

KUMC CONNECTIONS

December 2015 Newsletter

BRINGING GLORY TO GOD, AND IMPACTING LIVES THROUGH WORSHIP, SHARING, SERVICE AND PRAYER.

This Advent and Christmas season we have embarked the expedition to the Road of Mary and Joseph and we are studying Adam Hamilton's book "The Journey, Walking the road to Bethlehem". Its been wonderful journey. We are learning about and places and people, which are connected to our Nativity story and know more about their importance and then connect them with our lives. We learned about Nazareth and found many interesting thing that we never really pondered before.

Mary and Joseph's hometown, Nazareth, has a special meaning: the root of the name is netzer, a Hebrew word-meaning shoot or branch. It is used in Isaiah 11:1-4, a traditional Advent text.

When a tree is chopped down, a shoot will sometimes grow from the stump, enabling a new tree to grow from the old. Adam Hamilton writes:

"When the village founders named their village Nazareth they may have chosen this name as away of expressing hope that God would once again restore Israel—that though Israel had been cut down by the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, and then the Romans, a branch would come up from the stump. They may have chosen this name because, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, it was a sign that there are no hopeless causes with God. They may have chosen this name as a way of articulating their hope that one day the Messiah would come to Israel. It was as if they were saying, "We believe there is always hope. We believe God will deliver us. We believe the day will come when God will send a new king who will deliver us." Little did they know that the branch foretold in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah would be a child who would grow up in their own village!" (page20)

Just as the people of Israel looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, we Christians ought to look forward to his second coming. Does the prospect of his coming fill you with hope or fear? What can you do now to be ready when he comes?

I hope this Christmas you find more assurance of God's love and his ways in which he enters in our lives. Our hope is tortured because of the things that are happening around our lives and in world. May we regain our hope and strength in Jesse's shoot – Jesus Christ this Christmas Season.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and blessed New Year.

Rev Avani Christian and family



pastoravani@yahoo.com
630-696-7817

KUMC December Mission of the Month

Gifts of Love is a monetary donation that is collected throughout December and on Christmas Eve. Monies collected will be distributed to local people that could use “a little extra” and the reminder that they are loved and cared for by KUMC. All giving is done with the upmost confidentiality. Please contact Pastor Avani or Myra Ottoson (630.849.5678, ottpilot@att.net) if you know anyone who would benefit from this Gift of Love.

KUMC is also supporting a local family through Conley Outreach’s Holiday Spirit. Please choose a tag from The Giving Tree and follow buying/return instructions on your card.

** All monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate. Please indicate on your check “missions” in the memo space. Cash may be put inside “missions” envelopes located in the red pew pads.*

Peacemakers

Hey kids, Peacemakers will meet on **Wednesday, December 9 at 6pm** for our annual Christmas Caroling Party. We will stroll throughout Kaneville bringing good cheer and cookies to our shut-ins and other special friends. Hope to see you all there! Dress warmly and bring a friend!



Holiday Spirit

Holiday Spirit is underway! This year KUMC is sponsoring a local family with 40 children. There are still a few tags on the tree in the Fellowship Area with clothing and toy requests. Gift cards for department stores, gas or groceries may also be purchased for the families.

Unwrapped presents must be at the church by Sunday, December 13th.

We are also collecting new **mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks** for these and other Holiday Spirit families. All leftover outerwear goes to the Kaneland Area Food Pantry for their patrons.



I love the holiday season as much as anyone, but it presents a challenge to me as a preacher. How do I preach the good news of Christ's coming into world without it sounding like old news? I was looking for a book that offered a fresh take, a different angle, a less-traveled path into these familiar texts.

One important theme of the book is that the popular Christmas story that we know and love didn't unfold in history quite the way we imagine. A close reading of the Bible, as Hamilton makes clear, often contradicts the popular story. Not only that, the popular story often seems like a fairy tale. Only when we understand the story in its place and time—using insights from history, sociology, and geography—can we see how gritty and down-to-earth it really is.

Hamilton also does a nice job keeping the Christmas story rooted in Israel's story. He makes many connections to the Old Testament that weren't obvious to me until I read about them.

We live in a very different time and place, but Hamilton familiarizes us with the territory—figuratively and literally. I appreciate the way Hamilton brings insights from his own trips to the Holy Land to help us place the story in its proper context.

