



The Good News

DECEMBER 2019



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

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 1 | Advent Begins |
| December 2 | Deck the Halls ~ 8:30am, All Church |
| December 3 | "Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience" Advent Study
10:00am in the Parlor ~ followed by Yoga for All 11:00am thru 12/24 |
| December 4 | UMW Luncheon & Bazaar, Becker Hall ~ 11:45am
All-church Cookie Exchange & Pizza, Becker Hall ~ 5:30pm |
| December 8 | Brass Band in Traditional ~ Lessons and Carols in Contemporary |
| December 9 | All Church Caroling to homebound at 4:00pm, followed by
Prime Rib dinner at 6:30pm, reservations to office |
| December 10 | Bentonville HS Chamber Orchestra, Becker Hall ~ 7:00pm |
| December 11 | UMM Dinner, Becker Hall ~ 6:30pm |
| December 14 | Parents/Grandparents Day Out ~ 10:00am |
| December 15 | Organ Recital by Broc Hite, Sanctuary ~ 12:15pm
Children & Youth Christmas Play, Becker Hall ~ 3:00pm |
| December 22 | Piano Recital by Broc Hite, Sanctuary ~ 2:00pm
Service of the Blue Christmas: Hope, Healing, & Comfort ~ 6:30pm |
| December 24 | Carols, Communion, Candlelight, Sanctuary ~ 12:00pm
Family Carols, Communion, Candlelight, Becker Hall ~ 5:00pm
Organ Recital by Broc Hite, Sanctuary ~ 6:25pm
Carols, Communion, Candlelight, Sanctuary ~ 7:00pm |
| December 25 | Christmas Pot-Luck, Becker Hall ~ 11:30am |
| December 29 | Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary ~ 9:00am
Carols, Cookies, Coffee & Cocoa, Becker Hall ~ 10:00am
The Well Contemporary Worship Service ~ 11:00am |





Glimpses of Grace

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

Merry Advent!

Expectations ... I don't know about you, but I have these really high expectations of what Christmas should be: baking, gingerbread house making, all the decorations, pretty gift wrapping, quality time with friends and family and the perfect Christmas morning followed by the perfect Christmas dinner ... And yet, so often, those expectations end up shattered like a glass ornament on a tile floor in my mind's eye. We're lucky to get the tree up. There is zero baking. The house is decorated haphazardly (and who knows how it'll work out this year!). Tempers flare. Guilt erupts. And I'm the first to get upset because "it isn't a Hallmark Christmas." So what will happen if I change my expectations? Less anxiety, less temper, more appreciation, more quality time vs productivity time? Perhaps.

Indeed, we are in the season of Advent, which is a time of expectation and preparation. What are you expecting this Advent and Christmas seasons? Are you expecting family? Presents? Disappointment? Food? Grief? What if you expected... the Light, New Growth, the Unexpected, a Baby, and JOY!? These five things are what we will look for through worship together beginning December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. I hope you will join us as we explore our priorities this Advent season.

What is truly important about this holiday anyway? That we honor and celebrate the Incarnation of Christ! The birth of Christ on earth! I believe our priorities surrounding Christmas in western society are extremely skewed. Many of us talk about it being Jesus' birth, but still manage to stress over the gatherings and cookies. My prayer this Advent season is that as we EXPECT a Savior, we will manage our own expectations of the holiday in a way that glorifies God and brings you peace.

Advent Blessings,
Rev. Jeanne

P.S. I hope you will take special note of the many extra activities and gatherings (see front page) being planned for December! We have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate! I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to gather with your church community!

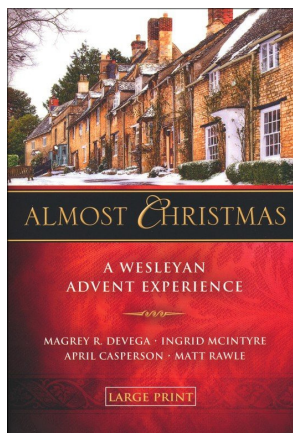


A 4-week Advent Study

"Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience"

... meets on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Parlor, led by Rev. Jeanne. In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in a study to encourage people to follow Christ wholeheartedly during Advent, connecting the Wesleyan heritage with traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace.

