



# The Good News

December 2017

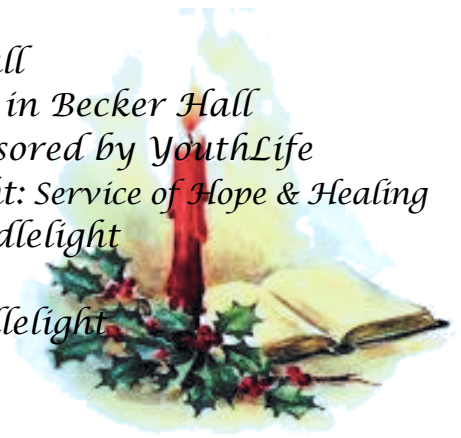


## *Your Church Staff. . .*

*. . .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 26 Advent Begins  
12:00pm ~ Pipes Aplenty in the Sanctuary  
5:00pm ~ Family Decorating Night*
- November 27 8:30am ~ Deck the Halls*
- December 3 12:00pm ~ Taste of Taizé in the Chapel  
5:00pm ~ Caroling for all in the Sanctuary  
5:30pm ~ Dinner Theater presented by Children's Ministries  
"An Emoji Christmas" ~ Santa visits*
- December 6 11:45am ~ UMW Luncheon, Becker Hall*
- December 9 10:00am ~ Parents Day Out*
- December 10 All Services ~ Lessons and Carols  
12:00pm ~ Voices Bella Vista in Becker Hall  
7:00pm ~ Lessons and Carols*
- December 13 6:30pm ~ UMM Dinner, Becker Hall*
- December 17 12:00pm ~ Christmas on the Ivories in Becker Hall  
5:30pm ~ Chili Cook-off for all, sponsored by YouthLife*
- December 21 5:30pm ~ Service of the Longest Night: Service of Hope & Healing*
- December 24 10:45am ~ Carols, Communion, Candlelight  
5:30pm ~ Family Worship Service  
7:00pm ~ Carols, Communion, Candlelight*
- December 25 11:30am ~ Christmas Pot-Luck*





## *Glimpses of Grace*

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

October 31<sup>st</sup> - Halloween Evening. I made a run into Wal-Mart and saw employees taking down the Halloween items and replacing the shelves with Christmas. I stopped in my run to the back and just shook my head as if to clear it and look again at what I was sure I *hadn't* seen. "Blue Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "Deck the Halls" started pumping through speakers on Thanksgiving night. Add in advertisements, wish lists, and the holiday event schedules; the fear and anxiety surrounding us in society lately, and suddenly I am feeling overwhelmed. And I'm not alone.

Several of you have mentioned how overwhelmed, tired, or worn out you're feeling. The addition of holiday stress doesn't help us. It seems the bar of expectations just keeps getting higher, along with our stress and blood pressure!

This Advent, as we prepare for the birth of Christ, I invite you to take a step back, take a deep breath, and remind yourself, your loved ones, friends, and colleagues of *why* we are celebrating. How can you share Christ's love and light this Advent and Christmas season?

As a visual reminder to help us anticipate and prepare, Baby Jesus and the Wise Men are not in the nativity sets in the church building. Jesus will be born on Christmas Eve and the Wise Men will travel to the manger on Epiphany Sunday (Jan. 7). Sometimes we need a visual reminder to slow down and prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ.

My prayer for all of us is that we enjoy this season that exudes love, joy, peace, and hope through all we plan, do, and are in the coming weeks!

Advent Blessings! *Rev. Jeanne*

### *Vision Team Update*

**What is the Vision Team?** We are not a secret club, group, or society. We are a group of people intentionally representing the diversity of the worship services and seasons of life in our church. We are a "think-tank." We have zero authority for implementing new programs, ideas, or direction. We report to the Church Council (where all members of the church have voice) and where we will make proposals and allow the Council to approve or amend.

**What do We do?** We pray daily for God's vision and purpose for FUMCBV. We share devotionals we take turns writing. We meet regularly to share our insights based on materials focused on vision, church growth, and societal changes.

**How was it formed?** Beginning in September of this year, we took a group of people to Church of the Resurrection's Leadership Institute in Leawood, KS at the invitation and expense of the Annual Conference and the United Methodist Foundation of AR. While there, we were inspired, challenged, and energized. Upon our return, we looked at the current team and asked the question, "what voices are missing?" We then invited others to join us in this work. We have since attended a follow-up meeting to COR-LI sponsored by the Conference and met 3 times as a full group.

**So... what now?** Our church is fabulous! We have so many great things happening and the Vision Team's goal isn't to "cut" anything but to align all of our various ministries, programs, etc., under one clear mission and vision. We are continuing to learn about models of church growth and will share what we learn with the Council.



## *JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER*

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

### **Come Home to the Healing!**

*I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;  
I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel's mourners,  
creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near,"*  
says the LORD. "And I will heal them." (Isaiah 57:18-19 NIV)

You have probably heard folks say, "We live in a broken world." This world we inhabit is anything but perfect. Struggles abound; sometimes the struggles are of our own making, sometimes things just seem to come out of nowhere. Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." No one escapes trouble. Some have more than others, but no one escapes.

