



N A R T H E X

FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

December 2010

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

In December, it is the sounds of Advent and the joy and wonder of Christmas that calls us to come and be in faith together. Come experience the joy and wonder at these events:

Wednesday, December 1 – PEG's Advent Service

at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Our speaker, Dr. Cheryl Woodson, will be talking about finding "G.R.A.C.E." during Advent. With special music and the lighting of candles, it will be a spiritually centering experience. Plan to join us for cookies and punch in Fellowship Hall following the service.

Sunday, December 5 – Second Sunday in Advent

9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - We will light the Candle of Joy

Holy Communion by Intinction

First Message by Rev. Fred Lyon as Senior Pastor of FCC

Sunday, December 12 – Third Sunday in Advent

9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - We will light the Candle of Peace

Christmas Cantata Sunday: Rutter "Gloria" presented by the Chancel Choir and Chamber Brass Ensemble

Sunday, December 19 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - We will light the Candle of Love

Children's Ministries Christmas Pageant, "Follow the Light"

If you haven't contributed an ornament for our collection, please bring one from home and place it on our Christmas tree in the Gathering Space.

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Candlelight Service featuring the "Instant Nativity". Come be part of the nativity story!

9 and 11 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas

Single 10 a.m. All Church Worship Service *In the style of an old-fashioned hymn sing we will sing our favorite Christmas carols one last time before tucking them away for another year. Please bring your remaining Christmas cookies to share at our Fellowship Time in the Gathering Space after worship.*





GOOD NEWS!

Introducing the Rev. Fred Lyon

With an overwhelming AMEN, the congregation approved the call of the Rev. Fred Lyon as our new Senior Pastor at its special meeting on November 14. Pastor Lyon's first day in the pulpit will be December 5. The joyous unity of the congregation's spirit in this call embodied the answer to our prayers!



On Saturday, November 13, FCC members and friends were invited to share fellowship and meet Rev. Lyon and his wife, Jan, at an open house held at the Community House. Here, the Hoag Family meets Pastor Fred.



During Candidate Sunday worship on November 14, Pastor Fred won over FCC's youngest by allowing them to pick him up off of the ground - illustrating to them that when the church works together, even things that seem impossible on your own can be accomplished!

SAVE THE DATE!

SPECIAL SERVICE OF INSTALLATION of Rev. Fred Lyon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011

AT 3 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

MANY THANKS!



Thank you for the warm welcome you gave Jan and me the weekend of November 13 and 14. We had great fun meeting the congregation on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Worship was a joyful experience, and I am grateful for your confidence in me expressed through the outcome of the congregational vote. I look forward to joining you in a new chapter of discovering what God has in store for all of us at Flossmoor Community Church.

*Godspeed and Peace,
Pastor Fred*

From the Transitional Associate Pastor

An Advent Reflection by Rev. Kim Wood

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"



I was reflecting one Sunday how frequently we begin our worship services with this declaration so astutely proclaimed by the Psalmist. It is, after all, a pretty standard way to begin our celebration of the Sabbath. But it made me wonder...shouldn't we begin every day this way, rejoicing and thanking God for the gift of that day? It is almost like we recognize that God has created the day we recognize as Sabbath, and we are willing to take some time on that day to stop and be thankful, but the rest of our days are spent plowing forward and looking ahead. If we could just, each day, live in that day and be thankful

that God has blessed us with being able to be a part of it, our lives might take on a different, perhaps more faithful, flavor.

I think we do the same thing during Advent. Our goal is to get to Christmas, with a few pit stops along the way so that we have every thing "ready." A few decorations hung here, a present purchased there, a candle lit and a worship service for good measure, and there we are at the stable, quickly reading about Jesus in the manger. Presto-change-o, and another Christmas has come...and gone.

