



# November 2011 Tidings

First United  
Methodist Church  
of Troy

Rev. Hal Weemhoff  
248.879.6363  
Fax 248.879.7552

Dear Friends,



I cannot believe that I am talking about Advent but I am. The Christmas Season at Troy First begins on Saturday November 19th at 9am with breakfast followed by the decorating of the church. This is a family event and you won't want to miss it. The entire event will be a couple of hours.

Another exciting event that weekend is Sunday, November 20th, when the youth group will have their traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Unfortunately, It is not open to the church, but it is open to all youth and I encourage all youth to attend. It will be a great event with lots of pumpkin pie. I am one of the invited guests and am looking forward to it.

Also, Thanksgiving Sunday is "Commitment Sunday" which is the time we offer God our intentions for supporting the ministries of Troy First for the coming year through our time, talents, gifts and service.

The Troy Community Thanksgiving Service will be at Central Woodward at 7 pm on Tuesday the 22nd. The church is located at 3955 W. Big Beaver. Our choir and pastor will be a part of this ecumenical celebration. Hope to see you there.

The first Sunday in Advent (the coming of our Lord) will be on November 27th. You will receive your Advent Devotional Booklet that is made up of Christmas stories and devotions from members of our congregation. This is a great Christmas gift that we offer each other. Also, the children will receive their Advent Activity Booklet and Crèche. I urge parents to take time to explore the booklet each day. It is called "Come to Bethlehem and See!"

When I return from my Holy Land tour in mid-November, I will share with the children the places I explored where Jesus lived. What an exciting time Advent will be for all of us at Troy First!

Go and Be The Church!  
See you in church.

*Hal*

Rev. Hal

Don't forget to check out my blog at  
<http://pastor-troyfumcstidings20.blogspot.com/>

Volume XXIX Issue 11



[office@tfumctroy.org](mailto:office@tfumctroy.org)



[www.fumctroy.org](http://www.fumctroy.org)

### SUNDAYS

10:00 Worship  
10:25-11:00  
Jr. Church/Faith in Action  
11:00-11:20  
Coffee Fellowship  
11:20-12:00  
Sunday School  
for all ages  
12:00 One Voice Choir  
Rehearsal  
12:00 Children's Christmas  
Pageant Rehearsal  
6:30—8:00 UMYF

We have been so comforted and cared for by our church family as we mourn the loss of Roger's mother. The cards, kind words, and contributions have been very much appreciated. We truly feel blessed to be part of this faith community.

Sincerely,  
The Steiger Family



Fall is here and that means Christmas is just around the corner! Please help us keep the tradition of our Troy First Advent Booklet alive. All it takes is a couple paragraphs about your favorite memory or amazing experience or treasured gift. Or maybe you would prefer to share your hopes and dreams for the New Year. We will be grateful for whatever you submit **by November 1** to Sara Matthews or Sheila Wilson. You will be amazed at the beautiful devotional booklet created by your church family.

### **United Methodist Women – November Activities**

Activities are open to all women; you do not need to be a member of UMW. If you have questions on any of the events please call Linda DeVilling.



- Thur, Nov 3** 12:30 pm Executive Board hosted by Jennifer Voight in her home.
- Fri, Nov 4** Church Women United – World Community Day
- Thur, Nov 10** 9:30 am Ruth Circle hosted by Bernona Fry and LaNae Michael at the church in the CLC. Sue Olesen will lead the program.
- Thur, Nov 10** 7:30 pm Deborah Circle hosted by Sandy Sands at her home. Kathy Sobanski will lead the program.
- Wed, Nov 16** 11:30 am Fellowship Luncheon at Camp Ticonderoga. Contact Linda DeVilling if you would like to attend.