How do we cope? Where do we find the healing? We try to deal with it on our own, but that just doesn't seem to work. And then we look beyond ourselves and we find the healing by "Coming Home"; coming home to a God who heals; coming home to Christ who overcomes and who gives us peace beyond all understanding. Do you know folks who have undergone enormous struggles and have found peace beyond the pain? I bet you do; there are even some in our church family. These folks have stories of hope, stories of healing, stories of trust and assurance, stories of peace.

We invite you to join us for the "Longest Night Service" as together we walk through the darkness of the winter of our struggles and begin to see the dawning of the light of a new day.

### **"Walking Through the Longest Night: A Service of Hope, Healing, and Comfort"**

Thursday, December 21, 5:30pm, in the Sanctuary

Come Join in the Journey with us; join us on this journey to Come Home to a God who guides and restores and heals.

Blessings for the Peace of Christ on your Journey, *Pastor Brenda*

On December 7, beginning at 7 p.m., the Board of Directors of the Veterans' Council of Northwest Arkansas, the group that manages the Veterans' Wall of Honor, will host a patriotic (free) concert at Riordan Hall. Music will be provided by the JM Band, formerly known as the Jack Mitchell Band. The concert will be a musical tribute to the memory of Pearl Harbor and the attacks of 9/11. While the concert is free, a good will offering will be taken and divided between the band and the Council. All are invited.





## VISTA KIDS

Angie Rader, Director

Welcome to the last month of the year. Can you believe we will be in 2018 next month? We have done some amazing projects downstairs and I would encourage you to come down and take a look. We have many great events planned for this month to recognize the Christmas season. We started on Sunday, November 26th when we had a dinner and then made decorations. After that we went downstairs and decorated with what we had made. We have a Christmas tree and Reverend Jeanne gave us a wonderful talk about the ornaments for the tree.

On Sunday, December 3rd, we will have caroling for everyone in the Sanctuary at 5 pm, followed by a Dinner Theatre hosted by the children. There will be homemade soups and cookies decorated by the kids themselves. Also, a visit from Santa Clause and a photo booth to take pictures with him. The show is called *A Emoji Christmas*, telling the story of Christ's birth through cell phones, texting, and Emojis. Please plan on coming out for a great night of beautiful carols, wonderful food and superb entertainment. If you would like to help, please call the Church office at 855-1159 or talk to Jessica Mendoza or me. We do need some supplies, if you could help us.

On Saturday, December 9th, we are having Parents Day Out. This is for all parents who would like a few hours without children. It starts at 10am and ends at 3pm. We will be making Christmas gifts, playing games, and decorating cookies. We will also go caroling to some of our Church homebound to bring them some joy. Lunch will be provided and this is a free event as a *Thank You* to all our parents and to give them a few hours to themselves for whatever. We will have three *Carols, Communion, and Candlelight* services on Christmas Eve; a traditional service at 10:45am, a Family Worship Service at 5:30pm, and another Traditional Worship Service at 7:00pm.

It is with a sad heart that I tell you that Sarah Hamrin has decided to step down as 2-3 grade Sunday School Teacher. Sarah has been here for over 10 years and it has been great to see her life so full now with a job, going to school, a husband and taking care of 3 wonderful children. We wish her the very best and she knows she is always welcome to come back.

Thank you so much for a great year. I have learned a lot and am continuing to grow every day. Your love and patience has truly blessed me. I am so thankful to have all the love and support I have been given this year. Please take a moment this holiday season to tell the people in our Church how much you love them and support them. Thank you so much to the teachers, volunteers, and Ms. Beverly and Ms. Danielle and the rest of the staff for making this a great 2017. I am so excited to see what God has for us next year.

In his Service, *Ms. Angie*

## YOUTHLIFE

Austin Curtis, Director



Wow, how quick the holidays arrive. It has been an amazing year and as we face the last month of 2017, we face it with a thankful heart. The youth have had a busy and exciting year, but as we prep for next year we still have a few more events. First, we have our annual chili cook-off which started in 2016, and we look forward to hosting another great one this month. This is a fund-raiser for us to build up our account for our mission trip to RedBird Mission in Kentucky this next summer. So on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 please come and sit back and enjoy the great chili recipes of so many of our members. Members, please bring on the chili! The more we have the better. Look forward to seeing you all there.

The last event of the year is for the youth. We will be having our last youth lock-in/Christmas party on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Youth will need to be there at 6pm for our party. Lock-In will start at 8pm and finish Saturday morning at 9am. This will wrap up the month of December for the youth group. Many plans are on the back burner for the youth. Next year we plan on doing our In-State mission trip, the location to be determined. We are also at looking at scheduling service days for the church, and service days for specific members of the church. The youth also have events that they are wanting to plan for the church. So we are super excited that another year is upon us. However, until that year starts let us enjoy the awesome daily blessings in December.

Although Thanksgiving is now over it is still important to be Thankful for all blessings. This verse is a good reminder.

*"All this is for your benefit so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."*

(2 Corinthians 4:15)

Be blessed, *Austin*

**Calling All Chili Chefs!**  
**We need a pot of your best recipe of chili for the cook-off on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please have your chili to Becker Hall by 5:00pm and join us for an amazing evening!**  
**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](mailto:brenda@lovelearnlead.com), or 855-1158.



