



## Concord United Methodist Church

1645 West Street, Concord, California, 94521

Phone: (925) 685-5260, E-mail: [concordumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:concordumc@sbcglobal.net),

Web-site: [www.concordumc.org](http://www.concordumc.org)

December 27, 2011

# The Concord Connection

Seeking God, Serving the Community, Supporting Each Other

## Worship Schedule

**8:00 a.m.** Worship  
in the Sanctuary

**9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
Nursery Care  
Available

**9:00 a.m.** Adult  
Bible Study

**9:00a.m.** New Life  
Celebration  
Oglesby/Close Hall

**10:30 a.m.** Children  
and Youth Sunday  
Schools

**10:30 a.m.** Worship  
in the Sanctuary

**11:30 a.m.**  
Fellowship &  
refreshments in  
Oglesby/Close Hall



## ITALIAN DINNER

**SATURDAY NIGHT  
JANUARY 28, 2012  
OGLESBY-CLOSE HALL**

**SPAGHETTI, SALAD, GARLIC BREAD**

**THREE SEATINGS: 5:00P.M., 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M.**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE YOUTH MINISTRY**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**DINNER IS SERVED BY OUR YOUTH.**

**TICKETS: \$8 ADULTS, \$4 CHILDREN 10 & UNDER**

**TICKETS ON SALE BEGINNING JANUARY 8, 2012**

## Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for articles  
is on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday at 4 pm of  
each month. No  
exceptions. Please  
email articles when  
possible.  
Thank you,

*Marilyn Robrecht –  
Editor*



### New Year's Eve Watch Night Service

**11:30pm-Sanctuary**

**Bringing in the New Year with Christ**

### New Year's Day, Sunday January 1, 2012

**One service, 10:00am—Sanctuary**

**January 8, 2012 – Regular service times:  
8am, 9am \*& 10:30am**

## GOOD TIMERS

**Tuesday January 10,  
12 p.m. – Sherrill Hall**

Bring a friend.  
Bring a sandwich,  
drinks and dessert  
provided.

**PINOCHLE PLAYERS  
FRIDAY JANUARY 13  
2PM—SHERRILL HALL**

## Vital Signs

**May I measure your vital signs** before you see a doctor? Nurses come in and ask that question. They weigh our weight and check our blood pressure. Then sometimes doctor order to get our blood and urine to see other vital signs. Doctors use those vital signs to see if we are healthy or not. Some numbers suggest that we have to change our diet or life styles.

There are also vital signs that we can use to check our congregational health. Those are as follows:

1. Weekly Worship attendance
2. Number of people in small groups in a week
3. Number of people participating in mission and outreach in a week
4. Number of people who profess faith in a week
5. Weekly Offering



These numbers are weight, height, blood pressure, blood cell numbers, and cholesterol of the body of Jesus Christ. (Please, do not ask me which one corresponds to which!) So, our conference decided to check these vital signs **“every week”**! Now, from the first week of 2012, every church in our conference has to report those five vital signs to the conference web site **“every week”**! All the churches not only in our conference but all over the country can compare those numbers to their own **“every week”**!

We will find out what is not right before it is too late! We will monitor our church whether we are going in the right direction or not before it is too late. We can figure out how to fix the problem, if any, before it is too late. Those are the benefits to have these vital signs handy. We can also learn which church is doing a great job in small group ministry and mission outreach. We can also see what the trends in our church in terms of worship attendance and offering are. We can have our graphs to show us the ups and downs of our spiritual health!

To do this important check-up **“every week”** we need volunteers and discipline. The volunteers that we need are as follows:

- 1) Church statistician, who can report those five numbers on line to the conference **“every week”**!
- 2) One volunteer to give weekly worship attendance to the church statistician **“every week”**! We are already collecting this number and we have already a system that we can use.
- 3) One volunteer who can count numbers in all small groups **“every week”**!
- 4) One volunteer who can count numbers in mission and outreach **“every week”**! One person from Church and Society or Mission committee can do this job.
- 5) One volunteer who can give the amount of weekly offering to our church statistician **“every week”**! One of the money counters can do this job.
- 6) The number of people who profess faith in a week can be counted by a pastor **“every week”**!

If you can do one of these jobs, please volunteer and let the church office know. We need definitely a church statistician. Are you faithful and familiar with email? Then you are it! I am waiting for your response!

Your pastor, Pastor Lee

**Share Sunday was a big success!** The food is so appreciated and needed, since the funding is less now and giving has gone down.

