For unto us a Child is Born.  
Unto us a Son is Given.

2012  
Merry Christmas  
From Your Friends at  
The Cooperstown  
United Methodist Church

Alice Stiles  
Carol Highfield  
Mary Beekman  
Joan Ackerman  
Gladys G. Howe  
Merrilyn O’Connell  
Barb & Will Monie  
Mary June Dickinson  
Donald & Anita Clark  
Earle & Jan Hayford  
Laurie & Bill Glockler  
The Williammee Family  
Robert & Sandra Chase  
Scott, Jay, Kathryn, Kate, Ali, Grant, Dan & Ryan  
Colin & Emily Bliss, Randy, Susan & Amanda Gelatt  
The Alton Family

May the love and light of the Christ child fill you with peace and joy.  
This year’s church-wide Christmas card raised $320 for Ministry Shares.  As a greeting was shared with you, human needs were met through the mission work of the church.
CALLING ALL KIDS

Would you like to be part of the Christmas Eve pageant? We need kids to play Mary, Joseph, the Three Wise Men, Shepherds, and Angels. If your child is interested in participating, give Lorie Hillhouse a call at 264-8317. Or call Pastor Sundar at 547-9540. We will meet at 6:15 PM before the 7 PM Christmas Eve service in the Fellowship Room to get the children in their costumes. We already have the costumes at the church that the children will wear in the pageant. We need a good turnout of kids to do the pageant and keep the tradition going.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

During the 7 PM Christmas Eve service the Children's Choir will sing a selection of Christmas songs. Starting Sunday, December 2nd and the following Sundays until Christmas Eve, Choir Director Del Chavez will practice with the children in the Chapel at 9 AM before the Sunday School classes meet. There will be Candle Lighting.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas Offering envelopes are included with this newsletter. In this festive season be in prayer for our church, our church family, our mission and ministry and our vision for the coming New Year. Your Advent Offering will help us create “Good Will To All People” we serve in the name of the Christ Child.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

EVALEEN STEIN

When the Christ-child comes again
Softly down the street to-night,
Twinkling through the window pane
Let our candles shed their light.
Though the clouds are dark above
And the golden stars are dim,
We can tell Him of our love
If we set a light for Him.
Oh, the blessed Christ-child dear,
In His robe of shining white,
Let our candles give Him cheer
As He passes by to-night!

The 11 PM Service will be Candle Lighting and Holy Communion. If you and loved ones can join us, please do. It will be a special night to worship God through his son, Jesus Christ.
Merry Christmas 2012

A Christmas Prayer

Gracious and loving God, the gift of your Son, Jesus, was a gift that changed the course of human history for all time. Words are inadequate to express our gratitude for such an extravagant outpouring of generosity, love and grace. It is, instead, our lives that need to speak for us-lives that are testimonies to the difference that this Jesus makes in the human heart and the human condition.

When we act with compassion, kindness and gentleness toward others, we are the incarnational presence of Christ. When we are patient rather than angry and short-tempered, we exhibit the life of Jesus. As we stretch to do the hard work of forgiveness, rather than justify our bitterness and grudges, we become more like your Son.

When we dwell on your word, it transforms our minds so that we may choose, act and respond as those who are devoted followers of the one who said, “Come, and follow me.” O God, this is who we long to be. Grant us your grace and mercy to walk as friends and worshipers of the Christ child. Amen.
CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD
Send a Christmas Card to all your church friends the easy way! A form is included with this newsletter for your donation to Ministry Shares. Your name will be on the “card” and sent to the church family in a special mailing. Please return the form by Sunday, December 16th.

CHRISTMAS AT TILLAPAUGH’S
The Tillapaugh family has invited us to their home at 28 Pioneer Street during the holidays for over 60 years. Ellen Tillapaugh-Kuch and Martin Tillapaugh and their families again will host the church families at a soup and bread luncheon on Sunday, December 2nd after worship. A Coopella, a group of local singers, will present special music starting at noon. There is no coffee hour at church. Everyone is invited to join in this fellowship. Contact Pastor Sundar if you wish to carpool.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
The 7 PM Christmas Eve service will be special with Christmas Carols, Children’s Program and Candle Lighting. The 11 PM Service will be Candle Lighting and Holy Communion. If you and loved ones can join us, please do. It will be a special night to worship God through his son, Jesus Christ. See next page for details of the Christmas pageant and Children’s Choir.