Sarah is baptized by Rev. Jeanne

Melanie and Sarah Bowers— became official members of our church family on Sunday, November 12 in the *The Well* service. They were looking to worship in an open and welcoming place, which is how they chose our church. They have already become a part of our children's ministry as they have helped with events like VBS. Melanie teaches in the McDonald County School District and Melanie works in IT at the Wal-Mart Home office. In their spare time they love working on their farm and doing anything outside, especially with their cute labs. Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them when you see them in worship.

### BIRTHS

**Klayton Shaw Kennedy** – first great-grandson of Earl and Maryann Kennedy, was born Friday, November 10, 2017. Thanks be to God for the gift of this new life!

**Jocelyn Morgan Magee**— was born October 24 to Les and Gretchen Magee and has brightened the lives of her parents and big brothers, Keagan, Layton, and Preston. Please keep all in the family in your prayers as they adjust to life with a new little girl.



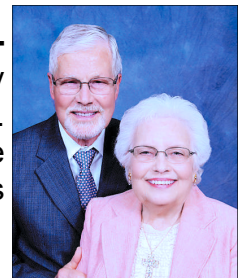
### ADOPTIONS AND BAPTISMS



**Kobus Raymond Sparlin**— became the son of Katrina Sparlin on Tuesday morning, October 24th at the Juvenile Court in Bentonville. Kobus had spent 681 days as Katrina's foster child, Then on Sunday morning, October 29th, Kobus was baptized in *The Well* service. Congratulations to Kobus and Katrina and to our church family for the love we share in this event.

### MILESTONES

**Bob and Shirley Kennedy**— celebrated their 64th anniversary on Wednesday, October 25th. They made a donation to the church Bus Fund to honor this wonderful celebration.



**George and Pat Brannon**— celebrate their 72nd wedding anniversary on December 5th. They have made a donation to the Snack Packs for Back Packs ministry in celebration.



## OUR FAMILY



### Jan Lowe is being Commissioned as a Missionary

I am so excited, privileged, and humbled to announce that one of our own has been selected by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries to be a Missionary beginning in January 2018 for one year. Jan Lowe has been through an extensive vetting process and is being placed at the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, TN. Her exact job description is still being processed, but she will be serving the Center as a coordinator of the volunteers and also as a host.

The General Board of Global Ministries is the global mission agency of The United Methodist Church, its annual conferences, missionary conferences, and local congregations. Their purpose is connecting the Church in mission. Missionaries witness and serve in dramatically different locales and cultures and engage in a range of professions and activities. They are a tangible connection between the church and mission.

These commissioned persons are usually (not always) called to serve outside their country of origin, as pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses (or in other healing ministries), social workers, church planters, evangelists, and in a variety of other ways through various forms of denominational or ecumenical ministries.

Please join us in worship on December 17 where we will commission Jan and send her with our blessings and prayers.

*Rev. Jeanne*



Pat Pershing attended the wedding of her great-granddaughter Stephanie Hole, in our sanctuary on Saturday, November 11th. Stephanie has been on our prayer list many times for her service to our country as a member of the US Air Force.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**SARAH CIRCLE** will gather for a potluck lunch at the home of Judy Duncan at 1:00pm on Tuesday, December 12th. They will meet at the church and carpool there at 12:30. Meat, rolls, and beverage will be provided. Please let Judy Bilyeu know if you plan to attend.

**MARTHA CIRCLE** will meet at the church at 10:15 Monday, December 11th to carpool to the Children's Advocacy Center in Little Flock. They will have a guided tour at 11:00 and then travel to the Flying Fish for food and fellowship about noon. Please e-mail Kay Dunn if you plan to come.

**ABRAM AND SUNRISE SHEPHERD GROUPS** will join for a soup lunch and cookie exchange Saturday, December 2nd at 12:30 in Becker Hall. Sunrise will cook the soups and Abram is to bring side dishes. All are to bring 2 1/2 dozen cookies each to exchange. Bring a tin or container to take your cookies home.

**METFIELD METHODIST SHEPHERD GROUP** held their annual game night in the Parlor on November 16th. A good time was had by all! Farkle Queen was Vicki Forrest and Farkle King was Richard Stewart. Co-Champions were Linda Stewart and Janet Walton. Future plans for the group are to go on an eagle watch tour on Beaver Lake in January. They had a great time on a sunset tour on the lake in October.



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!

*SPRC Committee*



## OUR FAMILY

**FRIENDS of CHRIST** - will meet on the 11th in the Chapel and on the 18th in Room 6, from 1:30 till 3:00pm, as we continue "Walking with God". The 18th will be our Christmas celebration. All are welcome to attend as we begin the Winter phase of our spiritual quest. Peace be with you.

**YOUNG AT HEART SHEPHERD GROUP** will gather for dinner at Papa Mike's at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 6th. Please let Judie Packard know if you plan to come — 426-8114.

