

U-U Plans Celebration Of Solstice

The Universalist-Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halstead, will celebrate both Christmas and the winter solstice with a family service at 8 p.m. Dec. 24.

The service will portray Christmas as a holiday that has roots deep in pre-Christian traditions and means for many today the celebration of birth, hope and the future.

The importance of the cultural heritage will be reflected through the use of festive lights to usher in the winter solstice.

Song, candles and hopes for peace on earth will be highlights of the service, and refreshments will be served later.

'Messiah' Is Planned

Handel's "Messiah" will be presented at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19, in Highland Park Baptist Church, 28600 Luther, Southfield, by the church's Chancel Choir.

The leading tenor role will be sung by Jeremy Slavin, a teacher from the Philadelphia School of the Bible. He is the son of the Rev. George Slavin, pastor of the church.

The alto role will be sung by Carol Knight of Orchard Lake, and soprano parts by Marge Chomer of Detroit and Margaret Londa of Farmington.

Neil C. Neideck will be the musical director.



A SLEIGH complete with a "reindeer" and a balloon on every car greeted worshippers leaving St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Livonia last Sunday to remind them of the Christmas family night in the church at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. The public program will feature the church drama department, five choirs and a visit from Santa Claus. The church is located at Five Mile and Inkster. Pictured are Pamela Nelson of Westland on the sleigh and Kathy Budde (left) and Linda Bozzi, both of Redford Township.

Inter-Faith Players Will Stage Christmas Play

Portions of Bach's Mass in B minor will be performed Thursday evening, Dec. 30, at 7:30, in St. Edmund Catholic Church, 14005 Twelve Mile, Warren. The work will be performed by the Cass Tech High School Alumni Chorus and Orchestra, under the direction of Italo Taranata. The concert is part of the Music Heritage series and there is no admission charge.

Religion Update

One hundred and seventy-one years ago this Christmas morning, the meager congregation at St. Paul's Cathedral in London for services appeared to verify the recurrent reports of the death of Christianity.

The previous Easter, St. Paul's Dean Tomlin had lamented: "In that vast and noble cathedral no more than six persons were found at the Table of the Lord."

RATIONALISM was rampant in Europe. In Paris, the crucifix at Notre Dame had been replaced with an actress, as the goddess of Reason. But somehow, Christianity hung on, as it had been doing, recently, for eighteen centuries of almost countless resurgences. Its staying power survives from the principal activity in the brief ministry of its founder: the training of 12 especially selected leaders of a new organization.

The leaders were called apostles and the organization called the Church before it owned an inch of real estate. They were highly improbable leaders for any budding ecclesiastical organization. Not a priest or Levite among them, but rather they were comprised for the most part of a number of profane fishermen (like one named Peter) plus one particularly scandalous recruit: one of the hated tax collectors (Publicans) named Matthew.

THIS SELECTED group made it seem Jesus was in favor of disorganized religion. That the church at its origin

was as full of faults as any other organization comprised of human beings is apparent from its records, called the Gospels. Particularly so "on the night in which He (the leader) was betrayed..." by one of them, denied three by another and finally deserted by all the rest.

Still, without this initially dismal organization's miraculous staying ability and capacity for rejuvenation, the name of Jesus Christ would be virtually unknown today and his gospel long since forgotten. There would never have been any Christmas.

Always, even in its most terribly discouraging crisis, the church has somehow managed to produce some agents of rejuvenation - frequently from the most improbable sources.

IN THE LAST century, for example, a young school teacher tried affection and reason with his class of unruly boys - who were used to regular beatings as the customary form of discipline. They took vast advantage of him; so much so that he was summoned by the principal, who fired him, with the exquisitely cruel observation:

"Mr. Brooks: You are a failure as a teacher. And having failed here, you will fail at anything else you try to do."

The sensitive young man subsequently experienced a nervous breakdown which, but for the love and religious devotion of his mother, might well have become permanent psychosis. Later he entered theological seminary - but so

uncertain of himself and of religion that he would not become a confirmed member of the church until his senior year.

