

Hempfield UMC part of Advent Conspiracy

Intelligencer Journal
Lancaster New Era
Dec 22, 2009 00:01 EST
Lancaster

Article Photos Map Related

Don't Link Tags

By LORI VAN INGEN, Staff Writer

Media Center



The Rev. John Longmire

Bringing the good news of Christ's birth to the world and alleviating the world's suffering is what Christians should be doing & not buying gifts and more gifts, according to one local pastor.

"We need to get a hold of Christmas, which has gotten away from us," said the Rev. John Longmire, senior pastor of Hempfield United Methodist Church.

U.S. residents spend \$480 billion on Christmas annually, while an estimated figure to provide clean water for the whole planet is only \$10 billion, he said.

"What our country needs is a global perspective on Christmas," Longmire said. "We need to stop spending money on just ourselves and recognize we are merely part of the human family and have many brothers and sisters. We need to provide for their health and well-being. They need the resources we can easily provide for them."

From a global perspective, a person who earns \$50,000 a year is in the top 1 percent of annual income, he said. Therefore, the church of Jesus Christ "should recognize it has a great opportunity to alleviate suffering in the world."

Hempfield United Methodist Church is doing its part this year by participating in Boycott Xmas, which is a long-held symbol of the holiday detached from whom Jesus Christ is, Longmire said.

Boycott Xmas is part of the Advent Conspiracy program, he said. The Advent Conspiracy, which began in 2006, is a grassroots movement with more than 1,000 churches in 17 countries participating as co-conspirators.

Last year, through Advent Conspiracy, \$3 million was raised for relief projects which included providing clean water and medical attention in communities around the world.

This year, the creators of Advent Conspiracy published "Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?" (\$12.99, Zondervan). The book outlines four basic steps: Worship fully, spend less, give more and love all.

"We're not boycotting the celebration of the birth of Christ, but the machinery of holiday celebration that no longer has anything to do with the heart and mind of Jesus Christ for the planet," he said.

What Hempfield United Methodist has been doing this year is asking its members to "break open the circle of family and friends and to identify their own Christmas gift to the world. We've asked our families, our adults, our children to no longer buy presents for themselves, but think of global needs," Longmire said.

Several of the congregation's projects include aiding missionaries who have established a new church in Wachara, Kenya, extending its hospitality to the Kenyan community in Lancaster County and participating in the "Nothing But Nets" program, which provides mosquito netting to alleviate malaria in Africa.

Longmire said HUMC also has offered its members tactics to control spending and an opportunity to redirect resources to places that will bring blessing to other people.

One such tactic is making a Christmas contract in which family members determine in advance what gifts each would receive, and once these are purchased, they stop buying more items.

Another tactic is the \$20 gift challenge, in which they decide how much the gift will be and not exceed that amount. This would include what they would give to be a blessing to others.

"It might not be financial, but an investment of our time in a missional program, either locally or somewhere else," Longmire said.

Besides Hempfield United Methodist, several other churches are participating in the Advent Conspiracy this year. They include Hopeland United Methodist, St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Mount Joy and Veritas.

Veritas church planter Ryan Braught said his congregation is supporting both a global and a local project: Living Water International, which helps communities acquire desperately needed clean water and a local organization that "seeks to be a blessing and the hands and feet of Christ in the Lancaster County area."

lvaningen@lnpnews.com

Related Topics

- Hempfield United Metho... (8)
- Living Water Internati... (3)
- Advent Conspiracy (2)
- John Longmire (2)

Related Stories

- 'Walking a journey' with those i...
- Veteran of bloody WWII Pacific f...
- Help in hard times
- Making the holidays just as easy...
- Through 'Advent Conspiracy,' Lan...

SHARE [social media icons]

WHITMOYER AUTO GROUP
Ford Buick Chevrolet
COUPON
SERVICE SPECIAL
\$10 OFF
Schedule Service Maintenance
OPEN SATURDAY SERVICE: 8AM - 12 NOON
*Must be General Motors or Ford. One Limit 1/2009
CLICK HERE FOR SAVINGS

Featured Jobs

Confidential - Lancaster, PA

Great Work Environment

Skyview Common - Akron, PA

Forecast & Replenishment Analyst

Advanced Food Products - New Holland, PA

Facilities / Preventative Maintenance Specialist

Woodstream Corporation - Lititz, Pennsylvania

More Jobs

Local Video

Ice fishing on Speed...
0:01:48

Pets of the Week: Pa...
0:00:37

Woomer attorney reac...
0:02:12

Prosecution comments...
0:03:10

SMART REMARKS: Rush ...
0:02:59

Weddings - Lancaster PA

Secluded Wedding venue in Lancaster County. All inclusive packages
www.CameronEstateInn.com

Pennsylvania dealer

Your local Toyota dealer has great deals for you. Find out more!
www.BuyAToyota.com

Pennsylvania Churches

Find Churches, Synagogues & Other Places of Worship in Pennsylvania.
Churches.YellowPages.com/P/

Churchtown Inn B and B

Restored mansion surrounded by Amish and Mennonite farmland
www.churchtowninn.com

Loxley's Restaurant

Central PA's Newest Experience - Indoor & Outdoor Bar & Dining
heritagelancaster.com

Pa. Farm Show:
Milks...
0:01:13

Top Ads



[Ads by Google](#)

[United Methodist](#)

[Lancaster PA MLS](#)

[Homes for Rent](#)

[PA Apartments](#)

[Funny Christmas](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Homes](#) | [Autos](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Ephrata Review](#) | [Lititz Record](#) | [Lancaster Farming](#)

Lancaster
ONLINE.COM

Copyright 2004-2010