ADVENT OFFERING
Advent Offering envelopes are included with this newsletter. In the weeks of this Advent Season be in prayer for our church, our church family, our mission and ministry and our vision for the coming New Year. Your Advent Offering will help us create “Good Will To All People” we serve in the name of the Christ Child.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
This year Mary Beekman delivered 43 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child to Main Street Baptist Church, Oneonta. A huge thank you for your enthusiastic support and generosity. Your gifts will bring joy and hope to many children.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Liz Catchings 02\textsuperscript{nd}
Jose Neill 02\textsuperscript{nd}
Lana Calhoun 11\textsuperscript{th}
Howard Berg 14\textsuperscript{th}
Lorie Hillhouse 15\textsuperscript{th}
Jessica Collier 16\textsuperscript{th}
Peter Russo 16\textsuperscript{th}
Jeremiah Hillhouse 17\textsuperscript{th}
Daniel Holmes 18\textsuperscript{th}
Daphne Morgan 20\textsuperscript{th}
Ashley Kiuber 20\textsuperscript{th}
Willis Monie, Jr. 23\textsuperscript{rd}
Teresa Russo 24\textsuperscript{th}
Helen Moore 27\textsuperscript{th}
Steve Collier 28\textsuperscript{th}

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Mike & Susan Otis 21\textsuperscript{st}

Thanksgiving decorations were arranged by Dianne Feury
The fall decorations in front of the church were arranged by Linda Smirk and Evelyn Collier.

About Our Church Family
Congratulations to our December college graduates: COLIN BLISS received his Master’s degree in Business Administration from Union College. MAGGIE KUCH received her MS degree in nursing with certification in midwifery from Vanderbilt University. RAY HILLHOUSE received his BA degree in IT Management from SUNY at Cobleskill.

THE MOTHER HOSPITAL OF METHODIST
Since 1925' the people called Methodist' have generously responded to the Red Stocking appeal. We appeal again to members and friends of all ages and ask that you help the New York Methodist Hospital continue to provide compassionate medical services to our society’s most vulnerable men, women and children.

The "Mother Hospital of Methodism" first began its work in 1898. The Hospital remains true to its founding principles and continues its strong relationship to the Methodist Church, offering a comprehensive pastoral care program and related services, tours and accommodations for overnight visits to Sunday school groups and a myriad of medical services to Methodist pastors through its Pastors' Clinics.

The Red Stocking Campaign began in 1925. Each year New York Methodist Hospital spends millions of dollars on charity care for those who are uninsured or under insured. In keeping with the spirits of its founders, the Hospital also operates satellite family health centers in low income neighborhoods, providing compassionate care that is both affordable and close to home. The centers provide an important lifeline to thousands of families and offer a sliding scale payment structure for those who have difficulty affording care. Please support generously and send your donations to New York Methodist Hospital, Dept. Of Development, 506 Sixth street, Brooklyn, NY 11215-9977.

Stewardship Report
2012 General Fund Budget $138,500
Budget through October $115,417
Offerings through October $76,826
Below Budget ($38,591)

2012 Capital Fund Goal $30,000
Goal through October $25,000
Offerings through October $8,364
Below Goal ($16,636)

2012 STEWARDSHIP 29 pledges, total $61,641
2013 STEWARDSHIP 24 pledges, total $55,700

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
Stewardship letters and pledge forms for the 2013 Operating Budget are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The forms may be mailed to the church, Attn. Laurie Glockler, or placed in the offering plate. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sundar at 547-9540, or Laurie at 547-5061.
OUR MUSIC MINISTRY  
by Del Chavez. Organist/Choir Director  

Announcements:  
Children’s Choir – All children are invited to join in the singing of carols on Christmas Eve at the 7 p.m. service. The Children’s Choir will sing after the pageant. Rehearsals start on December 2 at 9 a.m. in the Chapel.

Christmas Eve:  
December is the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, like we celebrate our own birthdays every year. On Christmas Eve, Ushuaia will be playing on the clarinet some traditional carols. Barbara Monie and Merrilyn O’Connell will be singing a duet at the 7 p.m. service. If anyone would like to sing, play an instrument or both during either Christmas Eve service, please let Del know, cell 643-5893.

Thanksgiving:  
The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 18 was a wonderful experience for the UMC choir, joining with choir members from the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches. The 20 member choir sang Simple Gifts with clarinet accompaniment by Ushuaia Diaz and piano accompaniment by Peter Deysenroth. The Hymn of Thanksgiving was also sung during the service.