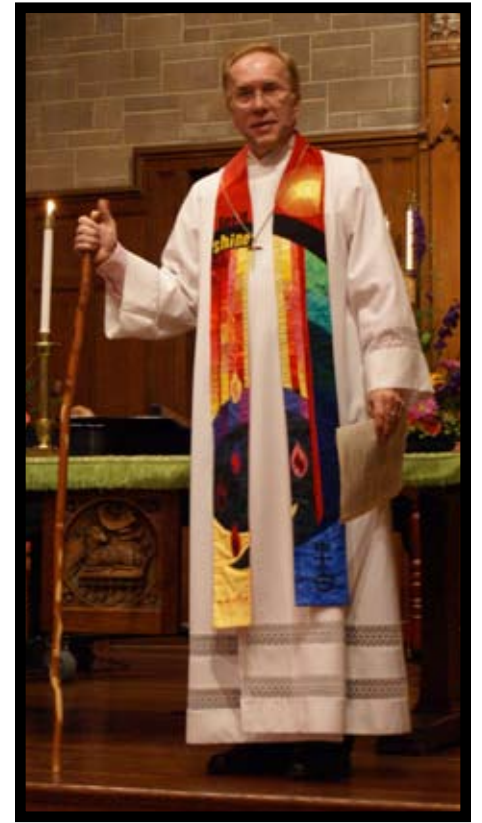
Somehow, I sense that Advent is more about living in the moment than we realize. Quite frankly, whenever we get ahead of ourselves, things get botched and a little out of whack. We miss steps. We break continuity. We set aside our trust in God. For instance, think about Joseph. When he first found out about Mary's pregnancy, I imagine he was beside himself. If he went ahead and married her, what would people say? What would they think of him? Maybe he should walk away. But if he turned his back on her, what would people say about her, do to her? How could she raise a baby on her own? What would their lives look like with a baby in it? I can just imagine him getting so far ahead of things that he was in a total tizzy! It took deep dreams and visits from angels to bring him back to the present.

Surprisingly, Mary did just the opposite. When she was visited by the angel Gabriel, she certainly had a few questions about how this news could possibly be so, but there is no sense that Mary was wringing her hands in worry and disgrace, wondering what her plight would be. Instead, she listened to God's messenger and then said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." Mary lived in the moment, trusting in God. In other words, she said, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

There is a lot going on in our lives; our individual lives and our collective lives as a community of faith. We have a new Senior Pastor coming to serve and to lead. Our Transitional Senior Pastor is going to serve in another congregation needing his guidance and compassion. The Nominating Committee is gathering your ideas for people whom you think would be best-suited to serve on the Associate Pastor Search Committee that will begin its work sometime after the beginning of the year. And here we are in Advent.

There are many new things in your lives right now. And there are many unknowns. It will be easy to get overwhelmed and off-balance. But what is coming down the road is important, and it requires your full faith and trust in God. Might I suggest that you take Mary's approach this Advent Season? Live each day for the gift that it is. Trust that God will get you where you need to go. Celebrate God present with you in the moment. And begin each morning with these simple, yet profound words: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

May faith and peace be the stones upon which you step as you walk the path of Advent, and may hope light your way!



FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN

Dear Members and Friends of Flossmoor Community Church:

For 18 months, I have had the pleasure to be your temporary shepherd and Transitional Senior Pastor. I have enjoyed my ministry here and have labored to continue the things you value and help you discern the things you need to move into your future.

I learned about a congregation that has high expectations for ministry and a spirit for courageous and innovative vision. I have come to love you all and take with me your love and appreciation.

Now I invite you to transfer your love and appreciation to the ministry of Rev. Fred Lyon. Together, I envision wondrous things coming from FCC! Advent and Christmas is a wondrous time. Let us all get caught up in God's wonder and love once again!

In hope, peace, love, and joy!

Rev. Dr. Tom Zoelzer



ADULT EDUCATION

DISCOVERY FORUM

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room

Led by Trina Hayes

Join the continuing discussion of Krista Tippett's *Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters and How to Talk About It* on December 5 and 12. No advance preparation is necessary as we read the text aloud and discuss it. Books are available to use during the discussion. This month we're talking about the narrative way of speaking about religion and ethics and its power to reframe difficult conversations.

On December 19 the "Third Sunday Book Club" will discuss Helen Simonson's *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, an ironic comedy of manners with a touch of romance and astute observations about pride, cultural changes, values, and dignity.

