



The United Endeavor

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 1973



OUR CENTENNIAL PASSES

With December comes not only the close of a year which has been troublous for our country and the world, but also brings to a close a year which has been very auspicious for our congregation. It was a year which we looked forward for a long time, and it brought 12 months which were each made important by the occurring of one or more special events heralding and celebrating the 100 years of life and service of United Evangelical congregation to the Kingdom of God and our community.

With December we would therefore thank God for the blessings of the year and the opportunity to celebrate such an outstanding birthday as the 100th one, not only 100 year of history but 100 years of history at the same spot. This is doubly meaningful.

We would thank Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon our congregation to enable it to testify to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus through these 10 decades. How many thousands of souls have been

touched by the church in these yrs. is impossible to ascertain. But the influence of the church has been great in many lives and we thank God for enabling this testimony to be made by His grace.

We thank Him also for the myriad of souls who have testified unto the Lord and this community through their involvement in the Lord's work through these years. One cannot count the folk who served on the Church Councils, sang in the choirs, worked on church committees and as a part of the work of the Sunday Church School and the organizations for men, women and youth. All of these have been necessary to make the work grow and continue, for we are the hands and feet and voice of the Lord in furthering His work. We thank Him for using us and our forbears in the promulgation of His cause in our midst.

And now we move into a new century of service. We can reminisce on the great contributions of time, talent and money our predecessors have given to the work. They have laid the foundations for today. But it will be up to us to continue the work. If we fail, no matter how good their contributions were, the cause fails also. It all depends on our sincerity, our devotion and our willingness to not only pray for the blessings of God but to dig in with our hands, minds and money to bring God's blessings into fruition for this day. Let the passing of the 100th year mean a new devotion as we face 100 years plus 1.





ADVENT — A TIME OF EXPECTATION

We always look forward to Christmas, in times bad and times good. Though perchance the continuation of abundant Christmases may be in jeopardy, abundance in the things of life about us as well as the ability to secure all the foods and wherewithal to which we have been accustomed, still the essential validity of Christmas as a day of joy cannot be dimmed. We daren't forget that - that Christmas is in its essential validity a manifestation of joy which is spiritual and not mundane. Christmas is not in heavily laden tables of feasting nor in the super-abundance of gifts, but in the recognition within our faith of the gift of God to us in the person of Jesus, our Saviour and our Lord.

Thus the church announces this great fact in a period of 4 weeks, called Advent, in which we are to place ourselves in the proper spiritual stance so we can accept this gift of God unto us. Advent is to heighten our sense of expectation of the wonderful gift of God.

Come with us, then, on the Sundays of Advent, and the special services of Christmastime, as we give attention to the discipline of expecting. Each service brings us one step closer to Christmas. Be with these important Sundays of Advent.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 2 - 7:45 and 10:15

Services of Holy Communion

Hanging of the Greens in the late service. This is the traditional manner in which we enter Advent, by beginning to decorate our sanctuary.

Lighting of Advent wreath candle

Sermon by Pastor Rasche.

Special offering for Maryland Churches United, Inc.

Sunday, Dec. 9 - 8:00 and 10:15
Service for 2nd Advent Sunday
Hanging of Christmas wreaths in the sanctuary, a second step on the road to Christmas.
Sermon by Pastor Rasche.
Lighting of 2nd Advent candle

Sunday, Dec. 16 - 3rd Advent Sun.
Display of beautiful nativity scene.

Advent message from pulpit.

Special choral music

Lighting of 3rd Advent candle.

Tinsel day following service.

Sunday, Dec. 23 - Christmas Sun.

Display of our gorgeous poinsettia altar with many plants.

Display of our sanctuary Christmas tree.

Message for Christmas Sunday & singing of carols.

Church School Christmas Service at 9 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 30 - Last Sunday of year.

Post-Christmas services, with messages by Pastor Rasche.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES

Monday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Youth Christmas service.

This is a new addition to our Christmas Eve schedule, a service planned and produced by our youth (see article following)

8:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service.

This service is scheduled a half-hour later, and brings the traditional Candlelighting Service with the Christmas message by Pastor Rasche. A beautiful service of candlelighting, the singing of the beautiful carols, the reading of Scripture for Christmas Eve & the Christmas Memorial service.

No Service here on Christmas Day.

Monday, Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

8:00 p.m. The New Year's Eve Service.

We gather in God's House to bid farewell to 1973 and to look forward to the dawn of 1974. A service of 1 hour in length. Special music and message from the pulpit.

No Service here, New Year's Day.



THE PLUS-SES OF ADVENT

Your church seeks to give you many gifts during Advent. It hopes you will accept them by being present for the good gifts of God. Count these gifts below -

1) Tinsel Day, Sunday, Dec. 16 from noon to 4 p.m. A delightful day on which your entire family can fellowship together here at church by

a) eating the noon meal together. No price, but an offering. A full meal to which young and old are invited (youngsters should be accompanied by adults) Fill out the reservation blank and let us know how many of your family are coming.

b) enjoy the after events. Decoration of departments of the Church school by pupils and teachers. Decoration of sanctuary tree by our youth. Advent Work-shop for adults. Carol singing, lighting of tree in the sanctuary, followed by birthday party for Jesus, to end the day's activity.

