

**Christmas Cards Post Office**

Are you getting your Christmas cards ready to be sent out? We will be having our post office again this year. You can mail your church family Christmas cards for $0.25/card. Your donation will go to the Baptist Children’s Home. It will be open December 1st through December 22nd.

**Children’s Church - Ages 3 to 10**

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| December 1st | Marianne Casas |
| December 8th | Cindy Clark |
| December 15th | Julie Striplin |
| December 22nd | Kathy Horton |
| December 29th | Lisa Young |

**Sisters in Christ** are sponsoring a Memorial Tree for Christmas. Please bring your ornament of choice in memory of your loved one. The tree will be in the FH from December 1st-25th. There will be ornaments available to purchase for $2.

**December** **Crisis Control Food Drive** will be held at the UC Food Lion on Saturday, December 14th from 9am – 1pm. The food item of the month is hot beverages (tea, hot cocoa, instant coffee). *Hospice Ministry Emphasis* will be Sunday the 8th.

**Senior Moments**

Our Christmas luncheon will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 19th at 10:45am here at the church. Be sure and join us for this great time of fellowship and food.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 12/1  12/3  12/11  12/12  12/15  12/16  12/20  12/27  12/28  12/31 | DecemberBirthdays   Faye Lakey  Ellen Cook, Mark Reavis  Ron Pinyan  Edna Bond  Marty Daniels  Irene Cheek  Lisa Young  Avery Lindley, Tammie Weavil  Robin French  Clinton McCann |   Non-Profit Organization  U.S. Postage PAID  Greensboro, NC  Permit 5043 | Pastor  Music Director  Minister of Education  Organist  Pianist  Office Administrator |

Union Cross Baptist Church

4350 High Point Rd.

Kernersville, NC 27284

(336)769-2862 Phone (336)769-2864 FAX

www.unioncrossbaptistchurch.org ucbaptist@bellsouth.net

Return Service Requested

Dr. Adam Woods

Mrs. Gayle Smith

Rev. Marty Daniels

Mrs. Angie Weavil

Mrs. Sara VonCannon

Mrs. Teresa Tucker

## 

## Union Cross

## Baptist News

Vol. 46 December 1, 2024 No. 12



December 1st, 6:00 pm

Chrismon Service & Reception

December 7th, 9:00 am

Sisters in Christ Christmas Party

December 15th, 6:00 pm

Lessons & Carols & Reception

December 22nd, 6:00 pm

Candlelight Communion Service



***Ucbc1225***

***Message from the Pastor***

Father Damien was a priest who became famous for his willingness to serve lepers. He moved to Kalawao—a village on the island of Molokai, in Hawaii, that had been quarantined to serve as a leper colony. For 16 years, he lived in their midst. He learned to speak their language. He bandaged their wounds, embraced the bodies no one else would touch, preached to hearts that would otherwise have been left alone. He organized schools, bands, and choirs. He built homes so that the lepers could have shelter. He built 2,000 coffins by hand so that, when they died, they could be buried with dignity. Slowly, it was said, Kalawao became a place to live rather than a place to die, for Father Damien offered hope.

Father Damien was not careful about keeping his distance. He did nothing to separate himself from his people. He dipped his fingers in the poi bowl along with the patients. He shared his pipe. He did not always wash his hands after bandaging open sores. He got close. For this, the people loved him.

Then one day he stood up and began his sermon with two words: "We lepers…."  Now he wasn't just helping them. Now he was one of them. From this day forward, he wasn't just on their island; he was in their skin. First, he had chosen to live as they lived; now he would die as they died. Now they were in it together. One day God came to Earth and began his message: "We lepers…." Now he wasn't just helping us. Now he was one of us. Now he was in our skin. Now we were in it together.

This reminds us of Paul words, "He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form" (Philippians 2:7 NLT)

Grace and Peace,

Adam

**2024 Budget**

The 2024 Budget will be presented and discussed at church Conference on Wednesday, December 18th at 7 pm. The budget will be mailed out for review prior to conference. Before we begin our morning worship on Sunday, December 22nd we will vote without discussion on adopting the budget.