Did You Know …  
In the Philippines, as soon as the “ber” months start, it is considered a holiday? The Filipinos begin their Christmas decorating in September. Christmas carols are heard at the mall at the beginning of September until Three Kings. Christmas lanterns are hung and traditional Christmas food is sold in the street stores or the markets.

Music Quote of the Month:  
“Music is very spiritual; it has the power to bring people together.” – Edgar Winter

THANKSGIVING BASKETS  
Special thanks to everyone who contributed food items and money for Thanksgiving baskets. Several baskets were delivered to Cooperstown Central School. Nancy Davis, and Linda Smirk assembled the baskets.

CHRISTMAS TEA AND BAZAAR  
Our thanks to all who work so hard to make our Tea and Bazaar a success. Your wonderful talents are appreciated. The money we earn goes to help women make a better life for their children all over the US and the world.

Tuesday, December 4th, Noon, UMW Executive Committee meeting at Jackie’s Restaurant. We will be emptying the treasury. Keep in mind we are called to mission!

Sunday, December 2nd, Christmas at Tillapaugh’s immediately following worship. We will be having a soup and bread luncheon, A Coopella, a local group of singers, will present special music. All families and friends are invited. Our thanks to Gary and Ellen Tillapaugh Kuch and Martin Tillapaugh for this lovely time.

HATS AND MITTENS PROJECT  
Hat and mitten sets in sizes to fit infants through teenagers will be appreciated. PLEASE DO NOT BOX OR WRAP THE SETS; mark the size, and leave on the display case in the back of the Sanctuary by December 16th.

VESTMENTS OF COOPERSTOWN  
The Voices of Cooperstown, conducted by Maestro Dan Foster, founder and director of Aoeda Consort, will present a holiday concert on Sunday, December 15th at 4 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, River Street, Cooperstown. The group of community singers, soloists and orchestra will present pieces by Bach and deLully. Tickets are $18 and are available at Augur’s and at the door.
ANGEL NETWORK THANK YOU
The Network, coordinated by CCS, deeply appreciates the support of our members throughout the year. Generous contributions of gift cards, and Christmas gifts to meet special needs make a difference in troubled lives.

SATURDAY’S BREAD
Our volunteer service during 2013 has been scheduled: January 26, April 27, June 29, October 26. Please save the dates and plan to help. At least 12 volunteers are needed each time. A sign up sheet will be in the Fellowship Room or call Rena Lull 547-5149.

A NOTE OF THANKS
Thanks to all who helped with the Harvest Turkey Dinner. We need and get help from many people. The community loves coming to our dinners (249 were served) and they ask when the next one will be. Thanks to each one of you who helped in advertising, shopping, donating, setting tables, cooking, pie baking, dishes and clean up. The Harvest Dinner gross receipts totaled about $2,031 and are used for Ministry Shares! God Bless our church Family!

   Business donors included: McDonald’s, Fly Creek Cider Mill, Friehofer’s, Cooperstown General Store, Ace Hardware, Taylor’s Mini Mart, CVS, Hannaford, Schneider’s Bakery, Cooperstown Diner, BJ’s, Stewarts, Tops, TJ’s, Price Chopper, Dunkin Donuts and Brooks’ BBQ.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
The Church Council, chaired by Carol Harter, will meet Sunday, January 13th after worship during coffee hour. It will be a time of planning ahead for 2013 and approving the operating budget for the year. All ministry chairs and members of the congregation are urged to attend.

VACANCIES
Fundraising/Projects Chair 2012
Finance Chair 2012
Christian Education Chair 2012
SPPRC Class of 2014 (1) 2012-2014
Recording Secretary 2012
Native American Ministries (new) 2012
Publicity 2012
Contact Pastor Sundar at 547-9540

2013 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR
The following annual fundraising events are on the calendar for 2013. Please note that not all events have a chairperson. Won’t you raise your hand? Also, a key person is missing – the Fundraising Chair. If you can volunteer, please contact Pastor Sundar as soon as possible.