The Discovery Forum will not meet on December 26.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Begins Sunday, November 28 at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Led by George Francis

Join us Sunday mornings during Advent for a lively discussion around the presentation *Victory and Peace or Justice and Peace*, featuring Biblical scholar, author and lecturer John Dominic Crossan. This DVD-based study explores the juxtaposition of Roman Imperial Theology and the Kingdom of God and discusses such topics as

Justice & the World: What is the Character of Your God?

History & Jesus: What is the Content of Your Faith?

Worship & Violence: What is the Purpose of Your Prayer?

Resurrection & Community: What is the Function of Your Church?

COMING SOON...

Psalms Disciple Series: Due to the overwhelming success of the Psalms Disciple series in the spring of 2010, we will offer this class again beginning in January. This class will be held on Sunday evenings and will be led by Steve Bennett and Patti Taylor. Sign-up sheets are available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space.

Forgiveness – Making Peace with your Past and Moving on with Your Life: Priscilla Boyd will lead this 10:30 a.m. Sunday class beginning January 23. Each session, you will hear tips and strategies for accessing Spirit through the use of journaling, meditation and visualization.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



The Adult Ed committee wants your input in the planning process. Please take a few minutes to fill out our survey and tell us what topics you would like to see offered and when/if you want to take classes. The survey is available on-line at:

<http://fccforms.wufoo.com/forms/fcc-adult-education-survey/>

Paper copies will also be available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space.



PEGs Advent Worship Service

Wednesday, December 1
at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Plan to attend the first EVENING Advent Service sponsored by Parent Education Groups (PEGs)! Our speaker, Dr. Cheryl Woodson, will speak about finding "G.R.A.C.E." during Advent. With special music and the lighting of candles, it will be a spiritually centering experience. Join us for cookies and punch in Fellowship Hall following the service. If you need a ride, please contact Ruth Watson at 708-633-0781. To reserve childcare in the nursery, please email Carolyn Parsons at caroparsons@gmail.com with the names and ages of your little ones. We hope to see you there!



If you missed the PEGs' fall Boutique Bazaar or if you're thinking about finishing up your Christmas shopping, there's still a chance to purchase hats and gifts for children; hats and mittens for the adults on your list; jewelry, Christmas ornaments and decor as well as PEGs' famous French Country Soup Mix jars. Visit the Multi-Purpose Room at the end of Fellowship Hall on December 1 after the Advent Service. Soup mixes will also be available at the Wreath Sale pickup in the Community House on December 3 & 4.

Shop to benefit worthy causes on Cantata Sunday, December 12, between and after worship in the Gathering Space where the Boutique items and soup mixes will be available along with Bead for Life jewelry from the Board of Outreach Ministries.



**FCC Children's Ministries
proudly announces it's
2010 Christmas Pageant:**



**Sunday, December 19
at the 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services**

Mark your calendars and join us as we journey through the entire narrative of Jesus' birth. Beginning with John the Baptist, the children will "travel" through the story, arriving with the shepherds to worship the newborn King. Interspersed throughout will be the lighting of the four Advent candles and the Christmas candle. And of course, there will be lots of wonderful music presented by our Cherub and Jubilate choirs, as well as large group songs including all those in Children's Ministries.

This time of year is so special. It's a time for family, friends and music. This time of year is also called "The Season of Light" because this is when we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. So come and join us, as we "Follow The Light!"



FCC Children's Ministries

"Trunk or Treat!"

Our first "Trunk or Treat" was a blast! All of the kids in Children's Ministries dressed up as one of the Biblical plagues or characters. We had everything from blood and darkness to Daniel and all of his lions.

As they walked from car to car, they were asked to recite a Bible verse before given a "treat." Thanks to all who participated to make it such a success!





FCC Youth Ministries

Disciples & Sophs on their recent Fall Retreat



Annual Youth Alum & Leadership Christmas Open House



**Wednesday, December 22
7 – 10 p.m.
At the Hanzelin's House
2039 Evans, Flossmoor**

A night of reconnecting and celebrating for all former Youth and current staffers. Please plan to stop by when you can and enjoy some Christmas goodies and fellowship. Please help spread the word!