2) Church School Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 23 at 9 a.m. Our Church School has its annual Christmas service at 9 a.m. The Church School pupils and staff are requested to come directly to the sanctuary instead of going to departments. The service will conclude by 9:30 and will be followed by the departmental Christmas celebration.

3) Youth Carolling, Sun. Dec. 23, at 6 Our youth will carol upon the sick and shut living in the general neighborhood of the church. All folk of the church invited. A splendid way to aid in the Christmas preparation. Refreshments at church following carolling.

4) Youth Christmas Service, on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. A new service, designed, and produced by our youth. Planned especially for the

younger generation but not excluding adults. Presentation of Chancel drama with the carols of Christmas.



GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS

A number of ways are open to us for special giving at Christmas, in addition of our envelope giving.

Canned Goods for Christmas Baskets
We solicit your help in providing canned goods and staples for the filling of Christmas baskets for the needy, and supplying goods for the Food Pantry through 1974, by which we aid the needy who come for help. The date is Sunday, Dec. 16 for you to bring canned goods donations, or give cash gifts.

Poinsettia Fund and Memorials
Annually many of you present Memorials and Cash gifts for the purchase of poinsettia for the Christmas altar. If you desire to so do, remember that these must be received no later than Sun. Dec. 16. The Christmas Memorial Service will be a part of the 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

White Gifts
Our White gifts this year, a project of the Church School but open for all folk of the church, will be designated for our Hoffman Home for Children in Littlestown, Pa. Check the Sunday bulletins for specifics regarding this project.



ENVELOPE GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

The 1974 sets of envelopes will be ready for you to pick up early in Dec., from the tables in Friend-

ship Hall.

This announcement merits several reflections and rules of procedure. The last item first - please remember that only those who have made contributions through their set of envelopes in 1973 will automatically receive 1974 sets. If you find no set made out to you, it probably means you did not make a contribution in 1973 through your numbered envelopes.

The second reflection is most important also. Recently the pastor went through the record of individual members and wrote notes of encouragement to those who have been negligent in attendance and communions beseeching them to make real their association with United Church by fulfilling the promises to God to come to worship and the Sacrament which they made upon entering membership through Confirmation or adult membership. While thus perusing the records, the Pastor was astounded to discover how very many have not current envelopes nor have carried them in recent years. For some who are aged and perhaps without income this is understandable. The Church is ready to maintain such folk in active membership throughout their remaining years. But others there are who are able, active, earning money and yet who have such little concern for this church they regard as their church that they do not even have envelope sets. By maintaining a set of envelopes is the only way credit can be given for our giving.

It seems to the Pastor that scores of people on our books need to carefully study their association with Christ and His Church (for us United Church) and to make application to the Pastor for envelopes, and with 1974, come again into active membership through attendance at worship, at the Holy Sacrament and by making contributions through a set of envelopes issued in your individual name.

MARYLAND CHURCHES UNITED

A new ecumenical work is in progress in our city and state. It is the cooperative venture between Protestant churches of all varieties across the state in the effort to achieve things for God which we could not do alone. We want to support this cause, and so announce a special offering on Sun. Dec. 2nd. Envelopes will be in the bulletins.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

Tabitha Ann, daughter of Earl W. and Elizabeth Pfeiffer, on Oct. 28

Frank Arthur, son of Charles S. and Mary C. Edmond, on Nov. 11

Weddings

Joseph E. Travagline and Mary L. Sufzyinski on Oct. 27

Robert J. Cichowicz and Diana L. Nash on Nov. 7

Gregory S. Haga and Doris C. Schultz, on Nov. 11

Andeus Georgantakis and Karen J. Zeller on Nov. 15

Funerals

Melvin A. Riedel, member, age 74 on Nov. 1

Mrs. Anna M. Collier, member, age 82 on Nov. 11

Mrs. Edna M. Dorn, age 79 on Nov. 16

LAST MINUTE REMINDERS

If you have it in your mind to yet make some special gift in behalf of the 100th Anniversary, say to join the 100 Club, or to bring in your Anniversary 25¢ folder or even to use the special Love Gift envelope you received, be assured that these gifts will be welcome throughout December, for our books on the Anniversary do not close until the end of the year.



THE UNITED ENDEAVOR

Published each month, except
July and August
by

The United Evangelical Church
United Church of Christ
East Avenue at Dillon Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Paul A. Rasche, Pastor
Office Phone BR 6-0393
Parsonage BR 6-0621

Worship

Each Sunday — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

(7:45 a.m. each Communion Sunday)

Church School — 9:00 a.m.