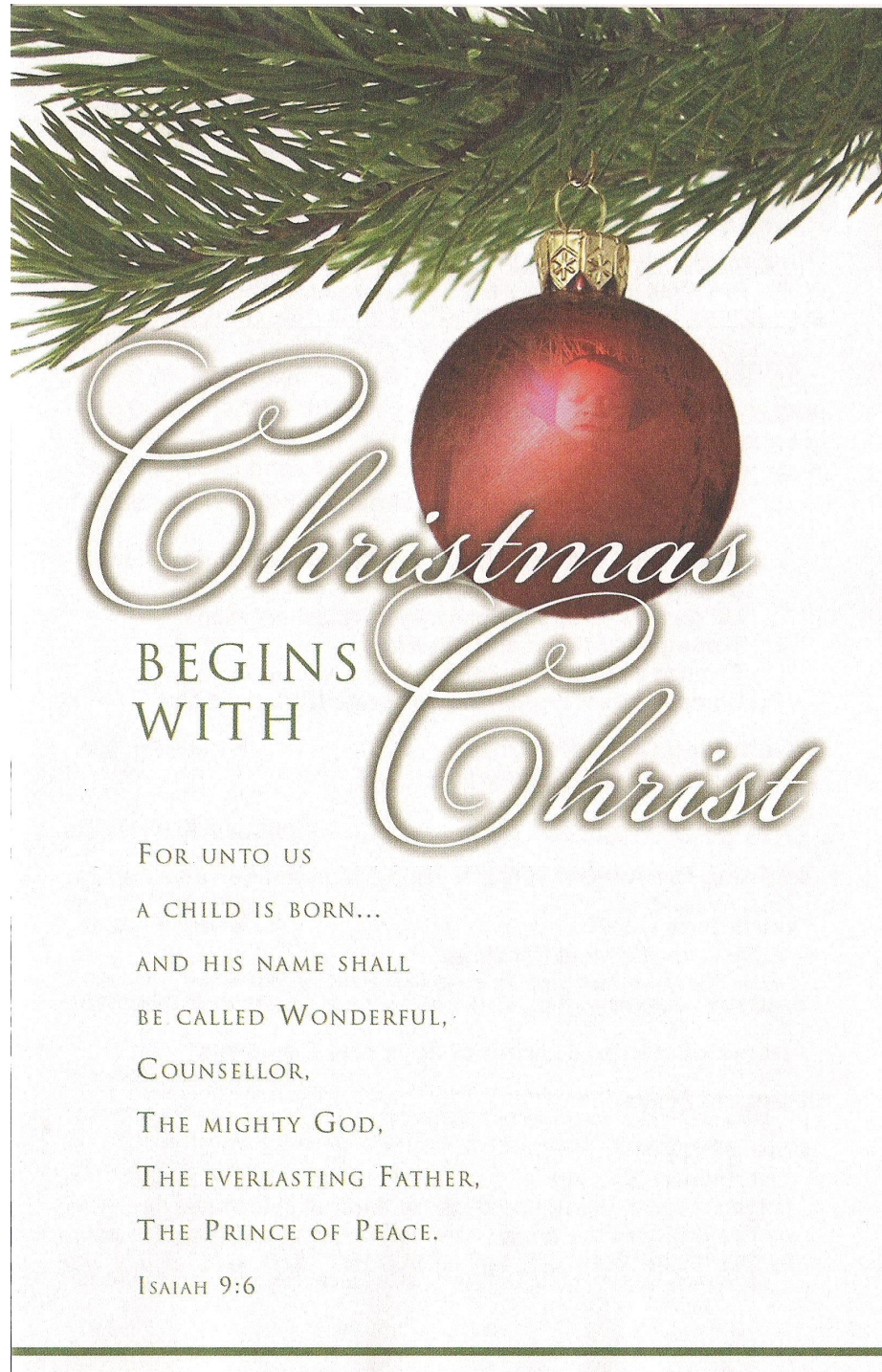
**Ninth Lesson**

John 1:1-14

**\*Christmas Carol**  
"O Come All Ye Faithful"

†UMH Pg. 234

**\*Benediction**



# Meriden United Methodist Church

## Christmas Day, A Service of Lessons and Carols with Celebration of a Love Feast

December 25, 2011

*\*Indicates those who are able, please stand. Please read aloud the bold face print. If you are a first time guest, we welcome you!*

### Bringing in the Light of Christ - Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

L: Merry Christmas!!