---

### **Christmas Offering—2011**

Our Church Council presents our Christmas Offering goals for Mission projects as recommended by our Outreach Committee:

- \$400 for Troy People Concerned (TPC)-serves Troy's residents who need groceries, electricity, etc.
- \$400 for Rochester Neighborhood House which is similar to TPC. (About 1/3 of us live in Rochester/Rochester Hills.)
- \$1,000 for Youth Mission Trip
- \$400 for Detroit Renaissance District
- \$2,500 for missionaries
- \$1,500 for Habitat for Humanity—the building of affordable homes in the Pontiac area
- \$300 for Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- \$500 for Baldwin Warming Center—Provide dinners, beds and fellowship for four nights for homeless guests at the Baldwin Warming Center.
- \$7,000—Total**

**What if...**

**What if a shoebox** were more than just a box to hold shoes?  
 What if it was filled with small, inexpensive items that **brought great joy?**

What if it traveled around the world and **told children about Jesus Christ?**

What if it **was used by God to change lives?**



**Shoebox**

All these things happen when our youth pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, an organization that brings joy, hope, and the message of God’s love to children in desperate situations. Each of the past three years, our youth have wrapped, filled, and prayed for nearly 50 shoeboxes before sending them on their way to Haiti, Sudan, Romania, or a hundred other destinations.

Troy First Youth will be **collecting the following items** for packing shoe boxes during Youth Group on Sunday, November 6th. **(No shoe boxes needed.)**

**Toys:** Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, yo-yos, jump ropes, etc.

**School Supplies:** Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, small writing pads, solar calculators, small coloring or picture books, etc.

**Hygiene Items:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

**Other:** Hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair accessories, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights and extra batteries.

If you would like to join the youth in sharing “good news and great joy” through Operation Christmas Child, a box will be available in the Mercer Hall for donations by November 6th. Cash contributions are also welcome to help with shipping expenses by November 6th.

Just think—**what if a shoebox was more than just a shoebox.**



Our new website is up and running. We hope to provide an up-to-date forum for news, events, and happenings here at FUMC Troy. It is called a “Ninth Generation” website because of its interactivity and features such as a Guestbook for comments, prayer request/contact form, e-mail accounts for staff and committee heads, flash slide shows, and our Word@Home blog. It will allow designated individuals to edit and manage pages online, without complicated software or knowledge of html.

Eventually, congregation members will be able to fill out permission forms, sign up for ministries, subscribe to the Tidings Newsletter, and even pay for events or donate online. We hope this new site will make it easier for you and your family to know what’s happening, and provide a 21st century way to make contacts and share information.

Please check out our “Help Wanted” page, our Photo Galleries, and our links to our Facebook page and Reverend Hal’s blog. We welcome your comments or suggestions. If you have something you would like published on our church website, please see Donna or Lisa in the church office.

Ginger Mahrle  
 Communications Committee



## 2011 Advent Church Family Festival Saturday, November 19th 9-11am

This is a combined effort by M&E, Education and Worship Committees.

Come join the church family for a delicious hot breakfast which will be served promptly at 9am. Donations requested to cover the expense.

We have trees to trim and wreaths to hang. Come and decorate the church to welcome the Newborn King.



The children will be supervised as they enjoy making children/youth-friendly Christmas crafts while parents help decorate the church.

## CHRISTMAS CANDY HOUSES

The tradition continues.....

Once again we will be assembling our famous Candy Houses at the Advent Family Festival on **November 19<sup>th</sup>**. A donation box will be placed at the Welcome Center for needed supplies. Please tear off a tag from the box and bring in your items by **November 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you! The Education Committee

Needed items: **Graham Crackers, Andes Mints, Gumdrops, Green and Red Starlight Mints, Skittles, Red Licorice, Assorted Hard Christmas Candies, and Red Hots.**



Thanksgiving Service  
November 22 at 7:00pm  
Central Woodward Christian Church  
3955 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy

### United Methodist Student Sunday, November 27th

United Methodist Student Day supports UM scholarships and the UM Student Loan Fund. Annual conferences participating in the Rebate Program may award one or more merit scholarships to United Methodist students. Participating conferences may also award scholarships to UM students who reside in the conference and who attend a UM related college or university. Please give your prayerful consideration to contributing to this important program.