Pick up a few items this month when you go shopping. Our trunk is big, so help fill it up.

Thank you, Chris & Ron Wilson

### SHARE SUNDAY – THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Suggested items are; macaroni and cheese, canned fruits and vegetables and peanut butter.

## Christian Fusion News!

Happy New Year, one and all! My New Years' resolution is to be awesome, and I'm getting a head start by making January's Christian Fusion schedule perfect! Just a reminder: The Concord UMC is the host church this month, so all events will take place at the Concord UMC.

On January 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:00pm until 8:00pm in Sherrill Hall, we'll be cooking up a storm for Christian Fusion! Come join us for fun, food, prayer, and games!

On Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, we're having game night! The night's game is a most competitive and serious game: Apples to Apples. We'll meet on the field of honor, which is coincidentally located in the Youth Room, and play the most important game of our entire lives: ever. Come on over, it'll be fun!

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, we have our first fundraiser of the year for Sierra Service Project: the Spaghetti Dinner! We'll be selling tickets all month, and be there to set up on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am! We'll get Oglesby-Close Hall looking classy, get ourselves all dressed up, and serve a massive spaghetti dinner to all who come to the event! Speaking of Sierra Service Project, we're reserving spots right now! The High School trip is to Fort Hall, Idaho from July 14<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>! The Middle School trip is to Coarsegold, California from July 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>! Space is limited, so call, Facebook message, email, or talk to Jake to reserve your spot!

The day after the Spaghetti dinner is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, which means we're taking another Church Field Trip! This time, we're going to St. Mary and St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church in Concord. It's on Clayton Road. Concord UMC parishioners can meet at the church, and Walnut Creek parishioners can meet at the Walnut Creek UMC and carpool over, if needed. I don't have a time yet for their worship services, but knowing us, we'll probably be there from about 9:30am until about noon. This is yet another really interesting cultural experience brought to you by your youth group! Have a great month!

Please Note: Pat Brumley's Bible study at her home has been cancelled indefinitely.

|                  |          |                    |  |             |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|--|-------------|
| 8th              | Sunday   | 6:00pm-<br>8:00pm  | Christian Fusion   | Concord UMC |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Friday   | 6:00pm-<br>8:00pm  | GAME NIGHT!  | Concord UMC |
| 22nd             | Sunday   | 6:00pm-<br>8:00pm  | Christian Fusion   | Concord UMC |
| 28th             | Saturday | All Day            | Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser                                      | Concord UMC |
| 29th             | Sunday   | 9:30am-<br>12:00pm | Church Field Trip:<br>St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church in Concord |             |

### OFFICE VACATION

**The church office will be closed for staff vacation from:**

**12:30pm - Friday December 23 To 8:30am - Tuesday January 3, 2012**

If you have an emergency and would like to contact either Pastor Lee or Marilyn please call/email us at:

Pastor Lee: 1-408-838-0431

rev.sungholee@gmail.com

Marilyn Robrecht: 768-1080

m.robrecht@sbcglobal.net

You may also leave a message on the church answering machine 685-5260 or email the church at: concordumc@sbcglobal.net and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

For Prayer Chain requests:

Lee Sherman or Colleen Davis; 689-1436

## GROWING FAITH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

Christmas is a time of hope, love and charity. It is also a time of both **waiting** and **busyness**.

Adults are consumed with the preparations for Christmas while children count down the weeks and days before the joy of Christmas day arrives and the long expected presents.

Prior to the first Christmas, the Jews had been waiting for their Messiah, foretold centuries earlier. Today Christians wait for the second coming of Christ. The motivations for the waiting for Christmas vary drastically between the secular and Christian world. Consumer sales drive the economy and these are focused on the Christmas selling season so commercialism is rampant. Shoppers amass outside stores in the cold wee hours fighting (sometimes literally) for the sought after, must have item. Pundits wait for the coming of economic success to be declared. Everyone is perpetually busy preparing for "The Most Wonderful time of the Year" created by the traditional sights, sounds and smells of Christmas:

- The presents! The presents! The presents!
- The tree! The lights!
- The movies!
- The food!
- The festivities!
- Santa! Sleigh bells! Snow! Frosty!
- The Songs!

We are busy decorating, shopping, entertaining, travelling... but for many the environment is Christ less.