Come join us as Max Lucado shares his inspirational messages of love and hope. Sunday, November 26th, begins the first in a three part series of the video "**Because of Bethlehem**" Our gatherings will take place in the Chapel directly following the third service, and will be about 1 hour long.

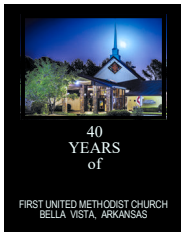


FUMC United Methodist Women will sponsor a dinner and auction on February 9 in conjunction with Valentines Day. An

elegant dinner will be prepared by Marlene Clapp. An auctioneer will be on hand to auction a variety of unique items or services throughout the evening. A popular guest speaker, Ane Burke, will humorously reminisce about life-long differences between men and women.

If you would be willing to bring your favorite table service and set a table for eight, please call Judy Bilyeu or Suzann Wresche to let them know. Family and friends outside the church are welcome to come and decorate a table as well. Tables can be decorated for any occasion. Suzann will be able to assist as much as you want and she can make glassware, silverware, and tablecloths available from the church if you'd rather not bring your own. We plan to use clear disposable dinner plates on top of your good dishes to make it more convenient for you. You can fill your own table with your friends or open your table to individuals or couples who sign up to come for the dinner. About twenty tables will be available to decorate and only four have signed for as of today. Commitments to decorate a table need to be in as soon as possible, but no later than January 2. Tickets will go on sale in mid-January. Please get excited and help make this a very successful event.

### *Our Cookbooks will make a wonderful Christmas present!*



There are 104 different contributors of about 400 recipes, most of which have been cooked for some event here at the church over the years. Find one that you have already tasted and thought "...mmm...that was yummy-wish I had the recipe!" Now you can have it—and many more.

The books are \$20 each, and you can purchase them in the office. Christmas is coming—would make a great gift, especially if you bake up an included recipe!!

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

There will be a training held on this day for all worship volunteers and committee members. If you are in one of these categories, be on the look-out for more information coming soon!



### **FUMCBV HOLIDAY HOURS**

December 25 through January 1 ~ Closed all day every day  
(except for Christmas Day potluck from 11:30 to 1:00 ~ and Sunday)  
We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and blessed New Year!





## OUR FAMILY

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 George & Pat Brannon (72)
- 10 J.D. & Glenna Pickens
- 10 John & Carol Zorn (57)
- 11 Jerry & Cindy Snow
- 16 David & Carol Stanley (55)
- 21 Tim & Jeanette Van Allen
- 24 Bob & Betty Reynolds (63)
- 26 Wayne & Joanne Hubbert (64)
- 27 Glen & Martha Hogue (67)
- 29 Chris & John Rice

### 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 Loch
- 6 Isabelle Mendoza
- 8 Jim Hudson
- 8 Kelly Parham



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (CONT'D)

- 8 Pat Wolter
- 9 Chris Klein
- 9 Heath Lehmann
- 13 Roger Totten
- 16 Melba Brown
- 17 Jon Mendoza
- 17 Marilyn Pommerenke
- 21 Wayne Calhoun (101)
- 21 Emma Kell
- 21 Shirley Newton
- 22 Joe Bowen
- 22 Madison Klein
- 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 . . .



. . . will be held Wednesday, December 6 at 11:45 in Becker Hall beginning with quiet time. Our program will be brought by an **"ENSEMBLE OF MUSICIANS"** from our church bringing us a selection of Christmas music, and a sing along with everyone joining in. Hot Turkey Salad, Cranberry Salad, Dessert, and Roll will be served. Cost is \$7.00, with the deadline for making reservations Sunday December 3. 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.

## EMOJI CHRISTMAS



## CHILDREN'S DINNER THEATER

**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 3<sup>TH</sup>  
5:00PM**

Caroling for all begins in the Sanctuary at 5:00pm. Everyone will then move into Becker Hall for the Dinner Theater brought to you by our Children's Ministry. They have worked hard cooking and rehearsing and would love to share their message with you. Please join us for a wonderful evening of fun, food, and fellowship.

## CHILI Cook Off

Chili weather has finally arrived! The youth are hosting a chili cook-off. Grab a friend or two Sunday, December 17th and come to

the church to enjoy a bowl of chili 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!**

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men's monthly dinner meeting will be held on December 13 at 6:30pm in Becker Hall. They will be awarding a national Lifetime Achievement award to one deserving UMM Member who has tirelessly and unselfishly contributed to the betterment of FUMC and UMM. They will also be conducting a year-end business meeting and will be electing board members for year 2018. Rhythm & Q will be catering the meal. All men of the church are invited to join them. Please make your reservations no later than noon, Sunday, December 10, by e-mailing Lou Kaufmann at [lou@krrealty.com](mailto:lou@krrealty.com) or calling the church office (855-1158).



## MISSEONS

### SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Our church sermon on Sunday, November 19th given by Reverend Jeanne, was about some experiences she encountered as a college student traveling on a road in Dallas each day. It was not a scenic route but one of reality. Hunger and homelessness. It is the reason Shoebox Ministry exists. If you live in Bella Vista you will see homeless as they travel from Missouri and further North to one of the largest stopping points in Fayetteville. There are "camps" in many place we have no knowledge. Shelters abound and there is never enough food or other items that we take for granted from the time we wake until we end our day.