### Angel Tree Ministry is coming!

Angel tree is a unique opportunity to share Christ’s love by helping to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. It is a highly rewarding program that cares for some of the most overlooked members of our communities. Angel Tree Christmas works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. We will have the “Tree” up in the CLC November 20 and 27 for you to choose a gift to purchase based on the parent’s request or to volunteer to deliver the gifts. The gifts will need to be returned **WRAPPED** to church by Sunday December 4 . Sign up for volunteers to deliver the gifts to the families the week of December 4 and 11 will also be on November 20 and 27.

### Baldwin Christmas Store

To celebrate the Christmas spirit, please consider purchasing a gift for the Baldwin Christmas store. A list of desired gifts will be available at the Angel Tree table in the CLC November 20 and 27. Gifts will need to be returned to the Church **UNWRAPPED** by Sunday, December 4, so that they can be chosen as gifts in the Baldwin store. Please prayerfully consider purchasing at least one gift for this ministry.



We’d like to decorate our church with poinsettias again this holiday season. Please have your order along with your check made out to Troy 1st UMC in the church office by December 4.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No of plants \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$8.00** each). Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your poinsettia may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service you attend.

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## UMW Cookie Walk

Ladies and Gentlemen, Bakers of all ages, It is time to start your ovens for Troy First's Annual Cookie Walk and Contest. Mark your calendar and prepare your appetites for Sunday, December 11th, immediately following worship.

Imagine table after table of homemade cookies, each ones so good—it would be hard to pick a favorite. But don't worry, that's the judge's job!

Here's how you can make this day a success. Choose an option or do all three!

1. **Sign up to bake cookies.** We're asking each "baker" to supply four dozen (or more!) cookies. Bring them to the church kitchen between 9:30am and noon on December 10th or before 9:30am on Sunday, December 11th. (We will joyfully accept cookies after 9:30, but we can't guarantee that they will be included in the judging of the cookie contest.)
2. **Volunteer to work** at the Cookie Walk. We need many "gloved" hands to carefully box individual cookie selections. You'll be rewarded with sweet smells, smiles and our thanks.
3. **Buy cookies.** (How hard can that be!) The Cookie Walk will have some candy-filled mugs, quick breads, and pre-packaged cookies available for easy gift giving or you may fill a box with your own cookie selections for just \$6.00 a pound. Think hostess gifts, mail and paper carriers, hair dressers, and teachers! There will be a nice selection of homemade crafts as well!

Besides being a fun and tasty event, all proceeds from the Cookie Walk go to support mission projects locally and within our Conference. And by the end of the day, we will announce the First, Second, and Third prize winning cookies!

### If you don't mind a little chocolate on your hands...

Join UMW members in the church kitchen on Saturday, December 10th, any time between 9:30am and 1:00pm. We'll be preparing chocolate treats and finishing cookies, packing boxes and setting tables for Sunday's cookie walk. Many hands make light work. And they also increase the joy! Please plan to join us for the fun and fellowship



## Crèche Display

Sign up on Sunday, November 27th or Sunday, December 4th in the CLC to bring your Crèche to share with your church family on Sunday, December 11th. Fill out an information card that tells about your Crèche. Invite friends and neighbors to come and worship with us.

## **WHOF??? (What is Happening in Our Facility?)**

Greetings and can you believe November is almost here? I'm so looking forward to the Bible Lands Cruise. I have to make sure all details are in place as Judy Tincknell will be "me" while I'm gone. As you can imagine, we won't be shutting our doors. Business will be as usual with Judy standing watch and some help from the Facilities Team and Trustees.

