



The Good News

December, 2016



Your Church Staff. . .

*. . .wishes to express our Thanks to our Church Family!
We all feel very fortunate to serve a Congregation
of those who so graciously give of their time,
their talent, and their support to us.
Thank You, and have a blessed holiday!*

Keep Christ in Your Christmas as you Gather with family & friends

- November 27 Advent Begins*
3:00pm ~ "A Christmas Carol" movie
7:00pm ~ ADVENTure Cantata ~ "Magnificat"
- December 4 5:00pm ~ Caroling for all in the Sanctuary*
5:30pm ~ Children's Christmas Pageant
6:00pm ~ Chili Cook-off for all
- December 6 7:00pm ~ BV Men's Chorus/Chancel Bells Concert*
- December 7 11:45am ~ UMW Luncheon, Becker Hall*
- December 10 10:00am ~ Parents Day Out*
3:00pm ~ BV Women's Chorus Concert, Sanctuary
- December 14 6:30pm ~ UMM Dinner, Becker Hall*
- December 18 3:00pm ~ In the Bleak Midwinter: Service of Hope & Healing*
- December 24 Noon ~ Midday at the Manger Worship Service*
5:00pm ~ Contemporary Blend Worship Service
7:30pm ~ Carols, Communion, Candlelight
- December 25 10:45am ~ One combined Worship Service*
12:00 ~ Christmas Pot-Luck





FAITH WALK

Brother Jaimie J. Alexander, Senior Pastor

Let Earth receive our King!

In what song can the above phrase be found?... Think!...Come on think harder! It is the second line in the Christmas Hymn, *Joy to the World*; “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her (our) King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing . . .” the song actually proclaims. With the coming of Christ the earth received love, humility, servanthood, joy, obedience and our King we proclaim as we sing the song! Did you know this favorite hymn was not written to be sung at Christmas by Isaac Watts.

If you notice the lyrics of the song, *Joy to the World*, you will see nothing about shepherds, a manger, wise men, angels, or any other character or element that we normally associate with the Christmas story. The reason being that Isaac Watts did not write *Joy to the World* to be a Christmas song. The original theme of this song was the second coming of the Lord. Christmas won't always be a joyful time, but when Jesus comes back, even the rocks will sing!

As you hear and sing this beloved carol this season, think about the words. Yes, they apply to the Christmas story in that the Lord is come! We should rejoice! But, let the lyrics also point you to the reason Jesus came: to save the world. During the Season of Advent (a season of preparation) we will prepare to receive Jesus as our King as we prepare to receive love, humility, servanthood, joy, obedience that he offers to us through his birth. Each Sunday, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day we will think about what we have received with the birth of Christ and how we should respond to the blessing of his arrival. To also help us to stay focused this Advent season on the real reason of Christmas - Jesus' birth, each week you are invited to pick up an Advent Devotional. You will also be able to read these daily devotions online or in a daily email. The season of Advent/Christmas is traditionally a busy season and it currently appears this year it will not be any different. I hope that through the worship services, Advent studies, daily devotional, and other events happening at the church you will be guided to be ready for Christ's birth in a fresh way in your heart. I also hope as the hymn *Joy to the World* states, that you will be ready because He is coming again! What a glorious day THAT will be when the whole earth celebrates His appearing!!

“40 Years of Faith; A Foundation for the Future”

I want to thank everyone who has returned your **2017 Tithes Pledge** and **Everyone in Ministry Commitment**. Your commitments to the ministries of FUMCBV are vital. I know there are persons who have been unable to return your tithe pledge and Everyone in Ministry commitment. It is not too late. You are encouraged to return your commitments on Sundays, by mail, or drop them off at the office during the week. It takes all of us To Be The CHURCH and underwrite the ministry needs of the FUMCBV congregation. I believe we have what we need to fulfill our kingdom purposes, but the problem is that many of our tithes and talents we are keeping for ourselves. Help us to be the CHURCH that God is expecting you and me to be through your financial and ministry commitments for 2017.

God is faithful!

Bro. Jaimie





Listening with Ears of the Heart

Associate Pastor, Judy Rudd-Platt

It has been a fall of waiting and anticipation. About mid-October, we start to anticipate the turning of the leaves with the beautiful reds, oranges, yellows and browns that signal the arrival of cool nights and shorter days. When I used to hike the Ozark Mountains of northern Arkansas, we planned our hikes for the first weekend of November to enjoy the beauty of God's paintbrush across the landscape. Over the last several years, Dixon and I began a tradition of driving a loop including the pig trail, Interstate 40 and highway 71 to absorb the magnificent fall colors in all their glory.

This year has been different for us all. We have waited and anticipated to little avail. We began talking about the arrival of fall with the craft fairs the second week of October. We continued to await the colors as November arrived. As we continued to wait and anticipate, fading hints of oranges and browns prevailed with many trees shedding their leaves void of an explosion of color. And we waited, hoping that God's fall handiwork would still burst into the hills and forests. Only in the last couple of weeks of November have pale hints of the anticipated fall brilliance shown any signs of existence. This has been a disappointing fall from the vantage point of fall colors. Dixon and I never found an optimum foliage opportunity to take our annual trek. Our waiting and anticipation were met with disappointment.