Now a word of warning, please do not give them money to feed the very things that are some of the causes, such chemical dependency and mental issues. If you see a dog with them, that is probably what keeps them alive. It is the one thing that provides unconditional love. Food for their companion means more than food for themselves. They are just like you and me, just in a different place in life, and by the grace of God it could be one of us. Now to borrow some thoughts from last year's article as was suggested by Cheryl Campbell. We are preparing for Christmas deliveries. Between the thoughts of Thanksgiving and our morning service, you will find reasons Shoebox feels so grateful.

1. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who planted this ministry in this church and trusted all of our Team leaders to take care of it as best we can with His guidance.

2. The wonderful volunteers who sort, and pack the shoeboxes, Sunshine Sacks, ready to deliver to the shelters and Cooper Elementary School.

3. The donations, whether money or items that are abundantly given by circles, Shepherd groups, UMW, UMM members, individuals, area churches and groups outside of our church membership.

4. Delivery people who get all of the above to shelters and other distribution points.

5. Janet Walton, out secretary, who puts up with all of the comings and goings of "stuff " and strangers. Yes Janet I know you think and always say "it's my job". God Bless you.

Yes, a well worn but true expressions "it takes a village".

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

As always in His service, *Shoebox Ministry Team*



### PAK-A-SAK is Coming to an End ☹️

We have provided shelf-stable foods to food pantries and agencies in Benton County through the PAK-A-SAK program for over 20 years. Your participation in this ministry has helped stem the tide of hunger in Benton County and has been greatly appreciated.

However, over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic decrease in the participation in this program by members of our congregation. After much discussion and prayer, we have decided to end the PAK-A-SAK program after this month. This, our final month, we will be collecting non-perishable foods of all kinds for Souls Harbor, our Mission of the Month. (see page 11)

We encourage you to participate in the Snack Pack program for Cooper School, the Feed the Funnel Party in February, and the Mountain of Food program in May. Hunger is still a huge issue in Benton County. Your participation in our Food Ministries is vital to continuing to serve those who are less fortunate.

*Sue Nebrig*, PAK-A-SAK Team Leader



### HELPING HANDS



Once again, our church fulfilled our responsibility for helping a very worthwhile charity on Nov. 18. We've had trouble lately with getting enough men volunteers but since the weather turned out to be cold and rainy, there wasn't as much activity out back and it all turned out fine. We want to thank the guys, Dennis Reed, Jack Hollingworth & Jack Dunn for working on the receiving dock in the morning and Richard Hale & Ron Buker in the afternoon. The ladies did a great job of cashiering, bagging & maintaining the sales floor, so thanks to Mabel Ashline, Linda Hyde, Jill Hale, Darleen O'Brien, Cheryl Campbell, Sue Nebrig, & Co Ellen Sterwald for that. If anyone else would like to help out next year, remember, you get a nice discount on anything you find that you might like to buy! The proceeds from this Resale Shop does so much good for Benton County needy people. We'll let you know soon when our work days are for 2018.

*Verna Bottjen & Shirley Wenger*



## MISSIONS

### 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.

### BELLA VISTA RECYCLE CENTER

Help our missions by helping the environment. We are asked by the United Methodist Conference to take care of the earth we share. You can!

If you sign up to work at the AARP Recycling Center for just 2 hours week, we could help the environment AND support our worthwhile missions with the grant money that we could earn. The center pays \$6 to the volunteers to be applied to many worthwhile causes in our community and church. At \$6 an hour for 45 weeks, you could earn \$540 a year for your favorite mission, or it could go to the church. This could be a great "New Year's Resolution" - think about it!!



### Christmas Cards for our Homebound Members need to be turned in by Wednesday, December 6th

Please stop at the tables in the Narthex and/or hallway outside Becker Hall and sign

a couple of the cards there (every time you are in the church) which will be delivered to our homebound members before Christmas. Circles, Shepherd Groups, and other groups, please sign several cards in you groups and drop them off at the "card" tables. This is one way we can show our homebound they are missed and loved during this season of giving.



Planning way ahead for  
2018~

Volunteer for the mission trip to  
Sager Brown  
October 27th ~ November 3rd  
Watch for more information  
coming soon!



## MUSIC

### *Advent Sunday Noontime Concert Series*

Planning a new series of concerts during an already crowded time of year has proved more difficult than expected. Perhaps that's why I've been planning this series in my head for several years, but only this year decided to go through with it. My hope is that this extra music will be an addition to your Advent season, whether that encompasses joy, sorrow, or both. I must confess that this series is as much for the performers as the audience. In particular, our talented choir members only get a chance to sing a solo or duet in church during the summer months when Chancel Choir is not in session. The Voices Bella Vista concert gives them an additional opportunity.

The Taste of Taizé is not at all a concert, but rather a meditative worship style that combines music and readings, candlelight and icons, in a unique way. Pipes Aplenty, on the other hand, is a loud celebration, at times, of the beautiful Casavant/Temple organ that graces our sanctuary. This program both Advent and Christmas pieces will be performed again on Christmas Eve, at 6:30 p.m., at the end of the Contemporary Service and a half-hour preceding the Traditional Service. Christmas on the Ivories is a mixture of sacred and secular piano arrangements that will be followed by a sing-along of your requests. This final concert of the series can go as long as you want to stay!

