

Sharing God's gift of love this Christmas

Adopt-a-family

In partnership with Canal Winchester Human Services, our Missions Ministry invites you to help a family in need this Christmas season. We will be helping families that live in the Village to provide clothing and toys for their children.

A Christmas Tree shaped poster is in the entry way. Items that the parents asked for are on individual pieces of paper. You are invited to take an item from the tree, purchase the gift, place the receipt inside, wrap

the gift, and place the child's name on the outside. Please place the wrapped gift under the Christmas tree in the entry way.

We have two weeks to receive the gifts for the families before Christmas. We appreciate you deciding ahead of time to help.

Money is also needed for gift certificates for the family. Please make the check out to Faith UMC, and write **Adopt-a-Family** on the line.



Adopt -a- Family



Mitten Tree

The Missions Ministry is sponsoring its annual "Mitten" tree. Please drop off donations of NEW mittens, gloves, caps and scarves in the entry way in the designated box.

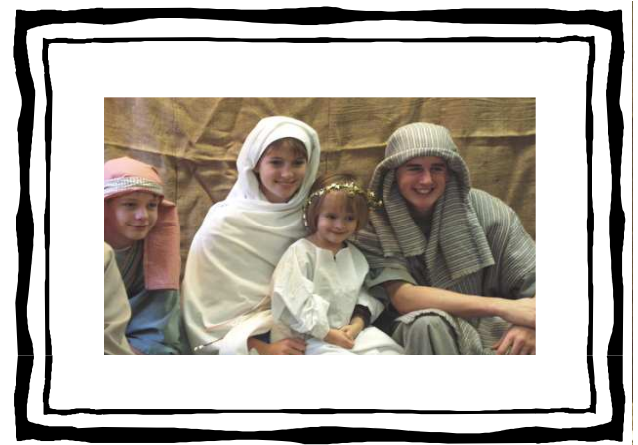
We welcome all sizes.

The items will be donated to the Canal Winchester Food Pantry, where they will be made available to the Canal Winchester families who shop there.

Bethlehem Breakfast for families with young children Saturday, December 12 9:00 am

Have you ever wanted to eat breakfast with the angel Gabriel? Or how about with one of the sheep that was at the manger the night Jesus was born? Eating breakfast with a camel or a donkey can be quite exciting, and you are invited to do just that! Come to the Bethlehem Breakfast, eat some delicious food and help prepare the characters and props for the play, "A Gift of Love." Then enjoy the play which tells the story of Jesus' birth.

Tickets on sale for \$2.00 through the church office — 837-2343.



2009 Year End Financial Report

At the end of November, we needed \$67,000 to end 2009 fully in the black.

We need to give \$17,000 in December to reach our pledge goals. The Mission Ministry Team would like to make a year end contribution to the Canal Winchester Food bank, and the House of Mercy Orphanage in Mexico. Our ability to fully fund our mission outreach is linked to reaching our pledge goals.

We have received altar flower contributions for 40 of the 52 Sundays in 2009. If you signed up for altar flowers but have not yet paid the \$30.00 for them, now is the time.

The largest part of this amount is the \$50,000 our Educare Ministry fund has “borrowed” from the rest of our funds. This “debt” of the Educare Ministry goes back two years to the start off the second building site where we provide

Kindergarten and elementary school age programming. Our Financial Resources team and the directors of both our Educare Ministry sites have worked many long hours to ensure that the Educare Ministry breaks even, but paying back the “debt” is an added burden to the ministry. We all need to remember that Educare is not a separate business housed within our walls. Educare does not exist as an independent business or corporation. Educare is a ministry of Faith United Methodist church to the children and families of Canal Winchester.

Detailed statements of where every penny has been spent for 2009 are available, just ask Rich Holter or Karl Teeters to send you one. We want you to be confident of your gifts.

We have roughly \$24,000 in our capital improvement fund that is available to use on physical improvements to the buildings.

Any contribution you can make in December will help us fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Offering for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

This year the Christmas offering will be used for the pastor's discretionary fund.

This is money that the pastor can give out to people in need without anyone else knowing who is receiving the money, how much they are receiving, or what their situation is. Just the pastor (*and the church treasurer*) is involved.

In 2008, the pastor's discretionary fund was used to help several members of our congregation. One person lost their job and needed a little help before finding employment, another had long term health problems, while a third had terminal cancer. In each of these people's lives the money made a dramatic difference, but it was even more important to them that their church family cared enough to be there with them in their time of struggle.

The Christmas offering is a way that we can make our congregation more than just a place where we say words about caring for one another, and put genuine action behind those words. We can prove our love to God and one another through this gift.



Christmas Offering

Checks can be marked “**Christmas offering**”