



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor's Page –December 2015

“Whose birthday is it, anyway?”

It seems as if everything that can be written or said about Christmas has been. But sometimes I read or hear something new that grabs my attention.

Something I heard a few years back that has stuck with me is a question: “Whose birthday is it, anyway?”

I love my birthday. So I wonder how I would feel if on my birthday all my friends gave gifts to each other and not to me? I know how I'd feel. I'd be hurt. I'd be confused.

Christmas is the day we celebrate Jesus' birth. (Remember, it's NOT his birthday because no one knows what day he was born.) What does he feel about all the time, money and attention we spend at Christmas giving each other gifts instead of him? Is he hurt? Is he confused?

That raises the question, “How can we give Jesus a gift? He's in heaven and we're here. Besides, he's God. He doesn't need anything.”

He answered the question of how we can give him gifts when he said, “Whenever you [give to] one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you [give] it to me!” – Matt. 25:40 TEV. He expects us to give to others who struggle to have the basics. And when we do, Jesus is the one receiving the gift.

I don't know about you, but I'm blessed with everything I need. Either that, or I have the means to buy whatever it is I'm without. For people like me, it makes a lot more sense to give to people who *really* need the basics.

There are many worthy Christian missions all over the world as well as in our community. The advantage of going through the UMC is that you can be sure 100% of what you give is going to its intended destination.

God gave us the Gift of Love when Christ came to earth as a human infant. Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for you and me. This is the Christmas spirit. Let's celebrate his birth by giving gifts **to him**.

May the joy of Christmas be yours,

Pastor Pat