In Pastor Lee's sermon, "Are You Willing to Serve?" he described how we can use our talents while waiting for the coming of the Savior. Busyness of the secular, commercial Christmas is replaced by the hope, love and charity inspired by the Christ child:

- Glorifying and praising God in our Christmas services.
- Relaying the Christmas story.
- Carol singing to the forgotten or neglected.
- Reaching out to the poor, the dispossessed, the needy with food, shelter and love.
- Spreading the Word to our neighbors
- Inviting all to worship.
- Giving to local, national and international charities.
- Forgiving old hurts or current emotional wounds.

Busyness can be the death of kindness; it can also be the personification of kindness.

Christmas is certainly the Most Wonderful time of the Year to display and practice Christian stewardship!

Merry Christmas,

The Stewardship Committee



**Saturday January 21, 2012**  
**UMW General Meeting**

**Meeting: 9:30am-10:15am, Sherrill Hall**

**11:00 am to 12:00 noon**  
**Program & Tea**

**Speaker: Jacqueline Robrecht**  
**Topic: Her mission trips to Haiti**

**Non-members of UMW who would like to attend, please RSVP to:**  
**Sandy Blazer, 686-1440**

### **Hymn of the Month - "We Are Called" The Faith We Sing (2172) By David Haas**

During the month of January, at all three services, we will be singing a hymn by David Haas calling us to social justice. Last June we began the "Hymn of the Month" with his hymn of prayer "Without Seeing You"; but his concerns range throughout the liturgical spectrum. In "We Are Called" he reminds us, that as people of God, we should live in the Light, acting with justice and love, serving each other.

**"We are called to act with justice.  
We are called to love tenderly.  
We are called  
to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God."**

## **Church & Society**

What a great project **CASH CARD CHRISTMAS** turned out to be! Thanks to donations from members and friends, CUMC was able to purchase 25 Safeway, Food Max. and K Mart gift cards totaling \$625.00 from our own cash card project, helping our church, and giving the cards to the Salvation Army for distribution to families needing help at Christmas. The Salvations Army was most grateful for our generosity in helping them provide for the needy in our community. **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL. MAY YOU HAVE A MERRY AND JOYOUS AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS!**

2011 is coming to a close, but Concord United Methodist is already working on ways to make our community a better place in 2012. **Monday, January 30 through Friday, February 3 is FAMILY SHELTER WEEK**. CUMC will be taking evening meals and supplies to the Mountain View Family Emergency Shelter in Martinez. Approximately thirty people are housed at mountain View and over half are children. We do this each year, usually in January and July. If you would like to help with this community outreach, please give Delores Loague a call at 925-672-6870. Thank you.

**WINTER NIGHTS IS COMING.** How would you like to sleep outside or crammed in a car with your family on these cold winter nights? The Winter Nights Traveling Shelter is currently keeping nine families from having do that by housing them in tents inside a church or synagogue where they are safe and warm. What a blessing that is for the families and also for the churches providing the shelter. CUMC will be hosting Winter Nights for two weeks beginning March 12 with help from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church down the street. We've already started planning on how best to house, provide meals, homework help, activities, and lots of TLC for the families staying with us during those weeks but there is still lots more work to do. **Our next planning session will be Saturday, January 28, 9:30 AM in Sherrill Hall and YOU are invited.** We welcome any new ideas to make 2012's Winter Nights at our church the best yet, so please come if you can.



### **The FAQ's, just the FAQ's!**

#### **CAN I TRUST A STEPHEN MINISTER?**

Trust is essential to a caring relationship, and Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. Confidentiality is one of the most important principles of Stephen Ministry, and what a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence.

How can you become a Stephen Minister? Begin by talking to one of our Stephen Leaders and they can tell you more. We are planning on starting a new class in January 2012. Usually Stephen Ministers make a two year commitment to serve after the classes are over. If you are interested in participating in this truly personal and giving ministry in our church please contact one of the Stephen Leaders to learn more. Please contact Pastor Lee or one of the Stephen Ministers:

Laura Moreau—458-3309  
Pastor Sungho Lee—685-5260  
Marj Kerr—458-9051  
Karen Morones—685-3917  
Nancy Thomas—798-4658

### **EMERGENCY FOOD AVAILABLE**

We have an emergency food pantry to provide basic food items for a few days to anyone needing assistance. The contact person is Pastor Lee (1-408-838-0431) or e-mail [rev.sungholee@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sungholee@gmail.com). All contacts will be held in strictest confidence.