October has been a busy month so far and a lot of good things are happening here at Troy First! The Rummage Sale was a big success and people from our outside groups were able to come and shop thanks to the promotion around the building. I must say the church has never looked so good following a rummage sale thanks to all the workers and especially the clean-up crew!! Let's hope some of the renters also decide to donate blood at an upcoming blood drive and maybe even buy cookies at the cookie walk!!

Some routine things happen around the church that I'm sure you're not really aware of but they are tasks that must be done, and as the Facility Coordinator I am able to make sure they happen. One is the grease trap cleaning which needs to be done about twice a year unless we have a lot of usage. Another is the Rose Pest Control man who comes once a month to make sure we are mouse free and a little bug control. I am happy to report even the boiler room and furnace rooms are mouse free and once a month all bug traps are changed. Our cleaning company, US Servico, does an excellent job of keeping our church clean and sanitary. They are super flexible and sometimes come after midnight on a Saturday night following a rental. Usually we need touch up during the week or after a mid-week rental and they are here! Flexibility is the key and sometimes our banked hours help pay for supplies. We are trying to be very thrifty with our supplies and our cleaning hours. I recently was called by another church as a referral for US Servico, and I gave them a sparkling review. Please let me know if you ever see something that you feel is not being properly cleaned. We have been with US Servico since April 2009.

Remember the next and last scrapbooking event for 2011 is Friday, October 28, and it's a no frills evening of pizza supper, dessert and ALOT of scrapbooking! See the flyer on my door for details.

We have just been contacted by the Troy Co-op Preschool to host their 2nd Annual Mom's Night Out on November 1st. This is an evening of vendors in our CLC LL showing and selling their products so busy moms (and dads) can do some early holiday shopping and so conveniently right here in our church!!! If you are interested, the time is 6-9pm, on Tuesday, November 1st. Happy Shopping!

Our church will once again host the election for precincts 4 & 9 on November 8th. Linda Pushman is the Trustee volunteer handling this event and if you could relieve her for an hour or two that day, I'm sure she would appreciate it. Let Linda know if you would like to help voting happen in our CLC. For the second year in a row, we will be hosting the Detroit Section of the American Chemical Society's Girl Scout Chemistry Day on November 12th. If you ever wanted to know anything about chemistry, this would be a good day for you to help Judy Tincknell manage the building. It is an amazing day with over 200 Girl Scouts in our building! Let me know right away if you are interested in helping!!

The next Contra Dance is November 26th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. All are welcome, including family from out of town who are with you for the weekend. No experience or partner is necessary, members receive a discounted price. Bring your dinner group, bring your friends, it's a great time!!

The Facilities Team met and is still hoping to find some responsible, flexible, cheerful, and helpful volunteers to staff some of the "normal" building usages by non-members. This might be a bell ringer on Monday night or a Choir member on Wednesday night, or a committee member meeting on a week night. Please contact Lisa Head if you are responsible, flexible, cheerful, and have a willing, helpful heart. Your volunteer help is most needed at this time.

*Lisa Head*  
*Facilities Coordinator*

### Kingdom Challenge to Troy First --- Part One

At the inauguration of the Detroit Renaissance District on August 28, Troy First was one of 39 district churches to accept \$1,000 and the challenge to give this money to our communities. Based on the parable of the servants and the talents, we are going to invest/grow the \$1,000 and then we will invest/distribute the money within our community. For the Kingdom Challenge, our community is Troy, the Greater Rochester area, Auburn Hills, and Pontiac --- where we live and where we serve. Our entire congregation will have opportunities to both grow our \$1,000 and to help determine who will receive our gifts. On November 27, we will introduce the Kingdom Challenge to everyone. Please watch your Word at Home, Tidings, and Rev. Hal's blog for more information and to follow our progress. On behalf of Troy First, the following people accepted the Challenge: Chris Weemhoff, Paul and Gerda Clark, Ben and Sue Olesen, Lisa Head, Jane Egermann, and Fran Pruett.