Our expectations and anticipation are not always met with the outcomes we desire. Life happens, schedules change, priorities shift, people are present and absent, fall colors fail to reach their full potential. No matter the disappointments we encounter, one thing never changes – God's unfailing love and forgiveness. The psalmist reminds us, *"But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord."* Psalm 130:4-6a

Nature, circumstances, or people may disappoint us, but God in Jesus Christ always holds the promise of peace, hope, love and joy found in the anticipation and expectation of advent. In God's promise of the Christ child we find hope, peace, joy and love unspeakable! As we enter this season of promise, let us place our hope where it belongs – in the love and redemption found in a tiny baby born in Bethlehem almost 2000 years ago.

Forgive us Lord as we let the disappointments of life shadow the brilliance of your love and presence. As we wait for you in the coming of the Christ Child anew in our hearts this Christmas, let us wait with anticipation that your love and forgiveness will create in each of us a new heart and a new mind with which to worship and love you. Help us to receive the love that is found in the Christ Child change us from the inside out, so that we are renewed and revived to take Christ's love in our hearts out into the world. Thank you for the life-transforming Gift of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for it is in his holy and precious name we pray, Amen.



These mosaics are found on the street leading to the Church of the Nativity.



JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor



Storms

Have you ever been caught in a winter blizzard or even a torrential downpour where you were rendered sightless? While the storm is raging, you are a prisoner, helpless to continue. If you try to go on alone without help or direction, the situation can become even more hopeless and has even been known to lead to the death of the person who needs help.

The hymn “In the Bleak Midwinter” by Christina Rossetti, describes a storm like this: “In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.” You can hear the wind moaning; you can see the snow on snow which had fallen and become so deep that the best word to describe it is “bleak”.

The storms of life can be like that, with a moaning in your soul that feels like the bite of winter and like a snow so blinding and deep that you are taken prisoner amidst the circumstances. Where can we find our help and direction?

Jesus spoke, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.*” (Luke 4:18 NRSV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life. Indeed God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:16-17 NRSV) The Son came as a tiny child and grew to a Man to be with us in the bleakness of our world. It is the loving and healing presence of our Lord that sets us free of our captivity, that sets us free of the pain and grief that holds us prisoner.

Few, if any, of us go through life without experiencing storms. Our troubles can feel even more difficult at this time of year, when other folks are “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” and chiding us for not doing the same. The trouble can gang up on us in wave after wave, in storm after storm, and our only hope is to let go of the struggle and receive the peace of the Lord’s healing touch.

We invite you to join us for a worship service designed for those who are experiencing the storms of life.

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter: A Service to find Hope, Healing, and Comfort”

Sunday, December 18, 3-4pm, in the Sanctuary

Come and share in the scripture, prayers, music, and stories to find the healing that can only be provided by our Savior; our Lord who came to earth, who walked and walks with us, Emmanuel.

Blessings, *Pastor Brenda*



VISTA KIDS

Angie Rader, Director

We are so thankful for this time of season. People seem to be happier and are remembering all the things to be thankful for. We need to remember to slow down and appreciate all of the blessing God has given us. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are ready for the Advent season.

So many things are going on! We are having our Christmas program on Sunday December 4th. It is a special one this year because everyone is invited to be a part of the program (there are no speaking parts and you are welcome to join the fun!) We will start at 4 pm with registration and then program rehearsal. For those who do not want to be a part of the program, you can go to the Sanctuary and sing Christmas Carols at 5 pm. The program will start at 5:30, and afterwards we will have a chili cook-off hosted by the Youth. Please bring your best chili for all to enjoy.

On December 10th, we are having a *Parents Day Out* from 10:00 to 3:00 pm. We will have games, crafts, snacks, and lots of fun. We will provide snacks and drinks, you only need to bring their lunch. After lunch, we will make and decorate cookies and go caroling for the homebound of our church. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to sign your children up. If you would like to help us that day, please let the office or Angie know. It will be a great time for parents to get those last minute Christmas projects done and get to have some time to yourselves, knowing that your children will be having fun and will be well-cared for.

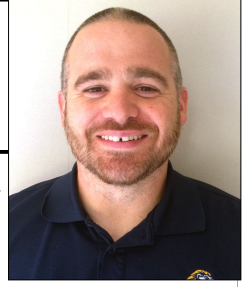
We will have 3 Christmas Eve services starting at 12 noon, 5:00pm and 7:30pm. Child care will be provided.

I am so thankful for your love and support. Have a wonderful December, and find time to relax and spend time with your family and our Church family.

