



The United Endeavor

DECEMBER 1968

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD. 21224



THE CHRIST-CHILD IN CHRISTMAS

"Last Christmas I came across this little paragraph: 'Shopping in these turbulent days, we saw a little boy put his hand inquiringly on a ten-cent figure of the Christ-Child, part of a Creche, in a store. 'What is this,' he asked his mother, who had him by the hand. She replied, 'C'mon, c'mon, you don't want that,' and dragged him away, for her mind was on other thoughts, chiefly getting a supply of gifts purchased. Here was this boy, with his hand on the Christ-child, and his mother's only comment was, 'Come on, you don't want that..... That mother's reply differs not one whit from much of the attitude of our surrounding life. We are almost ashamed to speak of the Christ-Child in connection with many of our Christmas sentiments.'"

Another Advent season is upon us, the preparation season for the Christmas festival and the season of Christmastide. May we as part of the Christian faith not forget what Christmas is all about. It is so easy for us to permit the world to be 'too much' with us, to assume the worldly interpretation of the season of Christmas and to forget its true meaning. Your church invites you to all the Advent and Christmas services, to help you not forget.

*from the writings of Frederick W. Meek.



ADVENT AND PRE-CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 1 - 1st Sun. in Advent
Services at 7:45 and 10:15 a.m. with the Sacrament of Holy Communion at each service. Pastor Weisser will be preaching this day.

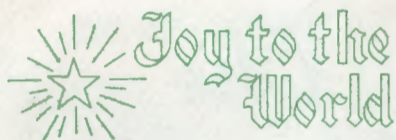
With Advent we begin our Advent ceremonials, and on this Sunday will observe the 'Hanging of the Greens' at the 10:15 service.

Sunday, Dec. 8 - 2nd Sun. in Advent
Services at 8 and 10:15 a.m. present a special service by our two choirs. These will be musical services, and will present the story of Advent and Christmas in choral form. Ceremony of wreaths and creche
This also will be Tinsel Day, (see article later in this issue)

Sunday, Dec. 15 - 3rd Sun. in Advent
Sermon by Pastor Rasche at both the 8 and 10:15 a.m. service. On this Sunday our beautiful tree will be decorated and on display.

Sunday, Dec. 22 - 4th Sun. in Advent
Christmas sermon by Pastor Rasche at early service. Church School Christmas, 10:15 (see article) By this Sunday the final decorations of our sanctuary for Christmas will be complete, with the addition of the beautiful poinsettia at our altar. Memorial Service included in these services.

Church School this Sunday begins at 9:30 a.m. instead of at 9 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE AT UNITED

On Christmas Eve we provide two identical services, the first at 8 p.m. and the second at 10:45 p.m. Many families with young children choose the early service, for it is a service which even the young children will appreciate. The late service seems to appeal to young couples and older family members.

In each service the music of Christmas will be presented by our choral groups, with the Christmas message by Pastor Rasche. Each service will also include the traditional service of 'candlelighting' which is always so beautiful and impressive on this Eve of Christ's birth. Then too, we each have the opportunity in our Christmas offering, to bring our special love gift to Christ's Church. This ought to be a real gift of love over and above all other giving of the year.

TINSEL DAY SUN. DEC. 8



"Tinsel Day is a lovely day at our church." This is the expression of ever so many folk who have participated in this day of fellowship and Christmas planning here at United.

Tinsel Day begins with the noon meal on this Sunday, and continues through the afternoon. The meal is a prepared meal for which advance reservations should be turned in by our families (please note enclosed reservation sheet). This is a family day here at your church. It is for entire family groups. We prepare the meal and contributions are made toward its cost by those eating the meal. The meal will be served at approximately 12 noon, and will be buffet style. Then, at 1:30, the members of the various departments of our Church School will go to the department for the pur-

pose of decorating the department and making arrangements for the coming Christmas season. At the same time, the youth and adults will go to the sanctuary to decorate the sanctuary tree. Then, at approximately 4 p.m. we will all gather in the sanctuary for a carol sing, and then to Friendship Hall again for the 'birthday party' for Jesus, for Christmas is, after all, Jesus' birthday.

Maybe you've never, as a family, gotten around to participating in this day at United. It will heighten your preparation for Christmas.



CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Our Church School will participate in the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 22nd. The Church School session will begin at 9:30 that morning and upon the signal, the departments will file from the regular meeting place into the sanctuary.

The two youngest departments will only be in the sanctuary for the first part of the service, then will return to their departments for remainder of the time.

The Christmas Program Committee of the Church School is at work preparing the program for this service. In addition to the prepared program there will be a brief message by the Pastor.

Following the service the departments (save the two youngest) will go to Friendship Hall, where definite locations for each department will be noted, and at those spots, the Christmas gifts will be given.



OUR CHOIRS PRESENT CHRISTMAS MUSIC

On Sunday, Dec. 8th at both the morning services, our choirs will present the Music of Christmas as the feature of each service. The entire service will be given over to this contribution by our fine choirs. Incidentally, they will appear Dec. 1 at 3 in a Negro church.



PLEASE REMEMBER DURING DECEMBER

POINSETTIA FUND - Annually we decorate the sanctuary of our church during the Advent and Christmas season, and it becomes extra lovely. That your Council may be assisted in the cost of the hangings, the wreaths, the tree, and the purchase of the lovely poinsettia plants which beautify the altar, the folk of the church and its organizations have contributed annually to the Poinsettia Fund. If you desire to do so, place the gift in an envelope mark it Poinsettia Fund and add your name and address. If you desire your gift to be a Memorial, please indicate this on the envelope as well as the name in whose memory the gift is given.