**P: Merry Christmas!!**

L: Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**P: Come, let us worship and celebrate Christ's birth through our songs and music,**

L: Let us worship through our prayers and meditations,

**P: Through our tithes and offerings**

L: Through sharing food, spicy tea, and fellowship.

**P: Come, let us worship and celebrate Christ's birth.**

#### \*Gathering Carol (Verse 1&4)

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

 UMH Pg. 238

#### First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15,17-19

#### Lighting the Advent Wreath

Bob & Marilyn Overstreet Family

#### \*Christmas Carol

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

 UMH Pg. 242

#### Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

### Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

#### Pastoral Prayer

#### Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

#### \*Christmas Carol (Verse 1)

"All Earth is Waiting"

 UMH Pg. 210

#### Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

#### Children's Time

"What Did You Get for Christmas?"

Dr. Randolph

#### \*Christmas Carol (Verse 1&4)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

 UMH Pg. 230

#### Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a,6-9

### Celebration of the Love Feast

L: The Love Feast is rooted in the communal meals that Jesus shared with his disciples and which the early Church continued after Jesus' Ascension to Heaven. Think of these early Love Feasts as the first church potluck dinners. However, as the early congregations grew larger and larger, the practice of Love Feasts began to ebb. The Love Feasts were resuscitated when Count Zinzendorf sent food from his kitchen to a worshiping congregation of Moravians in the Eighteenth Century. In later reflection, the Moravians were reminded of the custom of the early church and so they began practicing Love Feasts as a regular part of their communal life. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, shared in a Love Feast at a Moravian Church. Wesley was deeply moved by the service and so Methodists adopted the tradition as well. Today, we continue this tradition with the sharing of bread and spiced tea. Let us pray together:

**P: Father of earth and heaven, thy hungry children feed, thy grace be to our spirits given, that true immortal bread. Grant us and all our race in Jesus Christ to prove the sweetness of thy pardoning grace, the manna of thy love.<sup>1</sup>**

### The Serving of Love Feast Buns and Spiced Tea

#### \*Christmas Carol (Verse 1)

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

 UMH Pg. 215

#### Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38

## CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS



### Prayers of Concern

- Men and women in the military
- Daniel Chase's sister, Beth, is diagnosed with brain tumors.
- Charisse Powell's grandfather, Don Smith, fell for the second time and has to re-do the knee surgery that he had done in October. Please pray for the surgery and his spirits.
- Theron Anderson is recovering from knee surgery.

### Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving

- The Topeka Area district church we are praying for this week:  
Topeka: University UMC and their Pastor Brenda Fluellen

If you have a prayer request, please call (785) 484-2224 or e-mail [mumchurch@embarqmail.com](mailto:mumchurch@embarqmail.com).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 25th

#### Merry Christmas!

9:00am Sunday School  
9:45am Welcoming time  
10:00am Worship

### Thursday, December 29th

#### Fold/Mail Newsletter

9:00am Women's Exercise  
7:00pm Volleyball Practice

### Monday, December 26th

### Friday, December 30th

### Tuesday, December 27th

9:00am Women's Exercise  
10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency

### Saturday, December 31st

### Wednesday, December 28th

### Sunday, January 1st


#### Happy New Year! / Communion

9:00am Sunday School  
9:45am Welcoming time  
10:00am Worship  
11:15am Staff/Parish Committee

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Worship on New Year's Day** - As with Christmas, so also New Year's Day falls on Sunday this year, and we will have a 10 am Worship Service. Our New Year's Day service will celebrate "Epiphany," as we remember the Wise Men who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. During this service, we will also join in John Wesley's "Covenant Renewal Service," which is a special service for the beginning of a new year. There is no better way for Christians to begin a new year than gathering together for worship and the "Covenant Renewal Service." We hope that you'll make a point of beginning your new year worshipping with us.