Luke and Matthew were concise writers, but they give us enough information to know that these events must have happened something like this. Hamilton is nicely speculative at times, but he never strays far from the text. Here's one good example in relation to Joseph:

“While we don't read it explicitly in the Gospels, we can infer from the life and teachings of Jesus the profound impact Joseph had on Jesus' faith. When Jesus looked for a metaphor to describe his relationship—and ours—to God, his primary form of addressing God was Abba—the Aramaic word for Papa. It is likely that even as a boy Jesus saw in Joseph a picture of the love and character of God.

We see evidence of this throughout Jesus' teachings. We see it in the parable of the prodigal son, where Jesus likened God to a father who showed mercy to a son who had squandered his inheritance, while showing patience with his older son who judged the younger. Could this parable be a reflection of Jesus' own experience of Joseph's mercy and love? In what other ways might Joseph's heart, character, and faith have shaped Jesus' faith and the man he would become?”

I hope this Christmas we all may find our own place in God's gift: Jesus.

KUMC Christmas Worship Service Schedule

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Service- Caroling & Lessons

11 p.m. Service- Traditional Candlelit Service

17th Annual Women's Retreat “Lavender Springs Spa”

Jan 15-17, 2016 at Wesley Woods in Williams Bay, Wi.



Ladies – Mark your calendars for a relaxing and spiritually nourishing spa-themed event where you'll be reminded of God's faithfulness and the power of connecting with other women. Through six refreshing sessions, we will journey through the psalms of the Bible, studying the different kinds of songs, poems, and psalms that have inspired people for centuries. We will learn how the psalms help us share our feelings, disappointments, celebrations, and doubts with a truly great listener: God. And you'll leave with a fresh approach to prayer that will grow your faith throughout the months to come. If you're interested in helping plan this wonderful weekend, please call Diane Hance at 815-991-9488 **Please see page 9 for sign up form!**

Announcing the 2015 U.M. Aurora Cluster Mission Trip!

Wednesday, January 27 – Saturday, January 30, 2016

The United Methodist Churches of the Aurora Cluster (including Aurora, Kaneville and Sugar Grove) are together planning a road trip to our regional UMCOR warehouse, the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois (Springfield). We can accommodate 32 people for this annual outreach effort. Must be age 11 or older. **A deposit of \$50 (check payable to MMDS) must be sent to Fourth Street UMC to reserve your place by October 1.** The balance of \$65 per person will be due November 1, 2015, plus costs associated with travel and groceries.

KUMC Cookie Walk!

Calling all Bakers:

We are preparing for the 25TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK on **Saturday December 5th.**

Over the past 24 years, we have netted close to \$22,150, all of which has been given to current mission needs. The very first Cookie Walk profit was sent to servicemen during Desert Storm. Many times, we have families right in Kaneville who need assistance.

I have a friend in Yorkville whose church is patterning a Cookie Walk after ours. She said they cannot understand how a little church like Kaneville UMC can make so many cookies. I told her we have the best baking ladies on earth! And we do.

We are aiming for 400 dozen cookies. Of course, we have added candy (fudge, caramels, and divinity) since our early years. So, anything you wish to contribute is greatly appreciated.

There is some butter in the refrigerator and 10 pounds of sugar, both of which have been left from the Beef Supper. Anyone who would like to use that is certainly welcome to do so.

We will be soliciting bakers and helpers on Sunday mornings. Be ready to sign up!

A big "Thank You" goes to everyone for helping to make this project so successful!



Children's Christmas Programs

Celebrate Christmas with our kids this year! Our Children's Christmas Program is Sunday, December 13 during the 9:30 worship service. Our program, ***Glory to God in the Highest***, includes familiar favorites as well as new songs. The program will also feature special music from our children—from piano to vocal solos.

Sunday School Christmas Schedule

There will be no children's Sunday school on December 27 or January 3 over Christmas break. We will see you all in the New Year on January 10th! Church will continue to meet at 9:30.

Check It Out!

There are many Christmas books in the KUMC Library, from fiction to Bible studies. The following are just a sample of the many options open to you this Advent season.

Christmas Jars by Jason F. Wright is a heartwarming story about one family's Christmas tradition and the lives it touches. A quick read that will restore your faith in mankind!

In The Christmas Sweater #1 New York Times bestselling author and renowned radio and TV host Glen Beck delivers an instant holiday classic about boyhood memories, wrenching life lessons, and the true meaning of the gifts we give to one another in love.

Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas Treasury is chock full of holiday stories to warm the heart and fill even the most curmudgeonly Scrooge with Christmas joy.