YET OUT OF THIS crucible of doubt and suffering, there emerged one of the most magnificent preachers in U.S. or world history. Phillips Brooks was not only one of the most incisive and courageous opponents of slavery, but his marvelous eloquence in preaching the love of God, rather than the fundamentalist wrath, had its effect on all of American Christianity.

He had vehement opposition, of course. Just prior to the hour of his consecration as Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts, the procession stood waiting outside of Trinity Church in Boston's Copley Square, while the presiding bishop dutifully read a number of furious written protests from various Episcopal dioceses and bishops. This was followed immediately, however, by a joyful singing of the hymn: "Rejoice, Give Thanks And Sing!"

In 1867, just after America's bloodiest war, Brooks spent Christmas Eve in Bethlehem. Writing in the Shepherd's Field, he touched on poetic immortality, with lines designed to lighten the darkness and lift the hopes of millions - even in the darkest age:

"Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

ECUMENICAL REFLECTIONS

By MARLYN W. WHITE
Unity of West Suburbia

In the nativity story we are told of the three gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh) that were presented by the three kings to the baby Jesus. Have you ever stopped to think that we never have lasting effect, what happened to these gifts?

Let us use our imagination to consider what might have happened. Since the gifts were given to Jesus as an infant, we can assume that Mary and Joseph would put these gifts aside until such a time when Jesus would be old enough to determine their use.

AS HE MATURED, Jesus, completely enveloped in His love for people would undoubtedly be seeking ways to help them. It seems reasonable that His first response to those who came to Him in need would be to give them what they thought would help them. We can almost hear the people crying out: "If only I had money, all my problems would be solved."

In our mind's eye we can see Jesus responding to their pleas by giving generously of His riches and observing the fruits of His own good deeds.

sciously aware of this gift and begin to cherish it and use it, you discover that it is the most precious gift of all.

In this one gift you have been given the power to make your own world. As you become God-centered, filled with love, love and grace, instead of problem-centered, filled with anxiety, hate, and selfishness, the world becomes a better place and the second coming of the Christ is realized through you.

New Year's Eve Movie Is Planned

"Lost Generation," the latest release from World Pictures, will be shown Friday, Dec. 31, in Ward United Presbyterian Church, Six Mile and Farmington Roads.

There will be no admission charge for the 10 p.m. showing.

"Lost Generation" uses multiple screen images and a probing documentary style to investigate attitudes on dissent, violence, the mood of America, and the answers that can be found by this generation as they face the decisions of life.

Shots were filmed in Alaska, the southern states, on farms and in small towns of mid-America, as well as in the dying Haight-Ashbury hippie district of San Francisco.

The feature-length film includes appearances by Bob Graham, Art Linkletter and Jack Webb, as well as the opinions of both young and old, urban and rural, rich and poor.

Instrumentalists Join Yule Concert

Three choirs and assisting instrumentalists will join in a Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, in the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, Grand River at Warner.

Featured will be the Carol and Wesley choirs of the church, directed by Mrs. Robert Cook, and a festival of lessons and carols, presented by the Chancel Choir under the direction of Michael Rasmussen.

Nancy Kamm, Farmington violinist will be guest soloist with the youth choir portion of the program, and members of the groups will play French horns, clarinets, flute and drums.

Soloists with the Chancel Choir will be Mrs. Ralph Mattmueller and Mrs. Clifford Kirkland.