Ms. Angie

YOUTHLIFE

Austin Curtis, Director



November was an exciting month for our youth. Friday, November 4th they attended the Bentonville High / Bentonville West football game to cheer on Hunter Roath as he played football and Theo Hamrin as he marched in the band. The lock-in on Friday,



November 11th was a blast as we played games, watched movies and snuck in a couple of hours of sleep. Saturday November 19th, we participated in Ingathering at the Arkansas Food Bank

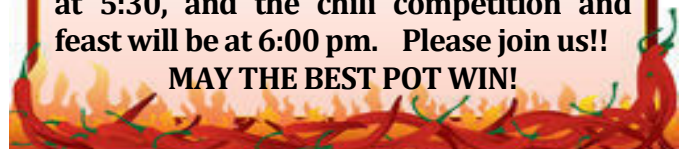
in Little Rock where we filled bags of pinto beans for distribution. We also learned about healthy cooking and talked about the possibility of bringing classes to our community. In December, we will be wrapping up our discussions on spiritual disciplines, as well as studying the Scrooge Redemption series in Sunday school. We will host a chili cook off on December 4th in conjunction with the children's pageant. We will also help with the children while the parents go Christmas shopping for a few hours on the 10th. On Wednesday nights, the youth will be diving into the gospel of John.



Calling All Chili Chefs!

We need a pot of your best recipe of chili for the cook-off on December 4th. Please have your chili to Becker Hall by 5:00pm. The Children's Christmas pageant will be at 5:30, and the chili competition and feast will be at 6:00 pm. Please join us!!

MAY THE BEST POT WIN!





OUR FAMILY

Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a graduation, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send your information to Brenda Wideman, Congregational Care Minister at brenda@lovelearnlead.com, or 855-1158.

NEW MEMBERS

Sandy Schmidt— has been a faithful worshipper with us in The Well service for quite a while. We are so very pleased she has become an official member. She is a blessing in helping with our children in VBS and with our youth on trips and other activities. She will soon be doubly connected to our church family when she and Ted Ivy marry in the Spring. How very exciting! Please welcome Sandy when you see her.

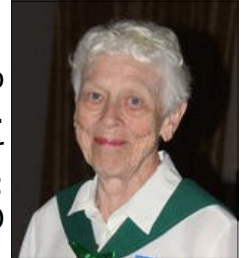


Marci Moussa—joined our church family on Sunday, November 6. She is a retired administrative assistant with a passion for books, sewing, knitting and crafting. She is also an avid volunteer at Mercy Hospital and the Bentonville Library. She ended up in Bella Vista when she came to visit her daughter and son-in-law and loved it so much she decided to stay. Be sure to introduce yourself to Marci, she worships at 10:45, and be sure to ask about her cat, Socks.



RELOCATIONS

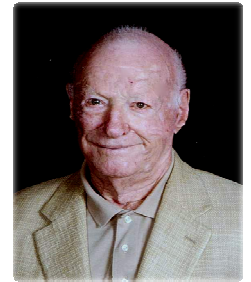
Kitty Polich has moved to Colorado to be closer to family. Keep Kitty in your prayers for her transition. Cards can be sent to: 6418 S. Acoma St., Littleton, CO 80120



DEATHS

Alva Demarais passed away at the age of 90, on Sunday, October 23 at Concordia Care Center, where she has been a resident. Alva has been unable to attend worship for several years due to her health, but she has been in our weekly prayer requests. Please keep her husband, Robert, her son, Benjamin, and all her family and friends in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Alva.

Bob McBride – passed away peacefully at home during the night of Monday, November 7. He was 95 years old. His memorial service was held Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 1:00 pm in our sanctuary. Please keep Helen and all the family in your prayers as they journey through this loss.



As you reflect on the wonder of this Christmas Season please consider giving to our Staff Love Offering. We have an incredible Staff that gives so much to us. Let them know how much they mean to you. Put "Staff Love Offering" in the memo of your checks and include them with your regular offering. The Staff and your SPRC Committee thank you for your generosity. Merry Christmas!

SPR Committee



OUR FAMILY



Christmas Pot Luck

If you would be willing to host the Christmas Potluck this year, please let Amy Gilmore know, either by calling the office (855-1158) or emailing her at amy@lovelearnlead.com. The potluck will be held immediately following the one worship service (10:45am), so approximately 12:00.

ACTIVITIES COMING IN DECEMBER

Faithful Five Shepherd Group will meet for a Christmas potluck luncheon, Thursday, December 15th at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Please call Nona Storck (855-3565) to let them know you will be there & what you will bring!

2 Serve Shepherd Group—Frank and Marilyn Kostal will host a dinner (simple) for their SG on Sunday afternoon, December 11 at 3:00pm and plan to eat by 4:00. We will prepare the meal, all you need to do is respond ASAP if you are able to attend. Our address is 2 Timbercrest PL., phone # 876-6196. We live just inside the Highlands gates, first street on the Left off from Glasgow (Timbercrest Pl), first house on the right—trees on each side of driveway with flagpole out front. First cars here, please pull all the way down toward garage to one side or other so double row can park. Hope to see you Dec. 11th

Metfield Methodist Shepherd Group invites you to join them for a Christmas road trip. They will be meeting at Metfield Clubhouse at 5pm, Sunday, December 11th to travel to the Fayetteville Square to see the Lights of the Ozarks. Hope to see you there!