 UMH = UM Hymnal

 FWS = Faith We Sing

<sup>1</sup>This prayer was written by Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, as a blessing for Methodist Love Feasts. See *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, p. 583.

### MISSION STATEMENT

"We share God's love through: committed worship and open fellowship; nurturing all to be ever better disciples of Jesus Christ; serving others from what God has given us."

### VISION STATEMENT

"Sharing God's love within our community and into the world community."

## **GREETERS AND LITURGISTS**

If you would like to volunteer on the days that are empty or your name is listed and you cannot be here, please contact Marilyn Overstreet or the office. Thanks so much for volunteering!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
January 1st		
January 8th		
January 15th		
January 22nd		
January 29th		

## **LOOK WHO'S CELEBRATING THIS WEEK!**

### **Birthdays**

12/24 Nicole Kruse  
 12/25 Jesus  
 12/27 Bethany Heller  
 12/28 Jim Conaway  
 12/28 Jeanette Stiles  
 12/28 Tucker Welborn  
 12/30 Jeanette Waters  
 12/31 Judy Glasgow  
 12/31 Susie Olson

### **Anniversaries**

12/27 Bob & Marilyn Overstreet  
 12/27 John & Susie Olson  
 12/30 Bob & Pat Lee`

If your birthday or anniversary or someone you know isn't here, please notify the office so it can be added!

### **Sunday Morning Classes**

**Children's classes:** Pre-K – 8th grades meet downstairs in the church. MS and HS meet in the pastor's office.

**Adult classes:** "First Place 4 Health" meets in the parsonage. "Growing in Faith" meets in the gym.

Nursery available during worship for ages 0 – 5 years of age.

## **THINGS I WANT TO REMEMBER FROM TODAY'S SERMON**

**Pastor**..... Dr. Richard O. Randolph  
**Lay Leader**..... John Corum  
**Accompanist** ..... Marybeth Bramlett  
**Office Secretary/Volunteer Coordinator**..... Carrie Bramlett  
**Today's Liturgist**..... Justice Randolph  
**Today's Greeters & Ushers** ..... Steve and Nicole Kruse

### **MERIDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Main at Dawson Streets  
 P.O. Box 520  
 Meriden, KS 66512  
 (785) 484-2224



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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# POINSETTIAS



## In Memory Of

**Hal Payne** by Margie Payne

**Danny & Mary Ellen Becker** by Lisa Duniven

**Duke Moore** by Jodi Starr

**Midge & Clayton Murphy** by Marilyn Overstreet

**Edith, Harold & Sam Overstreet** by Bob Overstreet

**Alvin & Bill Korber** by Lucy Korber

**Howard & Evelyn Siler and Kenneth Williams** by  
Clayton & Sharon Williams

**Verda Green and Margaret Keith** by Clayton &  
Sharon Williams

**Arnold Lord** by Nancy Lord

**Stanley Wellman and Wanda Hook** by Sharon  
Wellman

**Lydia Clark** by Brad & Pam Clark

**Steven & Perry** by Bob & Shirley Ketchem

**Rev. Charles Randolph, Greer & Pauline**

**Hoover, Helen Oliphant, & Lucky, the dog** by  
Richard, LaGreer, Justice & Eden Randolph

**Nathan & Christie Bramlett and Robert & Ethel  
Spare** by Norman and Marybeth Bramlett

**Doris Turner** by Jeanne Kessler

## In Honor Of

**LaVon Lord** by Nancy Lord

**MUMC Choir** by Claudia Long

**Hazel Randolph** by Richard,  
LaGreer, Justice & Eden Randolph



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