MEMORIALS AT CHRISTMAS - The Memorial Service will be a part of the service on Dec. 22nd. Memorials, to be included in the program must be received by Dec. 15th.

CANNED GOODS AT CHRISTMAS - Another manner in which we cooperate during December is to provide canned goods and staple foods, plus cash donations, for the provision of sacks of food for the needy who would have a poor Christmas save that we churches of the Canton Christian Council had this program. Food and cash gifts should be brought to the church on Sundays, Dec. 15 and 22.

HOME COMMUNIONS - Those who are ill or shut-in and desire the Holy Sacrament at Christmas, please call the office and leave the request with Mrs. Fader. Pastor Rasche will seek to bring the Communion to all the homes from which a request is made.

1969 CHURCH ENVELOPES - The new sets of envelopes will be ready for distribution on Sunday, Dec. 15, and may be picked up from tables in

Friendship Hall. Again, may it be said that all who have not used the envelopes in 1968 will find none made out for them for 1969. It is hoped that all will seek envelopes, and if none are ready for you, speak to the Pastor. May we all remember that in December we ought to bring our envelopes up to date for the year, so that by year's end, no envelopes remain in our box but all have been turned in. Let not 1968 die but that each of us have done our utmost in support of our local church and the church of Christ at large in the world.

NURSERY IN OPERATION EACH SUNDAY

More of our young families ought to be making use of the Nursery we have established during the 10:15 service hour, on the 2nd fl. of the School Bldg. Here we have special persons whose responsibility is to care for our children, from 2 to 5 yrs. We admonish that you bring your family to the church service, leaving the little ones in the Nursery.

OUR WHITE GIFTS - Each year our Church School remembers some group, hospital or agency at Christmastime. Articles are gathered together from Sunday to Sunday which are needed, and then packed and sent to the selected institution. This year we are remembering the City Hospitals, and we are each requested, through the Church School and as adults, to bring articles such as toothpaste, soap, shaving cream, cologne, etc., plus other articles which may be announced from Sunday to Sunday. All our gifts will be packed in a huge carton and delivered to City Hospital as a gift from United Church.



DEC. 29TH AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, December 29th is the last Sunday of 1968. Our schedule for this Sunday will be the normal one, with post-Christmas services at 8 and 10:15 a.m., Church School, 9 a.m.

Then, on New Year's Eve, we have a service at 8 p.m. This will be a full Worship service, of brief but meaningful nature.

BEST SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL!

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

Mrs. Bernice Hodges, adult, Oct 27
Cynthia April, daughter of Glenn
and Theresa Eckley, Nov. 10

Bonnie Jean, daughter of Kenneth
and Jean Biscoe, Nov. 10

Raymond Frederick, Jr., son of Ray-
mond and Ann Meyers, Nov. 10

Craig Allen, son of Alfred and
Louise Johnson, Nov. 17

Weddings

John Giudice and Agnes Lockman,
on Oct. 27

Harry Fischer and Carol Lukenick,
Nov. 9

Irving Reicher and Dolores M. Sny-
der, Nov. 10

Funerals

Mrs. Leona Einschutz, age 74, Nov. 4

Fred Blimline, age 72, Nov. 7

Mrs. Julia Avesser, age 75, Nov. 7

Joann Schindler, 6 mo., Nov. 11

Mrs. Marie Hensel, age 73, Nov. 15

IMPLICATIONS OF APOSTLES' CREED

(Final papers presented by Confirm-
and last Easter)

About Jesus Christ

Who is Jesus Christ? God's answer
to this question is, 'This is my be-
loved Son, hear Him.' We know that
he is true God and true man in one
person in human form. He was sent
by God, a part of Himself, as our
Saviour, to teach us to be the way
God wants us to be, and to bring us
closer to God.

Why did He come to earth? He was
sent to earth to be a light to man,
to guide him and to be a glory to
the people of His kingdom. We also
think He came to prepare and bring
about man's redemption. But of all
the reasons we have we feel the one
most important is that He came to
spread the Word of God and to estab-
lish the kingdom of God on earth.

What was the purpose and what did
He accomplish during His ministry?
Christ developed two fundamental
religious ideas. He taught the true
nature of the kingdom of God, and
the true fatherhood of God and bro-
therhood of man. Through these two
ideas He accomplished many things.
He taught man of his evil ways and
how to live in holiness. He did
this by living His life perfectly
and fulfilling the law of God. He
instituted the Holy Sacraments of
baptism and the Lord's Supper so
that the people may receive the
spirit of God. He established the
preaching of the Gospel, establish-
ing it with the words, 'Go ye into

all the world and preach the gospel
to the whole creation.' This was a
big job for one man. But with the
help of the disciples and by His
own preaching, many people became
His followers.

What has Jesus to do with the re-
demption of man from sin to salva-
tion? Jesus Christ is the most im-
portant factor of redemption. He ac-
complished our redemption by, as
the Catechism says - "by His preach-
ing of forgiveness of sin and the
way to holiness. He perfectly ful-
filled the law of God in our stead.
But most of all He bore the penalty
and humiliation of our sins by suf-
fering on the cross and by His
death." Although His teachings did
give some message to the people and
the example He set also helped,
His death was the most important
factor. With His death, a reali-
zation came to the people of what
they had done. This is the reason
our redemption came about. His resur-
rection also played a big part. It
assures us that as followers of God
we shall likewise be raised to eter-
nal life'



THE

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