November 15th was the Annual Metfield Methodist S. G. game competition with Janet W. Farkle Queen, and Gil T. & John J. Farkle Kings!

Shepherd Group One will meet Sunday, December 4th at 3:00pm. Open your hearts for the Christmas season by attending the BV Men's Chorus concert at Community Church. This will be followed with friendship and food at El Pueblito's Mexican Restaurant (1707 Forest Hills Blvd) about 5:00pm. You are welcome to attend one or both functions. Please contact Jean Swanson (876-1126) with any questions.

Soaring Solos will meet at the church at 12:15pm on Wednesday, December 14th to carpool to the Jane Store for Lunch. Be at the store by 1:00pm if you are not car-pooling. Please call Connie Clark (855-3780) no later than December 9th if you are eating, so she can make reservations. If the weather is "bad", they will go to Papa Mike's instead.

Sunrise Shepherd Group will meet at the Prueitt's, 6 Hursley Lane, on Saturday, December 17 at 12:30 for a soup lunch. Please bring a food item that will go with soup. Tableware will be provided. RSVP to Lynn, 876-5753.

Abram Shepherd Group will meet Saturday, December 17th at 2:00pm at the home of Jeneda Mickelson (6 Rayburn Dr) for a Christmas movie and snacks. Coffee and water will also be provided.

Bella Vista Men's Chorus
presents

Holiday Cheer

Tuesday, December 6th
7:00pm

John Mathews, Director
Marilyn Lee, Accompanist

Also performing ~

FUMCBV Chancel Bell Choir

Dawn Thompson, Director

First United Methodist Church
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista



OUR FAMILY

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 George & Pat Brannon (71)
- 10 John & Carol Zurn (56)
- 11 Jerry & Cindy Snow
- 16 David & Carol Stanley (54)
- 21 Tim & Jeanette Van Allen
- 22 Harris & Charlotte Manuel
- 24 Bob & Betty Reynolds (62)
- 24 Bob & Joy Walker
- 26 Wayne & Joanne Hubbert (63)
- 27 Glen & Martha Hogue (66)
- 29 Chris & John Rice
- 29 Dixon & Judy Rudd-Platt

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jo Ann Handel
- 1 Joe McGee
- 2 Ron Buker
- 2 Doug Grant
- 2 Kathy Jones
- 2 Brittany May
- 3 David Hanson
- 3 Caitlyn Rowland
- 5 Linda Stewart
- 6 Margie Bowen
- 6 Sarah Lucht
- 6 Isabelle Mendoza



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (CONT'D)

- 8 Jim Hudson
- 8 Kelly Parham
- 9 Heath Lehmann
- 13 Roger Totten
- 14 Jean Nordmeyer
- 16 Melba Brown
- 17 Jon Mendoza
- 17 Marilyn Pommerenke
- 19 Dorene Van Fleet
- 21 Wayne Calhoun (100)
- 21 Emma Kell
- 21 Shirley Newton
- 22 Joe Bowen
- 22 Blake Roath
- 22 Gil Temple
- 23 Martha Hogue
- 26 Diane Cox
- 27 Ruth Ireland
- 29 Everly Hickman
- 29 Rose Jones
- 29 Brynn Hanson
- 29 Sawyer Hanson
- 31 Carly Engle
- 31 Journey Marquez



UMW Christmas Luncheon



The UMW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be held Wednesday, December 7 at 11:45 in Becker Hall beginning with quiet time. Our Christmas Program will be THE SKUNK HOLLOW BAND, who plays a mixture of Country, Gospel, Folk, and Bluegrass. These are songs that audiences will remember and can sing along. What a great way to begin the Christmas Season! Hot Turkey Salad, Cranberry Relish, Dessert, and Roll will be served. Cost is \$7.00, with the deadline for making reservations Sunday December 4. Anyone wishing to attend should sign up in your circle or call Sue Nebrig at 855-9269. Everyone in our church and guests are welcome to come and enjoy the good food, beautiful music and fellowship. Child and Adult care will be provided for anyone wishing to attend with prior notification. Please call Sue with the number of children or adults who will need care.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 4TH
5:30PM

This is a fun event for the whole family to become involved. You are invited to become a part of the play (no speaking parts) with registration & rehearsal at 4:00pm. Caroling begins in the Sanctuary at 5:00pm, and the play begins at 5:30pm. The children have been working hard to share this message with you and would like your support. After the play you are invited to partake in the Chili Cook-off in Becker Hall.



Chili weather has finally arrived! The youth are hosting a chili cook-off in conjunction with the Children's Christmas pageant next Sunday, December 4th. Grab a friend or two Sunday and come to the church to enjoy a bowl of chili at 6:00pm after enjoying the Children's Christmas pageant at 5:30pm.