Though I expect to see mostly familiar faces at these events, perhaps I will also see some others. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors, both those who worship elsewhere, and to those who don't have a church home, to enjoy a short program for the season. Let's see how it goes!

- \* Sunday, November 26 - Pipes Aplenty in the Sanctuary
- \* Sunday, December 3 - A Taste of Taizé in the Chapel
- \* Sunday, December 10 - Voices Bella Vista in Becker Hall
- \* Sunday, December 17 - Christmas on the Ivories in Becker Hall

I hope you enjoy!

**Broc**

## BOOK NOOK



### *2018 UMW READING PROGRAM BOOKLIST*

#### **EDUCATION FOR MISSIONS: CATEGORY I**

- \* MASSACRE AT SAND CREEK by Gary L. Roberts
- \* GROWING PEACE by Richard Sobol
- \* HIDING IN THE LIGHT by Rifqa Bary

#### **NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY: CATEGORY II**

- \* GOOD HEALTH, GOOD LIFE by Joyce Meyer
- \* TROUBLE I'VE SEEN by Drew G.I. Hart
- \* THE BOOK OF JOY by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu
- \* DETAINED AND DEPORTED by Margaret Regan

#### **SOCIAL ACTION: CATEGORY III**

- \* AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN by Jim Wallis
- \* PUSHOUT by Monique W. Morris
- \* HOSPITABLE PLANET by Stephen A. Jurovics

#### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH: CATEGORY IV**

- \* ADVENTURE OF DESCENT by Luci Shaw
- \* TATTERED AND MENDED by Cynthia Ruchti

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: CATEGORY V**

- \* THE SACRED SECULAR by Rob Rynders
- \* FEATHERED by Deborah Kerbel

**A FULL SYNOPSIS OF THESE BOOKS IS AVAILABLE  
IN THE LIBRARY.**



## PRAYER SHAWLS

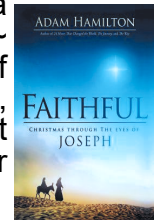
Prayer Shawls provide warmth and comfort for those in distress or hurting. Now we have additional ways to be wrapped in prayer. A few months ago the group began knitting **Prayer Coverlets** to be given to newborns or children who are seriously ill. **Prayer Cloths** are being made, prayed over, and blessed, to be given to those who have a serious circumstance but have already received a prayer shawl. The Prayer Cloths are 4 or 5 inches by 5 or 6 inches. **Prayer Squares**, a smaller version of the Prayer Cloth, are being made, prayed over and blessed and put in baskets at various places in the church that anyone can pick up for themselves or to give to others when there is a particular prayer need. Initially, the Prayer Squares will be in a basket in the Narthex. As more squares are knitted, baskets will be placed in Becker Hall and the Chapel. If you are a knitter or crocheter, please consider joining this group of dedicated crafters on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in Room 6, or you are welcome to come in and pick up patterns and work at home. There is always a need for more of these beautiful shawls and prayer squares.

Sharon Golaway has a new CD titled "Songs of Hope", with 13 hymns played on the piano as only she can play. They are available in the office for \$15, and would a make wonderful holiday gift.



### Two Sunday classes to enjoy during this Advent Season begin Sunday, Nov. 26 :

Dr. Maryann Johnson will lead a study based on "Faithful~Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph" by Adam Hamilton, which will meet in the Chapel at 11:00am through December 17th.



Chaplain Kandi Mount will lead the Advent study "Because of Bethlehem Love is Born, Hope is Here" by Max Lucado. This class meets for 3 weeks through December 10th, immediately following the 3rd service in Room 6.

### SANCTIFIED CLASSIFIEDS

**Sunday Office Angel** If you are willing to volunteer any time between 7:30am and noon on Sunday mornings to work in the office addressing the needs of members and guests, we will work with you based on your availability. Greet those who come in with a warm smile and a willing attitude; answer questions or find out and get back to them; sign people up for various happenings at the church.

**Sunday Bus Drivers**—regular drivers and to cover for regular drivers during vacations, and as needed. Please see Bob Kennedy for more information.