Christmas in Kaneville

Kaneville United Methodist Church: Christmas Cookie Walk from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Fire Department: Photos with Santa at 9 a.m.

Old Second Bank: Customer appreciation breakfast & raffles 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Community Center: Craft Show 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Kaneville Public Library: activities and for children 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hill's Country Store: Customer appreciation- free peppermint ice-cream, cocoa, raffles & snacks.



Save the Date: 19th Annual Chili Supper!



KUMC Men's Club annual chili supper will be on February 20, 2016!

Chili from Mild to Wild!
Come enjoy an evening of fun!



Happy Birthday!

December 2	Cindy Gehringer, Josh Brehm
December 6	Dick Frielink
December 7	Dave Bateman
December 8	Gladys Harter
December 9	Pam Kahl Probst
December 10	Addison Ryan, Manda Davis, Harry Meyer, Peggy Langeness
December 11	Lindsay Kahl
December 18	Sarah Dunlop
December 25	Bob Stouffer
December 31	Ryan Dwyer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

December 9	Rob & Myra Ottoson
December 10	Steve and Katie Downen

**Contact Katee (office@kanevilleumc.org)
with any corrections/additions to the list!**

KUMC Connections | December 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Cookie Walk 9-11am (Christmas in Kaneville)
6 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m.	7 Advent Bible Study 7pm	8	9 Peacemakers 6pm	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Program	14 Advent Bible Study 7pm	15	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m.	21 Advent Bible Study 7pm	22	23	24 5 p.m. Worship Service 11 p.m. Worship Service	25	26
27 Worship 9:30 a.m.	28	29	30	31		



Kaneville United Methodist Church 17th Annual Women's Retreat

Looking for time away from the busyness of life?
Time to "stop and smell the lavender" as you relax with friends,
share laughter and stories and spend time with God?
Then, please join us at our Annual Women's Retreat.
At "Lavender Springs Spa", you'll find a lovely spot to slow down
and walk with God at a leisurely pace.

- When:** January 15-17, 2016
- Where:** Wesley Woods in Williams Bay, WI.
- What to expect:** Friendship – good memories - fun – laughter - encouragement & hope
spiritual growth - good food - meaningful moments - meditation & quiet time.
- Choose:** Between a one or two night stay. Or join us only on Saturday.
- Cost:** One night = \$65.00, Two nights = \$85.00, Saturday during the day only = \$25.00
(We will have all meals at our home on the lake and participants will be asked to furnish an item for snacking, Friday supper, Saturday breakfast or Saturday lunch.)
- Bring:** Bibles
Winter clothes & boots for walking outside – as we spend quiet time in God's glorious winter wonderland.
Bedding/sleeping bags, pillow, towels & toiletries
Food item *Note: Coffee, tea, lemonade and water are provided.*
- Check-in:** begins at 3:00 pm. Friday with supper at 6:30 pm. Saturday morning's program begins at 9 am with breakfast starting at 7am.
- Questions:** Call: Diane Hance 815-991-9488
- Mail Form:** Diane Hance – Women's Retreat
320 Somonauk St., Apt A - Sycamore, IL 60178

KUMC Women's Retreat - "Lavender Springs Spa" – January 15-17, 2016

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to: Kaneville U.M. Women

Registration form due by January 8, 2016 *Registration fee is transferable but not refundable
Scholarships are available, please speak with Carol Flanders at 630-557-2766

Contact Us!

46W764 Main St.
P.O. Box 50
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Pastor: **Rev. Avani**

Christian

Email:

pastor@kanevilleumc.org

Office: 630-557-2353

Parsonage:

630-557-0018

Cell: 630-696-7817

Office Hours for 2015:

Pastor: Monday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.-3:00pm,

Other times by appointment

Office: 630-557-2353

Office Email:

office@kanevilleumc.org

Website:

www.kanevilleumc.org

Note from the Secretary:

Please contact the secretary with any events going on in the church. She will let you know if the space is available on that date to avoid conflicts and record it on the calendar. Thank you!

Newsletter items are always welcome; anything geared to-wards spirituality, thank you's, important events, devotionals, etc. We encourage you to submit your news no later than the **15th of the month**. The newsletter will be sent out near the first of each month.

Please submit your bulletin items for Sundays, via email, no later than **Wednesday**.

E-mail: office@kanevilleumc.org

Hours: Tuesdays 9am-2pm

Thursdays 3pm-5pm

This newsletter is created by human hands directing Technology, if you notice any errors kindly let us know. We will be happy to make any corrections!

Kaneville United Methodist Church
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