If you want to compete in the chili cook-off, please bring your chili to Becker Hall by 5:00pm in a container that will keep it hot. Everyone who attends will have the opportunity to judge the different varieties of chili. Additional chili will be available to enjoy after the taste testing.

May the best chili win!



The Methodist Men's monthly dinner meeting will be held on December 14 at 6:30pm in Becker Hall. We will be conducting a year-end business meeting and will be electing board members for year 2017. Papa Mike's will be catering the meeting. All men of the church are invited to join us. Please make your reservations no later than noon, Sunday, December 11, either through the Phone Tree or by calling Jim Belcoff (616-6738) and leaving a message.



MISSIONS

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

We are preparing for Christmas deliveries.

Between the thoughts of Thanksgiving and our morning service, you will find six reasons Shoebox feels so grateful.

1. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who planted this ministry in our church and trusted all of us Team Leaders to take care of it as best we can, with his guidance.
2. The wonderful volunteers who sort, pack and get the shoeboxes, Sunshine Sacks ready to be delivered to the shelters and Cooper School.
3. The donations, whether money or items that are abundantly given, by Circles, Shepherd Groups, UMW and UMM members, individuals, and groups outside of our church membership.
4. Delivery people who get all of the above where it needs to go.
5. Janet Walton, our secretary, who puts up with all of the comings and goings of "stuff" and strangers. Of course no matter what, she says "it's my job"! Thank you, thank you.
6. A gentleman by the name of Doug Hurley, who is our representative at American Hotel Registry, where we buy items we need that aren't donated. For the last 9 years he has sold us items for the same price or just a few cents more, with no freight costs, and had them delivered in a timely manner.



We ask God's Blessings to all of you and wish you a Merry Christmas!

As always in His service,

The Shoebox Ministry Team

PAK A SAK

Our collection of food for December will be delivered to "THE SHEPHERD'S PANTRY" here in Bella Vista. This pantry helps families in Bella Vista every Friday with distribution of non-perishable food. All types of pantry food are needed. At this time of year, let us share our blessing of the CHRISTMAS SEASON with those in our community who are in need.



GOAT BANK

The 'GOAT BANK' is out in Becker Hall and the Narthex Hallway for the holidays. Our goal is to collect enough quarters to purchase at least one goat from Heifer Project International. Help us fill the bank with quarters and a family in need will be very grateful.



HELPING HANDS RESALE SHOP WORKDAY Saturday, December 10



We have another chance to help out this local charity. As usual we can use men in the morning, 8am to noon for receiving donations and both men and women from noon to 4:00 p.m. for receiving and working inside. Please sign up in the office. Any questions, please see :

Verna Bottjen or Shirley Wenger

MEALS ON WHEELS

Driver/Delivery Teams are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels to Bella Vista clients Monday, December 19 through Friday, December 23. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex or hallway before and after each service Dec. 4 and Dec. 11. or in the office. If you are able to assist with this local mission, please contact Darrell Bottjen at 876-1392 or the Church office. Please consider delivering meals to many of our local homebound residents one day of that week..

Thank You!

Darrell Bottjen



MISSION of the MONTH SOULS HARBOR

It has been an exciting year for the Souls Harbor NWA program. We have made many changes to better those we serve who

are homeless, hurting, or working to overcome addiction. We are no longer a homeless shelter that only provides a bed and a meal but have become a transitional living community. Residents are charged nothing while in the program and must stay a minimum of 90 days and can stay up to a year. We have roughly 30-40 people on our waiting list at all times and receive 100-150 calls per week. This year we hired our first Case Manager, which is essential to our residents moving out of survival mode and into thriving by setting and achieving short and long term goals. Our program requires:

- Background check, application, interview, drug/alcohol screenings
- Residents to be working or going to school full-time (we currently have 100% employment rate)
- Life skills classes (financial literacy, parenting/relationships, workforce development, and healthy living)
- Counseling and case management (goal setting and individualized case plan)
- Paired with a mentor/sponsor to provide a healthy support network
- Apply for health insurance

Upon graduation, residents are prepared with an after care plan and healthy support network to break the cycle long-term. Our community has high standards of offering men a hand up NOT a hand out. The issues of homelessness, addiction, and poverty are complex, BUT most Americans are only 2 paychecks away from housing instability. It costs taxpayers \$55 per day to incarcerate someone. The cost savings of investing in a man in our program is over \$300/per month just as a baseline. The cost savings due to the life skills he learns, the employment he gains, and the reunification of the men and their children can break the cycle... This is immeasurable and we are the only transitional living program for men in NWA.

Emmaus Group Looking for Interested Members

The group known as Beautiful Colors meets on the third Thursday of the month. We meet in Becker Hall for 1-1 ½ hours.

We share important things God has done in our lives as well as prayers that are needed for friends and family as well as those we know of who also need help from God!

If you have had Emmaus training, please consider joining us as we study God's way in our lives as we work to be His hands and feet.



