**Spirit of Christmas Projects**

**Spirit of Christmas Gifts are due at the church Sunday, November 24**

Spirit of Christmas is an anonymous gift program. The gifts you will be giving may be the only ones the person will receive. We ask that you include only new, nicely wrapped items. It is not necessary to purchase every item requested. This year, there is an increase in the number of people requesting assistance. **Even though some dates have passed, financial contributions are always welcomed.** (Make checks out to Interfaith Council Spirit of Christmas). If you would like more information on this project contact Spirit of Christmas Coordinators Doug & Amy Baker, 457-0630.

**Thanksgiving Dinner at the Newman Center**

12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 28

The 51st Annual Thanksgiving Day Meal, at the Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 W. Washington Street in Carbondale. Free & all are welcome! To volunteer, make a donation, or have a meal delivered, please call 618-529-3311 by 4 p.m., Wednesday, November 27. Volunteers are needed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

**Beary Christmas Tree, Stuffed Animals for Pediatric Patients**

December 1 - December 24

Everyone is again invited to bring a small (new and clean) teddy bear (or other animal) to decorate the tree in the Narthex. The bears will be donated for use not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. They can be brought to the church any time from December 1 through December 24 and left by the Narthex tree. They will be delivered after church in January. What a great excuse to buy a stuffed animal!

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 and Christmas Eve

The advent candles will be lit at both worship services. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, we will light the Candle of HOPE; the second Sunday of Advent, December 8, WAY OF LOVE; the third Sunday of Advent, December 15, JOY; the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, PEACE; and also on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, the CHRIST CANDLE.

“Around the Table” Carol Sing and Children’s Christmas Program

6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 1

Join the church family for a time of singing familiar carols in the Fellowship Hall. The children will be presenting “Carol of the Animals.” Bring a plate of cookies to share and enjoy cookies and drinks before the program. The children will have a re-hearsal of their program during Children’s Church (10:45 a.m.) on Sunday, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 in the Fellowship Hall.

**Advent Decorating**

Saturday, December 7

Come have a good time decorating the church during Advent! Everyone is invited to come to the church on Saturday, December 7 at 8:30 a.m. and join the Priscilla Circle for the traditional Hanging of the Greens. Come with your holiday spirit, music, or maybe a plate of cookies to share - shop-vacs are especially welcome on December 7 and then again on January 6 at 1:00 p.m. when we do the UN-decorating!

**Advent Music Vespers**

5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 1, 8, 15 & 22

Special Music will once again be an important part of the Christmas season at FUMC. Each Sunday evening in Advent at 5:00 p.m. a 30-minute program of “Music Vespers” will be presented in the Sanctuary. This year’s presentations include:

- December 1 - Joe Walczyk-flugelhorn, trumpet; Robert Weiss-narrator, trombone; Anita Hutton-piano
- December 8 - Dr. Sidney G. Smith, M.D.-organ
- December 15 - Anita Hutton-piano
- December 22 - Tammy Kirk-flute; Anita Hutton-piano

**March to the Manger**

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services, Sunday, December 8

During the services on December 8 we celebrate the season of giving by bringing gifts for missions at home and abroad. Adults bring monetary gifts wrapped in small packages which are left at a living manger scene. Be watching your mail for this year’s letter and list of missions. Children should bring unwrapped gifts for Cobden Hispanic Ministries and place them at the manger during either service. (A list of children’s gift items is available. See your Asburian or Necia for details.)

**A Service of Lessons and Carols**

8:15 & 10:45 a.m., Sunday, December 15

Accompanied by a full orchestra, the Choir will lead a music-filled worship service with varied anthems, traditional readings and congregational carols. This inspiring presentation is always one of the highlights of the season.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

5:00 & 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 24

A long-standing tradition at FUMC, we will have special candlelight services at both 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Come and be lifted by the familiar carols, moved by the special music, and inspired by the message of Christ’s birth. The 7:00 p.m. service will include special music with the Sanctuary Choir.

**Un-decorating the Church**

1:00 p.m., Monday, January 6

UN-DECORATING will begin at 1:00 p.m., Monday, January 6. Everyone’s help is needed that day! Shop-Vacs will be much appreciated!