ONE MEAL DAY

YOUTH MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

GET THE HUNGER!

Each Christmas season, Youth Ministries provides an opportunity for intentional giving to our congregation and friends. In the past we have given to the Children's Clean Water Project, Bite Back (mosquito nets), and Heifer Project. This year, we are building on our One Meal One Day project and giving to Compassion International to feed hungry children around the world.

You can choose to give the gift of feeding a child for one week (\$3.25), one month (\$13) or one year (\$156). Gift cards are available to give to others which provide notice of your gift as well as information regarding hunger in the world and Compassion International. The cards will be available on Sundays in the Gathering Space beginning November 28 or during the week in the Youth Office. You can also contact bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org for more information or to request cards.



Ways to Give Back During this Season of Giving!

BeadForLife Fundraiser - December 5 & 12

Ugandan women turn colorful recycled paper into beautiful beads that are sold around the world. The income comes back to the women for food, medicine, school fees and hope. The handmade jewelry will be available between services at church on December 5 and 12 and all proceeds will benefit BeadForLife.



The Giving Tree

Pick a name from our Giving Tree (located in the Gathering Space) and purchase a Christmas gift for a little boy or girl. Your gift supports Aunt Martha's Youth Center. Aunt Martha's aids children and youth in all of the southland communities. **Gifts should be delivered to FCC by December 5.**

The Penny & Dime Store

Give a young child an opportunity to 'purchase' family gifts for Christmas. The Jones Memorial Center provides a 'store' where kids in their after-school program can shop. Purchase new (under \$10) or 're-gift' something you already have (no opened boxes, please) and **deliver the UNWRAPPED gifts to FCC by December 3.**

The Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will be in the Gathering Space collecting hats, mittens, gloves and scarves **until December 12** for adult and children clients of the Jones Memorial Center in Chicago Heights.



Christmas Angels



You can help a local needy family experience the true spirit of Christmas giving by becoming a Christmas Angel. We are hoping to match families with Christmas Angels who can fulfill their Christmas wishes. We would also appreciate any monetary donations (by December 1, if possible) for gift certificates for groceries, shoes, and other essentials. *(Make checks payable to Flossmoor Community Church, noting Christmas Angels on the memo line.)*

You may also provide items such as towels, blankets, sheets, toiletries, pots & pans, dishes, laundry detergent and canned goods. To participate, simply fill out the blue Christmas Angels 2010 Sponsor Information Sheet, available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space, and return it as soon as possible. Questions? Please call Sis Flor at 798-8311, Joan Hardy at 957-1893 or Julie Howard at 815-469-4024.

A reminder to our Christmas Angels: Please bring your boxed and labeled packages to the Community House (798-9857) on Friday, December 17, between 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Volunteers will be there to receive your gifts and sort them for delivery. If you would like to see the joy on our receiving families' faces, we would love to have you help deliver the gifts to the families on Saturday, December 18, from 9:30 a.m. until noon!

Mission Grants Available!

Do you know of an organization that needs the support of a church family? We want to provide mission grants to worthy organizations to embrace our FCC core values. Grants last year totaled almost \$50,000! Provide the Board of Outreach with the organization name, phone and email, and contact name as well as a short description of their mission. Your suggestions are welcome **through December 31.** Contact Jackie Riffice at 708.957.0231.



Because We Care.

A Message from the Diaconate Board

The word "deacon" is derived from the Greek word diakonos, which is a standard Greek word meaning "servant", "minister" or "messenger". Deacon is a role in the Christian Church that is generally associated with service of some kind. However defined, it is an important role that is filled at FCC by the Diaconate Board.

The Diaconate Board answers to Christ's call to love and care for each other. The Board's ministries include:

- Maintaining regular contact with members who are homebound or living in healthcare facilities;

- Arranging receptions following funerals and memorial services;

- Providing meals on a temporary basis;

- Arranging transportation for those in need of a ride to church or to a doctor's appointment;

- Delivering altar flowers from our worship services to those in need of a caring touch;

- Handwriting notes to members with concerns who simply need to know we love them.

If you hear any of these calls to service please contact Kim Wood, Transitional Associate Pastor, to become a part of this serving ministry.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS IT ALL?