A CUP WITH A PURPOSE

Our sisters in Christ at the Oasis community have opened a new coffee shop, *The Oasis*, on the Northwest Arkansas Community College campus. It is located in the Global Business Building on Eagle Avenue, which is EZ-off, EZ-on of exit 86 of I-49. This is a great location to meet with friends or small groups of up to 15; to enjoy wonderful coffee, espressos, lattes and the like, and all at a reasonable price. What a great way to support the Oasis women as they grow their lives and their community into the wholeness God created them to be!



*Handmade
GREETING CARDS
are available
for purchase
in the Church Library*



**Planning ahead for
2017~**

**Volunteer for the mission trip to
Sager Brown
April 22-28, 2017
Watch for more information
coming soon!**



MUSIC

Gloria - by Antonio Vivaldi

Sunday morning December 11th, much of the 8:00 and 10:45 worship services will be given over to our annual Christmas cantata. This year, our choir will be joined by a 10-piece orchestra as we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world, with a performance of the "*Gloria*" by Antonio Vivaldi. The Choir has been unusually busy this fall - first, with preparing and presenting music for celebrating the Church's fortieth anniversary, then presenting the Advent cantata "*Magnificat*" on Sunday evening November 27th, and now, with this performance of the "*Gloria*" we complete our program of special music for the Christmas season.

Vivaldi's "*Gloria*" is a musical setting of words of the Gospel of Luke 2:14, spoken by the angel who announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to those upon whom His favor rests." Vivaldi, who lived from 1680 to 1743, was a Roman Catholic priest and violinist who spent most of his life working as a composer-in-residence and music instructor for an all-girl orphanage in Venice. His music is typical of the Italian Baroque; lively, lyrical, not so harmonically or contrapuntally complex that it becomes boring, and perhaps best of all, short.

Each phrase of the text is set to music that mirrors the meaning of the words so that, for example, the words "Glory to God in the Highest" are set to music that is boisterous and jubilant. Each subsequent musical setting follows this pattern. One of the features of this cantata is the fact that all the solos and duets are for women's voices, which is probably explained by the fact that Vivaldi worked for a women's orphanage. In fact, during the mid-1700's this orphanage was famous for its orchestra and its singers, so much so that the 18th century travel writers encouraged tourists who planned to visit Venice, recommended that they try to attend one of the many concerts given by the members of this all-girl orchestra.

We hope you'll enjoy our presentation of Vivaldi's "*Gloria*."

Dr. Larry Zehring
Director of Music Ministry



From the organ console

By Broc Hite, Organist/
Associate Director of Music



As mentioned last month, I will start to play through the entire set of 46 short chorale preludes from J.S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* (little organ book) over the new year. Otherwise, there is no composer focus for the month of December.

I want to thank the children of the Sunday School for participating in two separate organ exploration sessions during November. On the 13th, the younger kids (K to 3rd grade) participated, and on the 20th, the older kids (4th to 6th grade) visited. We discussed the basics of the organ, including hearing and identifying the reed, metal flue, and wood flue pipes. Blowing into a couple of demonstration wooden flue pipes was especially fun, as was hearing how inserting the stopper deepens the pitch by an octave.

Each of the kids got to peek inside the base of the organ cabinet, where the blowers and circuitry are located below the pipes. We noticed how the swell shutters open and close as a result of using the swell pedal. Playing on the organ in groups of two ended the sessions with lots of random sounds!

Broc


BV Women's Chorus
with Perfect Harmony


presents

A HOLIDAY SING

Saturday, December 10th ~ 3:00pm

A benefit for the BV Library Expansion Project

First United Methodist Church
20 Boyce Dr. Bella Vista



BOOK NOOK

COOPER SCHOOL

LARGE-PRINT FICTION:

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS by Debbie Macomber

Friendly Julia Padden like nearly everyone but her neighbor, Cain, presents a challenge.

NON-FICTION:

KILLING PATTON by Bill O'Reilly

The strange death of WWII's most audacious General.

2017 UMW READING PROGRAM LIST

EDUCATION FOR MISSIONS (CATEGORY I)

UNBOUND by Jann Treadwell (362.7)

BOUNDLESS by Bryan Bishop (248)

FAITH ED. By Linda K. Wereheimer (379.2)

JOURNEY WITH J.W. by Daphna Flegal (267)

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY (CATEGORY II)

REMEMBER DIPPY by Shirley Reva Vernick (FIC)

#STOLEN by Jessica Fralin (261.5)

LAUNCH YOUR ENCORE by Hans Finzel (248)

MONEY ON PURPOSE by Shayna Lear (332)

SLOWING TIME by Barbara Mahany (242)

ANIMAL BEAUTY by Kristin Roskifte

SOCIAL ACTION (CATEGORY III)

WAGE THEFT by Jeffery Odell (363.4)

AMERICA AND ITS GUNS by James E. Atwood (363.3)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (CATEGORY IV)

THE REASON by Lacey Sturn (277.3)

LIVING INTO HOPE by Joan Brown Campbell (234)

SOUL REPAIR by Rita Nakashima (174)

EXTRAORDINARY GRACE by Gary Chapman (LP) (248)

JUST FOR TODAY by Saint John XXIII

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CATEGORY V)

CALLED TO THE FIRE by Chet Bush (323)

FALLING INTO PLACE by Hattie Kauffman (277.3)

PIG PARK by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez (FIC)

SALLY RIDE by Lynn Sherr (LP) (629.4)

JUST LIKE I WANTED by Elinoar Keller

RAD AMERICAN WOMEN A-Z by Kate Schatz

Below are two opportunities for you to serve at Cooper School. They are always looking for volunteers to help in the classroom and other areas.