### Medicare Information

Free Medicare Enrollment Assistance—Jim Zoellner, certified Medicare/Medicaid counselor, offers free enrollment assistance on the 2nd and 4th Friday from 10am—1pm in room 404 of the Community Center by appointment only. Get help with selecting insurance, claims, denials of service and more. Call 248-524-3484 to make an appointment by the Wednesday before desired appointment date. For help with Part D enrollment, bring your prescriptions.

The Area Agency on Aging IB will hold a Medicare enrollment day at the Troy Community Center for the Medicare Part D Prescription plans. They will navigate through the many plans to help you make an informed decision about which plan to choose. Even if you already have a Medicare Drug Plan, there may be changes that affect how much you pay for your prescriptions and you should review your plan. Bring your current medications with you so that they can be sure to get the correct spelling and dosage. Call 1-800-852-7795 to schedule an appointment.

The **Memorial Book** focus for the month of November is for the following:

	In Memory of	For
6	Charles B. & Alice E. Martell and Clara Jean Sanderson	Furnishing Mercer Room
13	Evelyn Shaper	Music Department
20	Roy Crawford	Landscaping Church Grounds
27	Tillman Schoonover	Choir Robes and Usage



The **Memorial Garden Book** focus for the month of November is in memory of

Angelika Joy Boelter

Activity	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27	No Fifth Sunday
<b>Greeters</b>	Veterans	The Stover Family	***	College Students	
<b>Ushers</b>	Ed Freeland Marie Leverenz Bill Rampenthal Doug Smith Mary Smith	Karen Carl Ben Olesen Tom Stevens Marie Watson	Patti Aurand Chris DeVilling Corwin Hanson Brian Urbach	Terry Pritchett Lyle Pushman Roger Steiger Kristin Truelove	
<b>Crucifer Bible Carrier</b>	Kurt Leverenz Joe Meek	Jessica Moore Kara Olsavsky	Meghan Ostrander Emily Woods	Beth Rhoades Jackson Steiger	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Elise Leverenz Morgan Michaux	Lane Ann Rumel Merrick Rumel	Robert Ostrander Erika Ostrander	Lauren Jakobiak Meghan Rhoades	
<b>Sound Video Engineers</b>	Steve Olsavsky Lauren Matthews	Jane Egermann	Jack Stover	Kaj Ostergaard	
<b>Coffee Hour Hosts</b>	If you would like to help by providing goodies for coffee hour, please call Diane Martin.				
<b>Monday Counters</b>	Mary Jo Johnston Bunny Schultz Sharon Smith	Joyce Berard Ben Olesen Tim Teagan	Jane Egermann Nancy Heffron Jayne Saeger	Chris DeVilling Marie Watson Michelle Williston	
<b>Trustee on Duty</b>	Chuck Tincknell	Linda Pushman	Bill Wesp	Jon Bertolet	
<b>Flowers for The Lord's Table</b>	Swapna Bagchi Granddaughter Salina's b'day	Maren & Clarence Vos in memory of their parents	Bernona & Jen Fry in memory of Otis & Clark	Brian & Kelly Dukes in celebra- tion of new baby Tristyn Irene	
<b>Jr. Church</b>	Patti Aurand Kathy Sobanski Brooke Hartrick	Lori Ann Rumel	Williston Family	Tom Stevens	
<b>Faith in Action</b>	Stay in Service for Communion	Kelly Gordon	Ostrander	***	
<b>Nursery (Newborns &amp; Crawlers)</b>	Julie Geggie Melody Power	Sharon Ostrander Meghan Ostrander	Angela DiBartolomeo Christine Knoper	Mary Smith Riley Smith	
<b>Toddler Room (Walkers-2 year olds)</b>	Jessica Abdo	Sarah Hodroge	Jennifer Rivera	***	
<b>3&amp;4 Year Olds</b>	Laurie Mitchener Marianne Melton	Leslie Diebol Stephanie McNett	Kristin Truelove Jessica Urbach	Emily and Jill Woods	