### Cooper Elementary PTO

### Santa Shop Donations

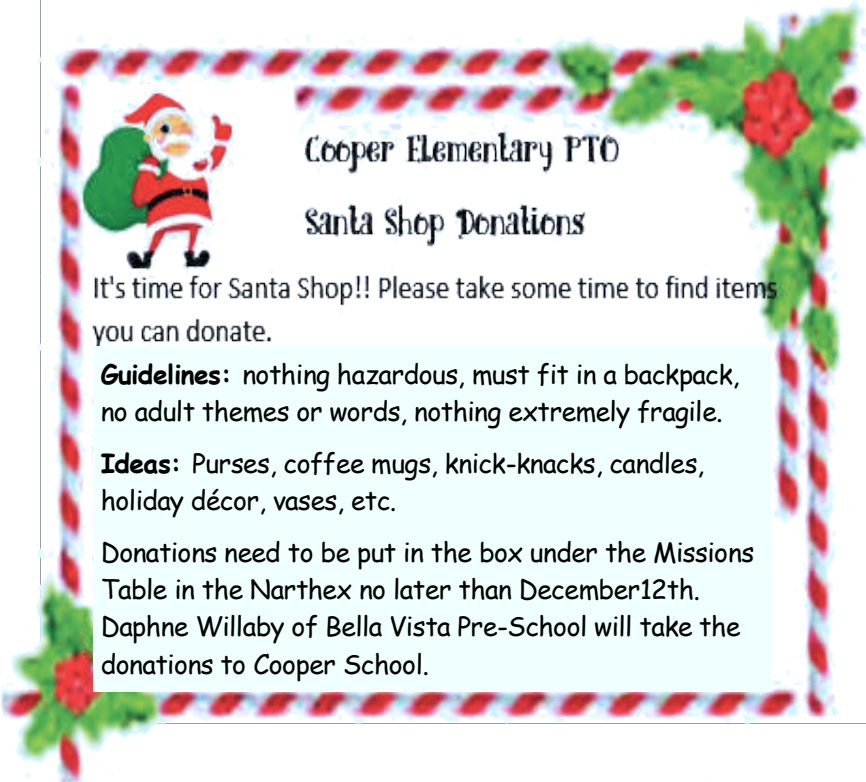
It's time for Santa Shop!! Please take some time to find items you can donate.

**Guidelines:** nothing hazardous, must fit in a backpack, no adult themes or words, nothing extremely fragile.

**Ideas:** Purses, coffee mugs, knick-knacks, candles, holiday décor, vases, etc.

Donations need to be put in the box under the Missions Table in the Narthex no later than December 12th.

Daphne Willaby of Bella Vista Pre-School will take the donations to Cooper School.





## THANK YOU

Dear FUMCBV Family,  
 Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and food during my recent operation and illness. I want to thank Pastor Brenda for her visits and the prayer shawl, which means so much to me. Our Methodist Church is the Best!

Love, *Layne Anderson*

Many thanks to Pastor Brenda and Maryann Johnson and all the knotting & crocheting ladies for the prayer shawl for Bill. We relish the prayers.

Thank you. *Bill & Carlene Jerman*

Only God knows how much I appreciate the help from my church. Thank you so much for the phone calls, cards, Wednesday-night-dinners, and visits. A special THANK YOU to Pastor Brenda and Chaplain Kandi Mount. It meant so much to me when Kandi contacted the Chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Springfield when I was unexpectedly sent there. Pastor Brenda made everything OK again and I had hope. I know now why I love FUMCBV so much. God Bless All.

*Connie Clark*

Thank you to the dedicated workers who came early Monday morning, November 27 to help hang greenery, decorate Christmas trees, and set out our Christmas decorations to once more transform FUMCBV for the holidays. Without your combined efforts and team spirit our church would not be nearly as festive as it is. When you see these folks, please thank them for their wonderful contribution of time and energy:

Keith & Lynn Prueitt, Darrell & Verna Bottjen, Chet & Cheryl Campbell, Jack & Jan Kolbe, Weldon & Linda Hyde, Joe & Margie Bowen, Mabel Ashline, Co Ellen Sterwald, Judy Bilyeu, and Nona Storck.

As you read these names, please realize that there is not a "youngster" among them! If you are not quite ready for Medicare, please consider joining us when we put the decorations away after the holidays, and next year as we get them all out again.

Dear FUMC Bella Vista,

Thank you for being a donor to the U of A Wesley College Ministry in 2017! The Wesley has meant so much to me because of the friends I have made and the wonderful staff. I am in a covenant group and Thursday Night Bible Study, and it has been a real blessing. Thank you again for all the support.

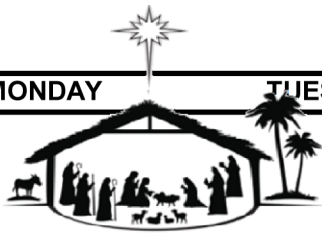
In Christ, *Justus Mack*, U of A senior

### December Newsletter 2017 Financial Data

		2017	2017	Compare	2017
		Actual	Budget	2016	Year-end
		Actual			Budget
Month of October	Actual Receipts	\$55,920	\$50,701	\$56,914	
Month of October	Actual Expense	\$45,907	\$53,307	\$53,441	
	Balance	<b>\$10,013</b>	<b>-\$2,606</b>	<b>\$3,473</b>	
Year to Date (as of 10/31/17)	Actual Receipts	\$524,564	\$507,010	\$519,347	\$608,420
Year to Date (as of 10/31/17)	Actual Expense	\$478,967	\$533,070	\$520,794	\$639,707
	Balance	<b>\$35,584</b>	<b>-\$26,060</b>	<b>-\$1,447</b>	<b>-\$31,287</b>
Operating Account Balance 10/31/17		<b>\$38,641</b>			