### **In Our Prayers**

**Gloria Crampton and family following Lee's death on December 14. His service was held at CUMC on December 20.**

Also, Continued prayers for; **Helen Tousignant Richard Spryer, Phil Ochoa, Chris Gregory and Kate Amos.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 2011  
Total Income**

|                        | Actual    | Budget    | Difference |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Month                  |           |           |            |
| Sunday Collections     | \$22,463  | \$21,033  | \$1,430    |
| Other Income           | \$5,755   | \$5,673   | \$82       |
| Total for Month        | \$28,218  | \$26,706  | \$1,512    |
| Year to Date           |           |           |            |
| Sunday Collections     | \$270,874 | \$261,281 | \$9,593    |
| Other Income           | \$54,302  | \$34,074  | \$20,228   |
| Total for Year to Date | \$325,176 | \$295,355 | \$29,820   |

**Total Expenses**

|              | Actual    | Budget    | Difference |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Month        | \$23,963  | \$27,132  | \$3,169    |
| Year To Date | \$319,116 | \$338,010 | \$18,894   |

### *Special Thanks*

Dear Friends,  
Thanks so much for your thoughts and prayers during and after recent surgeries....it meant so much to me and to my family during this time....and a special Thank you to dear Pastor Lee for his almost daily visits...he even honored me with one of his little violin solos! It is so good to be home to continue recuperating...and to be back in our favorite pew at church.  
Love, Suzanne Rausch

#### ***Turkey giveaway thank you***

Thank you Church Members who gave money to buy the turkeys. We collected \$750.00 which bought 1,200 lbs. of turkeys and made 2,400 meals.  
Many families were helped by your generous offerings.  
John Nunes, Chairman

*John received a letter from the Mt. Diablo Unified School District thanking him for his part in this wonderful mission project. It's in the office if you would like to read it.  
Marilyn*

Dear CUMC,  
My deepest thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

Sandy blazer and her wonderful family who helped me get the tree out and up, hang the wreaths and banners. The many who helped decorate the tree during Hanging of the Greens; Conrad Taylor, Piper Riley, Milt DeGroot, Carole Engler, Bill Rodriguez, Pastor Lee and Linda Jinks.

Many thanks to Harriet Hoselton for helping me carry in and place 24 poinsettias from my car. My most loving thanks to Marilyn Robrecht for year around help with Altar Guild goings on all the time.

My loving thanks to all.

God Bless You,

Ellie McCollum

**This is the New Year's Resolution (2012) that we will share  
at the Watch Night Service. For those who could not come to the  
service they can use this at home!**

## **My New Year's Resolution**

**In the year 2012, I will:**

1. Bring people to our church. The persons that I am thinking now are \_\_\_\_\_ (    ).
  2. Read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation at least once (    ).
  3. Attend the worship service all the time when I am in town (    ).
  4. Participate in one Christ Care group (    ).
  5. Go to mission trip to \_\_\_\_\_ (    ).
  6. Start a small group Bible study (    ).
  7. Start giving tithe (    ).
  8. Serve in local mission programs. The program would be \_\_\_\_\_ (    ).
  9. Serve in a Mid-Week program at our church (    ).
  10. Play in CUMC Community Orchestra (    ).
  11. Sing in our choir (    ).
  12. Participate in Steven Ministry (    ).
- Or
- 

If you want to deepen your understanding of our church, here are three options.

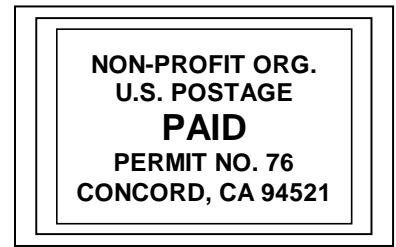
1. **New Members Class.** *For people who want to be church members.*  
**Sundays** Noon-1:00 PM "How to live an abundant life?"
2. **Membership Class.** *For those who want to know our church better.*  
**Every Third Saturday** 9:00 AM-Noon "How to lead a vital church life?"
3. **Leadership Class.** *For those who want to lead small groups.*  
**Every Fourth Saturday** 9:00 AM-Noon "How to lead a small group?"

**These Classes are ongoing classes. You can check your calendar and come any time!**  
(When the class is canceled because of another church activity, it will be announced in advance in the church bulletin. It will be an exciting year for all of us!)

***The Concord Connection***

Concord United Methodist Church  
1645 West Street  
Concord, CA 94521  
925/685-5260

**Return Service Requested**



*Happy New Year!*

*From Pastor Lee,  
Doug Emigh,  
Jake Ritter  
Marilyn Robrecht,  
Myrna Bayog,  
Doug McKeehan, Lee Woods,  
Robin Morgan, Kiley Jones & Nicole Headley*