Brunch with Santa is in its 3rd year and is coming up on December 3rd from 10am-noon. This is an event for families to come enjoy a pancake breakfast, hear stories from Mrs. Claus, watch movies, do activities, and of course, get pictures with Santa himself. I'm attaching a flyer for all the information. This year we are also adding a holiday bake sale. We would love donations from the community. Baked goods need to be labeled, in containers that do not need to be returned, marked if they contain nuts and what type, and small items such as cookies or cupcakes need to be packaged by the dozen. Baked Goods should be delivered by 2PM on December 2nd.

Santa Shop will be December 15th and 16th during the school day. This event was a huge hit last year with parents, students, and faculty alike. We accept community donations of items that will then be sold at very low cost (\$.25-\$1) to students to give as gifts to their families. Last year we learned we need a ton of stuff! Items can be used in good condition. They need to not be terribly fragile and easily fit in a backpack. Ideas include: coffee mugs, knick knacks, golf balls, fishing lures (no hooks please), notebooks, books, toys, games, jewelry, new chapsticks or nail polish, new hats or gloves, ornaments, picture frames, pot holders, etc. We are accepting donations now through 2:00 p.m. on December 14th. Donations can be delivered to the PTO room or left in the office if they are marked Santa Shop. We will need volunteers to help students shop, restock as needed, and help package purchases. We'll need additional support during kindergarten and 1st grade shopping times.

For more information, please contact
Maryann Johnson at 721-9987 or
drmajohnson@att.net



THANK YOU

Words cannot express our gratitude to our church family for all the loving support given to us during Bob's lengthy illness and his final days in his earthly home. The comforting presence of Bro. Jaimie, Pastor Judy, or Pastor Brenda was always there during our many trips to the hospital. Our family and I appreciate all the help give by Janet Walton in making Bob's Memorial Day very special. The time and effort given by the 2Serve Shepherd Group in providing the delicious meal, and Martha Circle in preparing the lovely reception following the service were also greatly appreciated. Lastly, we are thankful for all the cards and calls we have received, and for Bro. Jaimie making Bob's Memorial Service and display so right for Bob.

Blessings, *Helen McBride*

I want to thank all the people who helped me while I had my arm in a cast in October. Thank you for the cards, calls and the transportation—and all the food! What a wonderful, caring & loving church family we have. Thank You!

Carlene Jerman

Thanks so very much for all the prayers, cards, and calls during my 2 heart hospitalizations and now my back surgery. A special "Thanks" to Brother Jaimie, Pastor Judy, Pastor Brenda and Chaplain Kandi for all your prayers and visits. Our church family has been wonderful!

Love and Blessings, *LeRoy & JoAnn Handel*

I would like to thank you for inviting me to be a part of the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista 40th Anniversary.

The program and meal on Saturday night was outstanding. It was good to see the accomplishment that you have made in the last few years. It was also wonderful to see friends that I had not seen since I retired. . .

The Bella Vista Church has had a marvelous history and with your pastors and staff, I believe even greater things are in store for FUMCBV.

Rev. Wendell R. Dorman

Good company, Great times, Warm memories — so much to be grateful for this season, but especially for the fantastic time I enjoyed on the 40th Anniversary week-end! Everything was perfect — all the details & hard work & effort certainly paid off. My personal "Thanks" to Jaimie & all ministers and staff. The musicians provided enjoyment at the banquet as well as Sunday morning. And, oh how I appreciated the MANY opportunities to have meaningful conversations with friends! Well, I could go on and on. . . Thanks to everyone!

Love, *Jean Stone*

December Newsletter 2016 Financial Data

| | | 2016 Actual | 2016 Budget | Compare 2015 Actual | 2016 Year-end Budget |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Month of October | Actual Receipts | \$56,892 | \$54,326 | \$49,286 | |
| Month of October | Actual Expense | \$53,440 | \$54,326 | \$56,257 | |
| | Balance | \$3,452 | | -\$6,971 | |
| Year to Date (as of 10/31/16) | Actual Receipts | \$519,325 | \$543,260 | \$549,703 | \$651,915 |
| Year to Date (as of 10/31/16) | Actual Expense | \$520,790 | \$543,260 | \$538,294 | \$651,915 |
| | Balance | -\$1,465 | | \$11,409 | |



Operating Account Balance 10/31/16 **-\$22,103**

The RED box shows where we should be according to budget by the end of October 2016.