Consider a gift to the FCC Foundation! No gift is too small. Consider making a gift in the name of a friend or loved one. Please contact Bill Lindstrom today to make your gift now. You can reach Bill either at the church office or by email at wmlinds@comcast.net.

Why give to the Foundation? Because a larger fund allows your Foundation to contribute a greater amount to the FCC operating budget each year.

If you are concerned about Foundation rules restricting payments to the church, please don't be. Early next year the Foundation Board will present to the congregation a new spending model that will help smooth out payments from the Foundation to FCC. Stay tuned.

Your Foundation is working and evolving. Make a donation today!



CALLING ON OUR COMMUNITY... THE BARGAIN BOX NEEDS YOU!

The Bargain Box is a resale shop in Homewood run by the Women's & Men's Association of Flossmoor Community Church. It's a lot more than just a resale shop - we are a place where those in need are able to make purchases with dignity, and a place of fellowship for volunteers and patrons alike. The Bargain Box is a shop where we hear stories of an individual who has been able to find a treasure for their loved one they may not have been able to find anywhere else.

The Bargain Box also calls on you to reduce, reuse and recycle. Donate your household items and clothing in season. We ask all donated items be clean and in good condition. We are also a place to shop for near new items! We carry men's, women's and children's clothing. Other items you may find include purses, jewelry, shoes and small household items.

When you donate your time or your belongings, you give back to our community. Likewise by shopping Bargain Box you are helping the environment and our community. Some of the agencies to whom the Women's and Men's Association give back include PADS, Respond Now, and the Cancer Support Center.

Our hours of operation are Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. We are in need of volunteers to staff ONE three hour shift per month. These shifts are from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1pm-4pm. If you'd rather work behind the scenes, we have a job for you, too. On Mondays and Tuesdays our shop is closed so volunteers may sort and price our donations. These hours generally run from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. You may choose to work all or part of the shift.

If you are looking for a fun, friendly atmosphere come join us!
Contact Lisa Kowynia 754-2628



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10 (NSRV)

In this passage, Peter reminds us that we are all stewards. No one lacks the ability to serve God in some way. God has given each of us a gift. Although each one of us has received a different gift, everyone's gift is valuable to God. In this way, every Christian is a unique steward of God and God needs every steward to use his/her gift for God's glory.

Just as God uses each one of us in his service, Flossmoor Community Church needs each member to be a faith-filled steward. The health of our church depends on the full use of the time, talents and treasure of each and every one of its members. No one's gift is trivial. We need everyone's gifts to make our church whole. For this reason, the greatest asset of our church is the diversity of our congregation. FCC needs each and every steward to contribute to the mission and the ministries of the church. In the best of times and the worst of times, God will give each of us the strength to serve him. If we rely on him and give all that we have to give, we can serve God in whatever he calls us to do in his name. Merry Christmas from the Stewardship Committee!



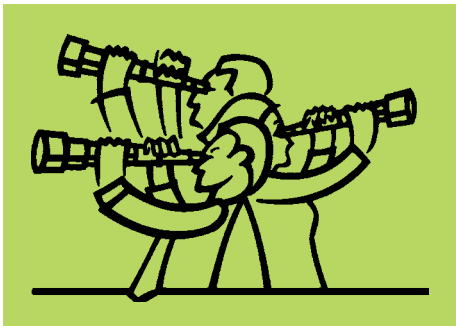
Women's & Men's Association

**Caroling, Caroling:
Music of the Season
Program & Luncheon**

**Wednesday, December 8
at noon in Fellowship Hall**

Tickets: \$10

The Midwest Motet Society, directed by Marie Grass Amenta has a holiday program in store for us. It will include the old and the new - favorite carols of secular and sacred pieces and an old favorite done differently. MMS was founded in 2006 by Marie with a mission to bring quality chamber choral music to Chicago Southland. Ms. Grass Amenta states, "There is a whole repertoire of music that is not usually performed in our community and we believe it should be." Get into the spirit of Christmas and the holiday season with this fine chamber choral music offering!