Lessons will be read by Rasmussen, Alex Nagy, Dr. Robert Richardson, Rhonda Douglas and the church's two ministers, the Rev. Hugh C. White, senior pastor, and the

CHURCH OF GOD
Riverside Park
Church of God
11771 Newburgh Road
at Plymouth Road
Livonia 484-0090
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
6:30 p.m. Evening Service

LIVONIA CHURCH OF GOD
19827 Middlebelt Rd.
Livonia 481-4585
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker
SUNDAY SERVICES
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

WESLEYAN
Livonia Wesleyan
14840 Western Road
Between Schoolcraft & 5 Mile
Livonia 481-4585
Pastor: W.C. Jones, Pastor
We invite you to attend

EVANGELICAL COVENANT
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
24231 W. Eight Mile Road
Livonia 481-5025
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
38100 Five Mile Rd.
Livonia 481-4585
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR
Reformed Church in America
38100 Five Mile Rd.
Livonia 481-4585
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
You are cordially invited to attend Sunday SERVICES listed below. Sunday Schools are conducted by all churches, and care is provided for children of pre-Sunday School age.
Wednesday Testimonial Meetings at 8 p.m.
FOURTH CHURCH, Detroit 11 a.m.
24400 W. Seven Mile near Telegraph
FARMINGTON CHURCH, Garden City 11 a.m.
33111 Ford Road
FIRST CHURCH, Plymouth 10:30 a.m.
1100 West Ann Arbor Trail
FIRST CHURCH, Farmington 11 a.m.
33828 Grand River Avenue

CHURCHES OF CHRIST
FARMINGTON 36500 DRAKE MILE, WEST OF ERIK ROAD
SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Bible School 10 a.m.
West 7:30 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Earl Davis, Minister
422-5878

LIVONIA 15431 Merriman Rd.
SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Bible School 10 a.m.
West 7:30 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Ronald White, Minister
427-4743

GARDEN CITY 1657 Middlebelt Rd.
SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Bible School 10 a.m.
West 7:30 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Earl Davis, Minister
422-5878

PLYMOUTH 9301 Sheldon Rd.
SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Bible School 10 a.m.
West 7:30 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Earl Davis, Minister
422-5878

See Herald of Truth
TV Channel 9 Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Call or write for Free Correspondence Course

for information call Kathy Porter 261-8600

BAPTIST
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
43065 Joy Road, Plymouth
Phone: 453-6749 or 455-0022
Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Bible School 9:45 a.m.
Speaker: 11 a.m. Rev. Philip Armstrong
7 p.m. "Everywhere You Go It's Christmas"
Tom Hovestadt, Minister of Music

Bethany Baptist Church of Livonia
35451 Five Mile Rd. 1/2 Mile West of Farmington Rd.
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Dr. B. C. Kester, Pastor

Main Street Baptist Church
Southern Baptist Convention
8445 Main Street, Plymouth
481-4785
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker
722-7355

KENWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST
20200 Merriman, Livonia
35451 Five Mile Rd.
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

Grand River Baptist Church
34500 Six Mile Road
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

Community Baptist Church
28237 W. Warner 822-3710
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

Westland Baptist Church
35375 Ann Arbor Trail
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

Livonia Baptist Church
34500 Six Mile Road
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

UNIVERSITY HILLS CHURCH
(CHRISTIAN REFORMED)
Worship with Us at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

for information call Kathy Porter 261-8600

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Assembly of God
36516 Parkdale
1 1/2 Miles S. of Plymouth & Levan Rd.
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

Assembly of God
36516 Parkdale
1 1/2 Miles S. of Plymouth & Levan Rd.
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

Westland Baptist Church
35375 Ann Arbor Trail
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

Livonia Baptist Church
34500 Six Mile Road
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
27475 Five Mile Road
G4-12470
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Hubbard at West Chicago (Garfield & 104th)
Worship and Church School 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Pastors: Richard C. Dunkelberger D.D.
Arthur Beumler Jr., William T. Lovick

3 Services Scheduled
Three Christmas Eve services, at 7, 9 and 11, will be held in Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. All will conclude with the service of carols, which each worshiper will be given a Christmas candle.

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
28701 Joy Rd. (E. of Inkster)
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker

ST. TIMOTHY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Livonia 481-4585
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
Pastor: Rev. J. J. Walker