We are short of our income goal by \$23,935, while our expenses have remained low at \$22,470 below goal.

Patsy Attaway, Treasurer

DECEMBER 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 9:00 Old Sew&Sews 11:00 Hope Circle 11:06 Golf-Berksdale 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Believers SG Movie | 2 9:00 Jesus in Gospel | 3 8:30 Young at Heart 9:00 Amp Big Book AA |
| 4 BP✓ between services 7:30 Praise Tm rehrsl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 3:00 Shepherd Goup 1 4:00 Children's Rehrl 5:00 Caroling for all 5:30 Children's Play 6:00 Chili Cook-off | 5 9:00 Calico Spec Proj 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:00 Calico Brd Mtng 6:30 Men's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA | 6 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:00 Caregivers Supprt 10:32 Golf-Highlands 7:00 BV Men's Concert | 7 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Disciple I 9:30 UMW Board 11:45 UMW Luncheon 2:30 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Advent Study 6:30 Youth Life | 8 11:06 Golf-Highland 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:30 Evening Circle | 9 9:00 Jesus in Gospel 11:30 Pre-School Brd | 10 HELPING HANDS 9:00 Amp Big Book 10:00 Parents Day Out 3:00 Women's Chorus |
| 11 7:30 Praise Tm rehrsl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 1:00 Calico set-up 2:00 Calhoun recitals 3:00 2 Serve SG 5:00 Metfld Methodsts | 12 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Calico Cutups Lnch 12:45 Women's Chorus 6:30 Men's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA | 13 9:00 PEO-BR 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:32 Golf-BVCC 1:00 Sarah Circle | 14 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Disciple I 9:30 Mission Mtng 11:15 Soaring Solos 2:30 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Advent Study 6:30 UMM Dinner 6:30 YouthLife | 15 11:00 Faithful 5 SG 11:06 Golf- BVCC 4:00 Chancel Choir | 16 9:00 Jesus in Gospel | 17 9:00 Amp Big Book 11:00 Emmaus Gathrng 12:30 Sunrise SG 2:00 Abram SG |
| 18 PAK A SAK 7:05 Handbell Rehrl 7:30 Praise Tm rehrsl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 3:00 Bleak Midwinter | 19 9:00 Martha Circle 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 PEO-CD 12:45 Women's Chorus 6:30 Men's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA | 20 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:00 Caregivers Supprt 10:30 Golf-Brittany 1:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 BV Book Club | 21 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Disciple I 2:30 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Mtng 6:30 Advent Study 6:30 YouthLife | 22 11:06 Golf- Kingsdale 4:00 Chancel Choir | 23 9:00 Jesus in Gospel | 24 9:00 Amp Big Book 12:00 Midday at Manger 5:00 Contemp Blend 7:30 Carols & Comm |
| 25 CHRISTMAS 10:45 ONE SERVICE 12:00 Potluck  | 26 CHURCH CLOSED | 27 YOUTH TO BRANSON 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:30 Golf-Brittany 3:00 BV Library Brd | 28 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Calico Dog Beds 9:00 Disciple I 2:30 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Mtng | 29 11:06 Golf-Dogwood 4:00 Chancel Choir | 30 9:00 Jesus in Gospel | 31  |

First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista

20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715

(479)855-1158 www.LoveLearnLead.com



We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Brother Jaimie J. Alexander

Associate Pastor - Rev. Judy Rudd-Platt

Associate Pastor - Rev. Brenda Wideman

Church Secretary - Janet Walton

Director of Community Life & Connections - Amy Gilmore

Director of Children's Ministry - Angie Rader

Director of Youth Ministry - Austin Curtis

Chaplain - Kandi Mount

Dir. of Music Ministries - Dr. Lawrence Zehring

Director of Media Ministries - Troy Jorgensen

Coordinator of Sound/Visual Arts - Alan Yount

Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson

Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite

Praise Team Leader - Shannon Wicker

Worship Leader - Garrett Greer

Financial Secretary - Marge Smith

Treasurer - Patsy Attaway

Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month



Place your Poinsettia order today!

Poinsettias will again be available for decorating the church this Christmas season for you to order "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. The cost is \$10. You can stop by the church office to place your order. The deadline to order and pay for your plant is Sunday, December 18th.

This year you also have the opportunity to make a donation to the "Decorate the Church" fund. If you have a chance, please look around at the beautiful new decorations that have been hand-made. Many of the decorations we have used in the past few years are 10-20 years old and are getting slightly bedraggled. It was time for them to be replaced.

The new decorations will serve us well for many years to come!

Please fill out a separate order/donation form so that we have your correct information.

We will print a special recognition insert for the December 25th bulletin with the information you give us. After Christmas, you may take your Poinsettia home, and/or next year you will enjoy your new decorations.

We ordered our poinsettias through the Bella Vista Kiwanis Club this year. They are purchasing their plants from Matkins Nursery in Bentonville. 100% of their profit goes back to the children of Bella Vista.