**WE ARE HALF WAY
TO FINDING OUR
NEW PASTORAL
TEAM! HELP US GO
THE DISTANCE!**

Dear FCC faith family,

Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement as we relocated to Kansas City this summer. We greatly miss all of you. We sold our house in Homewood and have made our home in KC. All is going well. Mark & Erik are doing well and enjoying their schools and our new neighborhood. Kurt and I are happy in our work, and we've been able to spend quality time with our families, now that we live closer to them.

We are encouraged to hear of Rev. Lyon leading the FCC family. Our prayers will be with you through this transition. We've found a church here, but still feel part of the FCC family. Please keep in touch!

In the spirit of Advent,
Kurt, Susan, Mark & Erik Mason
5006 NW 66th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64151
masons88@sbcglobal.net

Please identify wise and discerning church members you think have the perfect gifts to serve on the Associate Pastor Search Committee. Let your mind's eye roam through all corners of our congregation - all age groups, all interests, long-time members and newcomers - and drop us a note with your recommendations.

Nomination forms are available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space, or you can submit names via email by sending them to Anna Carvalho, Nominating Committee Chair, at annacarvalho@sbcglobal.net **by noon on December 3**. If you have questions, please contact Anna at 708-798-6786.



We Celebrate the Birth of:

Carson Hamilton Gardner and Garrett Hunter Gardner, twin sons of Amy & David Gardner, brother of Connor and the grandsons of Jill Hamilton.



Congratulations to:

Karyn Laabs and Eric Bart, who were married October 23. Karyn is the daughter of Ray and Sandy Laabs, and the sister of Eric Laabs.



Our Sympathy and Prayers to:

Verna, David and Steven McQuown in the death of Verna's husband and David and Steven's father, Dean McQuown, on November 10.

Libby and Scott Andrews and family in the death of Libby's father, Captain George McCarten, USN Retired, on November 8.



If you would like to decorate our Sanctuary with a poinsettia this Christmas, please use the order form below. The poinsettias will beautify our Sacred Space on Sundays, December 19 and on Christmas Eve. The poinsettia list will be in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins. The **deadline** to order is **Sunday, December 12.**



Quantity: _____ poinsettia plant(s) @ \$11 each = \$ _____

Choose one:

- _____ I will pick up my plant(s) following the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service.
- _____ I will give my plant(s) to someone who is ill or homebound.
(Delivered by a member of the Diaconate)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

My poinsettia is to be dedicated:

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In appreciation of _____

_____ In loving memory of _____

From: _____

Order forms and checks (payable to Flossmoor Community Church) must be returned to the church office (Attn. Brooke) **no later than Sunday, December 12.** Flossmoor Community Church • 2218 Hutchison Rd. • Flossmoor, IL 60422

Questions may be directed to Brooke Parry at 708-798-2800 x 13 or bparry@fccfaithful.org



DECEMBER

Worship from 9-10 a.m. & 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Adult Education: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Youth Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Promised Land Church School: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Preschool Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Nursery Care: 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Wed	12/01	PEGs Advent Service (SA)	7 pm
Fri	12/03	FCC Office Volunteer Tea (PA)	10 am
Sun	12/05	Second Sunday of Advent Communion Nominating Committee (FR)	11:30 am
Mon	12/06	Women's & Men's Association Executive Board Meeting (FR)	12 pm
Tues	12/07	Diaconate (PA) Children's Ministries (A2C) Adult Ministries (Rm.22) Personnel (FR)	6:30 pm 7 7:30
Wed	12/08	Women's & Men's Association Luncheon & Program (FH)	12 pm
Sun	12/12	Third Sunday of Advent Cantata Sunday	
Tues	12/14	Finance (LB) Outreach (PA) Congregational Life (Rm.22) Properties (Rm.23) Lay Ministries (A2C) Worship & the Arts (GS)	6:30 pm 7 7:15 7:30
Wed	12/15	January Narthex Deadline Foundation (FR)	12 pm 7:30
Fri	12/17	Christmas Angels Donations Drop-Off (CH)	9 am - 9pm
Sun	12/19	Fourth Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Pageant	
Tues	12/21	Stephen Ministry Peer Support (FR, PA) Stewardship (SPO)	7 pm 7:30
Wed	12/22	Youth Leadership & Alum Open House (Hanzelin's House)	7-10 pm
Fri	12/24	Christmas Eve <i>Office closes at noon.</i> Family Candlelight Service (SA) Candlelight Lessons & Carols	5 pm 9 & 11 pm

Sat	12/25	Christmas Day	
Sun	12/26	Carol Sing & Single Worship Service (SA)	10 am
Mon	12/27	Christmas Observed - Office closed.	
Tues	12/28	Governing Board (FH)	7 pm
Fri	12/31	New Years Eve - Office closed.	