The WOM are collecting money to provide Christmas meals for the homeless through the **W-S Rescue Mission**. A meal costs just$3.76. Please write “W-S Rescue Mission” on your check or envelope if you would like to make a donation.

Ellen Bobbitt, Ellen Cook, Bobby & Irene Cheek, Marty & Judy Daniels, Larry Davis (Susan Hilton’s nephew), Ann Huth, Laura (friend of Kathy Mills), Ritchie Longworth, Clinton McCann, Juan & Lidia Mendoza (neighbors of Hal & Melissa Little), Ron Mills, Derek Reavis (friend of Mark Reavis), Darlene Smith (Cindy Clark’s mother), Bettie Spencer, Cammie Walker, Roger Burnett (Lisa Young’s father), and John Young (Lisa’s husband).

A black and white illustration of a praying hands with a cross

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Financial Summary

November 3, 2024

Undesignated Gifts $4,081.00 Designated Gifts $ 445.00

Total Offering $4,526.00

November 10, 2024

Undesignated Gifts $2,486.00

Designated Gifts $1,201.60

Total Offering $3,687.60

November 17, 2024

Undesignated Gifts $5,891.00

Designated Gifts $1,295.00

Total Offering $7,186.00

November 24, 2024

Undesignated Gifts $ 1,814.00

Designated Gifts $ 545.00

Total Offering $ 2,359.00

**General Fund**

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| --- |
| October General Fund Receipts $ 11,178.66 |
| October General Fund Expenses - $ 12,010.34 |
| October General Fund Net - $ 831.68 |
| October Fund Balance $ 97,275.37 |
|  |

**Women on Mission ladies had their November email meetings on November 6 & 11, 2024**

**NOVEMBER WOM ACTIVITIES:**

Hospice Ministry Note: Snack donations were sent to both WS & HP Hospice Homes.

Mission Projects

* $112.80 to WS Rescue Mission for 30 Thanksgiving meals as well as sponsoring WSRM Thanksgiving Meals donations within our church.
* Sponsored the congregation hot dog luncheon on Nov. 10th as a tribute to all veterans, especially those within our church. Thank you to all those who participated and especially those who helped in any way to make this such a special tribute to our Veterans. FYI, all the food was donated by a few individuals & for that we are truly grateful.
* $800 for gifts for the Eastern Forsyth (Baptist) Toy Store with congregational support encouraged. (*Actual cost $799.17*)
* $125 to support the Forsyth Co. Senior Services “*Remember in December*” campaign for collection of basic household needs for some of our low-income seniors within our community. (*Actual cost $123.93)*
* $25 to purchase small gifts for 2 of the local nursing home residents who have no family support.
* $150 to Joyce Love to help provide hygiene items for the Forsyth Jail/Prison Ministry Annual Christmas Party.
* Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing event was held on Saturday, Nov. 17th with 12 WOM members & 2 guests participating. (A *detailed report is provided in another section*.)

On behalf of the WOM members I give thanks every day for the support many of you provide throughout the year with your donations to WOM. Without your assistance we would not be able to help so many people or organizations and for that we are truly thankful. May each of you experience both Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays ever mindful that without God, our Faith and especially our Christian Love & Concern for those brothers/sisters we don’t even know personally, these two days designated as Thanksgiving & Christmas would be just another two days! **UNION CROSS REACHES OUT TO SHOW HIS LOVE** and for that I close with a grateful heart and immense sincerity. --Jane Sutphin

As your Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Coordinator, I am overwhelmed at the final number of shoeboxes that I dropped off 12/18 to a local church. I want to thank everyone who contributed this year either by individually filling a shoebox, donating money for shipping costs, purchasing items to fill shoeboxes (including Women on Mission), packing shoeboxes, and building shoeboxes online. With all of these contributions, we were able to donate **143** shoeboxes!  I am very hopeful these shoeboxes will be the best thing these children will encounter in their lifetime. Please continue to pray for your child and their families.  Union Cross Baptist is definitely reaching out to show love to the ends of the earth! --Jill Sutphin, UCBC WOM OCC Coordinator