



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

416 Crescent Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117

Phone: (724) 758-6278 Website: www.firstumcec.org

Rev. Patricia Cleary

Pastor's Page –December 2014

A Christmas Affirmation*

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel
which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village,
of whose coming the shepherds saw a sign,
and for whom there was no room in the inn.

I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history,
for whom kings of the earth had no power,
and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the one whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,
the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous
gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior.

I believe in the one who with love changed the hearts of the proud
and with his life
showed that it is more important to serve than to be served
and the greatest glory is giving your life for others.

I believe in peace which is not the absence of war
but justice among all people and nations
and love among all.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness,
and the transforming power of the gospel.

I believe that Christmas is strength and power
and that this world can change
if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger.

I believe that I must be the first one to do so.

*I share with you this powerful expression of the meaning of Christmas written by an anonymous Christian, translated by Joyce Hill and printed 30 years ago in *Advent Calendar of Devotions* by Abingdon Press. I encourage you to meditate on it as a way of preparing your heart to receive Christ again this year.

May you be blessed this Christmas

Pastor Pat



FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PAM FOR TAKING CARE OF ME WHILE MY PEOPLE WERE ON VACATION. FOR A HUMAN, SHE KNOWS HER WAY AROUND CATS.

SECOND, I WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT A MISCONCEPTION. I AM NOT ANTISOCIAL. ON THE CONTRARY, I ENJOY BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION. ONLY IT HAS TO BE ON MY TERMS.

THIRD, CHRISTMAS IS O.K. IN MY BOOK. I LIKE THE TREE. I LIKE TO SNIFF IT. I LIKE THE RIBBONS ON THE PACKAGES UNDER THE TREE. I LIKE TO EAT THEM. NEVER MIND THAT THEY CAN DO NASTY THINGS TO MY INSIDES.

I'LL WRITE AGAIN NEXT YEAR. IN THE MEANTIME, HAVE A MEOWY CHRISTMAS!

- GEORGE, THE PARSONAGE CAT