SPECIAL WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

Mon	HFHS Moms in Touch Prayer Group (OAS)	9 am
Tues	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Staff Meeting (FR)	9:30 am 1 pm
Wed	Chair Yoga (SC) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC) Cherub Choir (FR) Jubilate Choir (CP) Youth Leadership (CP)	11 am 12:30 pm 4 7:30
Thurs	Serena Hills Moms in Touch Prayer Group (Rm22) Women of Note (BC) Chancel Ringers (RRB) Chancel Choir (CP) Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	9:30 am 1:15 pm 6:30 7:30 7:30
Fri	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	9:30 am
Sat	Men's Church at the Train Station (CATS) - Flossmoor Station Restaurant	8 am
Sun	PADS (FH)	6 pm

CALENDAR CODES

A2C	Acts2Crew (Rm. 10)	GS	Gathering Space	OAS	Oasis (Rm 11)	SPO	Sr. Pastor's Office
CP	Chapel	GE	Genesis Room	PA	Parlor	TR	Tower Room
CH	Community House	LB	Library	PEGs	Parent Education Groups	TP	Temple (Room 12)
CS	Creation Station (Rm. 15)	MPT	MasterPeace Theater (Rm. 14)	RRB	Rehearsal Room B	WMA	Women's & Men's Association
FR	Family Room	MPR	Multipurpose Room	SA	Sanctuary	WPS	Weekday Preschool
FH	Fellowship Hall	NU	Nursery	SC	Spirituality Center	YC	Youth Crossings

N A R T H E X

2010

FLOSSMOOR
COMMUNITY CHURCH
2218 Hutchison Road
Flossmoor, IL
60422-1325

708-798-2800



A Resurrection Little Christmas

Judging by their sheer volume over the centuries, no stories capture the Christian imagination more completely than those surrounding the celebration of Jesus' birth. True, Easter is considered more theologically significant to our faith, and the Gospels have much more to say about the empty tomb than the nativity. Yet, popular stories about Christmas greatly outnumber those about Easter. Maybe this is because the birth of a baby is easier to comprehend than resurrection from the dead.

Then again, maybe the best known popular tales for the Christmas season actually are Easter stories. The treasured lore about Christmas that contributes to our memory of Christ's birth tends to feature characters undergoing rebirth, renewal and resurrection. Look closely at a good Yuletide story and you will find that true Christmas spirit is not far removed from the Spirit of the risen Christ.

Consider some examples:

Following a dark night of ghostly visitations, Ebenezer Scrooge is set free from his miserly ways to become the possessor of a most generous heart. Speaking of heart, that belonging to the Grinch -- who really only almost stole Christmas -- grows three sizes when he realizes that those from whom he has taken all the trappings of the holiday still joyfully gather to sing about the lively substance of Christmas. The Peanuts gang discovers the meaning of Christmas when they stop scoffing at a scrawny little tree of no commercial value...long enough to turn it into something beautiful through tender loving care. George Bailey runs wildly through the streets of Bedford Falls, rejoicing over a new beginning after his own dark night in "It's a Wonderful Life." In "Amahl and the Night Visitors," Amahl walks unaided for the first time in his life when he gives his crutch to the Magi to take as a gift for the Christ Child.

And so we watch the power of resurrection unfold during this season when we celebrate the arrival of him whose birth the angels sing. Be alert for such transformation all through Advent and Christmas. For the child in the lowly stable is Lord and Savior, and from a manger emerges the Messiah.

Joy to the World, Peace on Earth, and God Bless Us, Everyone,

Pastor Fred