*Patsy Attaway*, Business Manager

# DECEMBER 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:30 Amp Big Book 12:00 Sunrise/Abram SG
3 BP ✓ Between Services 7:30 Praise Tm rehrl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Srv 11:00 Faithful Christmas 12:00 Because of Bthlehm 12:00 Taste of Taize 5:00 Chldrns Dinnr Theatr	4 9:00 Calico Spec Proj 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:30 Friends of Christ 2:00 UMWPlanning 6:00 Venture Crew BSA 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	5 10:00 Prayer Shawl 6:00 SPRC	6 8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Disciple II 9:30 UMW Board 11:45 UMW Luncheon 1:00 Disciple IV 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:00 Prayer Mtg 4:45 Chancel Choir 6:30 YouthLife	7 9:00 Old Sew&Sews 11:15 Golf-Highlands	8 11:30 PreSchl Brd Mtng	9 8:30 Amp Big Book 9:00 Believersn SG 10:00 Parent's Day Out
10 7:30 Praise Tm rehrl 8:00 Lessons & Carols 9:30 Lessons & Carols 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Lessons & Carols 11:00 Faithful Christmas 12:00 Because of Bthlehm 12:00 Voices of Bella Vista 7:00 Lessons & Carols	11 9:00 Calico Cut-ups 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 1:30 Friends of Christ 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	12 9:00 PEO-BR 10:00 Prayer Shawl 11:30 Naomi Circle 12:30 Sarah Circle 6:00 Cub Scouts Den 6:30 Finance Comm	13 8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Disciple II 9:00 Calico Spec Proj 1:00 Disciple IV 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:00 Prayer Mtg 4:45 Chancel Choir 6:30 UMM Dinner 6:30 YouthLife	14 9:30 Missions 11:23 Golf-BVCC 11:30 Hope Circle 1:00 Shepherd Grp 1 4:00 Small Group Leadrs 6:00 Evening Circle	15 8:00 Pre-School Brunch 6:00 Staff Party	16 8:30 Amp Big Book 10:00 SAR
17 <b>PAK-A-SAK</b> 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:30 Praise Tm rehrl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 11:00 Faithful Christmas 12:00 Christmas on Ivories 1:30 CCM Meeting 5:30 Chili Cook-Off	18 9:00 Martha Circle 10:00 Staff Mtng 11:00 PEO-CD 6:00 Venture Crew BSA 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	19 10:00 Prayer Shawl 1:00 BV Book Club 6:00 BSA Pack Mtng	20 8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Disciple II 9:00 Calico Anytimers 1:00 Disciple IV 4:00 Prayer Mtg 4:45 Chancel Choir 6:30 YouthLife	21 11:23 Golf-Kingswood 2:30 Beautiful Colors 5:30 Longst Night Service	22	23 8:30 Amp Big Book
24 <b>Carols Candlelight Communion</b> 10:00 ~ Music in Narthex 10:45 ~ Sanctuary 3:00 Concordia Service 5:30 ~ Family Worship 7:00 ~ Sanctuary	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>  CHURCH CLOSED EXCEPT FOR POTLUCK 11:30am ~ 1:00pm	26  CHURCH CLOSED	27  CHURCH CLOSED	28  CHURCH CLOSED	29  CHURCH CLOSED	30 8:30 Amplified Big Book
31 7:30 Praise Team Rehrl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service	1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH CLOSED</b>					



**First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista**  
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715

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## ***We're Here to Serve You***

Senior Pastor - Rev. Jeanne Williams  
Associate Pastor - Rev. Brenda Wideman  
Church Secretary - Janet Walton  
Business Manager - Patsy Attaway  
Dir. of Community Life & Connections - Amy Gilmore  
Director of Media Ministries - Troy Jorgensen  
Coordinator of Sound/Visual Arts ~ Alan Yount  
Director of Children's Ministry - Angela Rader  
Director of Youth Ministry - Austin Curtis  
Dir. of Music Ministries - Dr. Lawrence Zehring  
Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson  
Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite  
Praise Team Leader - Shannon Wicker  
Worship Leader - Garrett Greer  
Deaconess - Kandi Mount  
Director of Nursery Care - Beverly Thuma  
Childcare Staff - Danielle Norgaard

**Phone: (479) 855-1158**

**Fax: (479) 855-0850**

**[www.LoveLearnLead.com](http://www.LoveLearnLead.com)**

**Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month**

**Return receipt requested**

***To the Home of ...***



## **Place your Poinsettia order today!**

Poinsettias are again 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 17th.

Please fill out a separate order form so that we have your correct information. We will print a special recognition insert for the December 24<sup>th</sup> bulletin with the information you give us. After Christmas, you may take your Poinsettia home.

We order our poinsettias through the Bella Vista Kiwanis Club, which purchases their plants from Matkins Nursery in Bentonville.

100% of Kiwanis' profit goes back to the children of Bella Vista.



Please join us Christmas Day for a pot luck in Becker Hall from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Turkey will be provided, so cook up your most festive side dish to share. The meal is free to everyone, so please come join the camaraderie. Who knows, maybe someone will start to sing Christmas carols for all to join in and enjoy.

Please call the office if you are coming so we will know how much turkey to cook - and/or if you are able to help set up on Monday morning or undo after the dinner, or help clean up after dinner, or help serve, or HELP...!!!