Friday, April 12th
Roast Pork Dinner
Chairperson: Ellen Tillapaugh

Sunday, May 26th
Car Parking for Father’s Day Hall of Fame Classic Ballgame & Parade
Chairperson:

Saturday, July 27th
Chicken Barbecue, Hall of Fame Induction Weekend
Chairperson:

Sunday, July 28th
Car Parking for Hall of Fame Induction Day
Chairperson:

Saturday-Sunday, August 31st-September 1st
Pie Sale, Clark Sports Center Craft Show
Chairperson: Susan Gelatt

Saturday, November 16th
Harvest Turkey Dinner
Chairperson:

FOOD PANTRY
The Food Pantry continues its appeal for non-perishable food to keep the shelves stocked and meet a growing need for food. Cash donations are also appreciated. Checks may be made payable to Cooperstown Food Pantry and mailed to 25 Church Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326. There is always a collection box in the back of the UMCC sanctuary -- please double bag. To volunteer, call Ellen St. John at 547-9653.
CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

JOIN OUR C.C.C.

(CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD)

Send a Christmas card to all your church friends the easy way! Instead of buying cards, addressing them and paying postage, donate that amount of money to Ministry Shares, your church’s mission arm. The Outreach Committee will send our "card" with the names of those who contributed to all members and friends of the Congregation to wish them a joyous Christmas. Help us to help others as we witness the true spirit of the season.

Please fill out this form and return it to 66 Chestnut Street, ATTN: Brenda or place it in the weekly offering plate by Sunday, December 11th. Make your check payable to the Cooperstown United Methodist Church and designate "Church Christmas Card". We will have a special mailing for our Church Christmas Card.

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CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD
Please include my/our name(s) as printed below:

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Enclosed is a contribution of $____________ for Ministry Shares.

Please return by Sunday December 16th to:

Cooperstown United Methodist Church
66 Chestnut Street
Cooperstown, NY  13326
Dear Members and Friends:

How should I wish you a “Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays? Just like you, I have been greeted these past few weeks by grocery store cashiers, gas attendants, neighbors and friends with the exception of few Salvation Army Bell Ringers, by this very popular greeting “Happy Holidays!” So, what does it mean to exchange such a greeting? Does it mean that I have a good time with my family members; have a happy Black Friday shopping or just wishing a generic holiday cheer, a polite and politically correct thing to say instead of “good bye?” However, sincere it might be wished for by people who are close to me and those whom I have just met, I am inclined to asking myself, as to what is the essence of my happiness during these days when my family and I are getting ready for the advent season?

As I read the biblical account of the Christmas story I find its true meaning. In the gospel of Luke, Angel Gabriel comes to Virgin Mary and announces “Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God” (1: 28, 30). The angel also “brought good news of great joy to the Shepherds that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord.” (St. Luke 2: 9-10). Is this the basis for our true happiness that God loves us very much? Is this the reason that we don’t have to be afraid even when we are facing a fiscal cliff?

We have all heard the phrase “Jesus Is the Reason for the Season!” Whatever your take is on our culture these days, I believe, during these next five weeks, we in the United States of America are getting ready for Christmas? Because, when we hear Christmas carols like “Joy to the World,” “Silent Night, Holy Night,” “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” over the public address system, intruding into our world of hustle and bustle, we are reminded of the awesome message of God’s eternal love for us and all humanity through his Son, Jesus Christ! As for me and my house, like you, we will be celebrating a “Merry Christmas.” However, there are many in our nation and across the globe, “Merry Christmas” simply might be as same it is for us. For some it might be a time of gathering of family and friends around food, good conversations and laughter and nothing more? Some, might even go the extra mile of decorating their Christmas Trees, buy presents, meticulously wrap them and put them under the tree, sling lights along the gutters of their houses, throw up decorations, Santa’s and Reindeer on the front lawn, and even run up enormous charges on their credit cards, and a reminder of God’s love for them. I for one, wonder, why go through such a charade for a holiday season, which has little or no honest meaning of Christmas?

This Christmas Season, I would like to encourage all of us to take time to learn and teach our loved ones what true Christmas is all about? One of the best and easiest ways to start is to getting back to your church and gather with other Christians for worship, where carols are sung, Scriptures are read. Nativity plays are enacted to help us understand a little more of the true meaning of Christmas. At the very minimum, let us take time to be in the church with our family members, for Christmas Eve Candle Light services. I know, this will challenge you and yours to developing some vital family rituals during this Christmas season. May be you can get hold of one of those Christmas story books and read them together as a family on Christmas morning before you open your presents? Or maybe you can find a place where you would like to donate your time to serve meals to the less fortunate before you sit down at your banquet table? Let me in closing, just echo the angel’s message “Today…A Savor has been born, he is Christ the Lord!” O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! Amen.

Pastor Sundar Samuel