This study is followed by a Yoga Class at 11:00 led by Ashdon Wilson. Skill level and flexibility do not matter. Come breathe, stretch, and welcome some relaxation





JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

Can There Ever be Light Again?

*The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.*

*For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
on them a light will shine. (Isaiah 9:2 NLT)*

There are times in our lives when the light does not seem to shine in our souls. Those times are typically caused by struggles in our lives and in the world around us. The struggles might be because we lost our job, or because of loneliness caused by our children (grandchildren/great-grandchildren/best friends) living too far away to get together as often as we would prefer. These struggles might be because of a recent diagnosis of a life-threatening disease, or because of the death of one who was dear to us. The struggles may be because each day is lived in pain of some type, physical pain which doctors cannot cure, or emotional and spiritual pain from lost hope. In the season of Fall, when the beauty of the Fall colors fades into bare trees, grey clouds, and increased darkness in the shortened days, the light may fade from our souls as well. All the Christmas lights, eggnog and shopping just do not bring it back. All the strains of “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” and “Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas” don’t bring it back. It doesn’t feel like a “White Christmas”, it feels more like a blue Christmas.

It is in those times, most especially, that we need first of all to name our feelings. The anger, the loneliness, the grief are all real feelings and they are who we are at this moment. Then after acknowledging our personal blue-ness, we must begin our journey to Expect that the Light will shine again. Advent is a time when Christians journey toward the Light, the Light of Hope that comes in Emmanuel, God with Us, our Lord, Jesus Christ being born in our hearts once again.

The prophets of old also lived in a dark land and even in acknowledging that darkness, they predicted the Light would shine. I invite you to join in the journey with others whose souls have also lost the light.

Blessings for the Light Journey, ————— to Shine on your

Pastor Brenda

**“A Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope, Healing, and Comfort”
Sunday, December 22, 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary**

Come together to acknowledge our blue-ness, to sing, to pray, to hear





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, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at brenda@lovelearnlead.com or 479-855-1158.

BIRTHS

Luna Pearl Lueck, daughter of Talhia & Michael Lueck of Ladysmith, WI was born September 18. She is the 7th great-grandchild of Keith and Co Ellen Sterwald.

Callen Thomas Strege is the 8th great-grandchild of Keith & Co Ellen Sterwald. He is the son of Shelly & Matt Strege of Nekoosa, WI and was born on October 18.

Aspyn Ainsleigh Mick, 11th great-grandchild of July Knadle, was born October 26th in Colorado Springs. She is the daughter of Kyle and Jamie Mick.

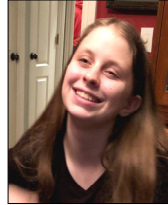
Braelyn Nicole Stark was born November 9th in Watertown, SC to Heath and Brooke Stark. Braelyn is Judy Knadle's 12th great-grandchild.

Miles Jefferson Will, great-grandson of Charley and Florence Hill, was born Monday, November 4th in Jenks, OK to Jacob and Kimberly Will and big brother Holden.

MILESTONES



Alec Gilmore – a Junior, was inducted into the Bentonville High School National Honor Society on October 30th. There were 90 juniors and seniors inducted this year. In order to qualify students had to have a GPA of at least 3.5, be active in leadership, volunteering, and submit an essay. Their submissions were reviewed by a panel of teachers. Congratulations, Alec, we are proud of you!



Jenna Gilmore, a sophomore at Bentonville High School, submitted an audition CD for the Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association and was chosen from a pool of 1100 entries to participate in the 2020 conference. Renowned choir directors come from all over to lead workshops for students over a three and half day period ending with a performance. "We reflect and learn from the past, we intently study the present, and we dream about the future." (from the swacda.org website)

James and Amy Gilmore are the very proud parents of Alec and Jenna, and their church family is equally as proud of these fine young members of FUMCBV.

IN MEMORIUM

Shirley Ayre – passed away peacefully on Monday, November 18, at Highlands Care Center here in Bella Vista. She was lovingly surrounded by family. She has been unable to worship with us for several years due to declining health. Her son, Kerry, and his wife, Chris, live locally and her son Darwin lives in Colorado. The family gathered for a Memorial Service on Saturday, November 23rd at the FUMC in Abilene, Kansas, The Rev. John Collins officiated.



Paula Walker - passed away on Saturday, November 9 at Circle of Life Bentonville. Paula was 93 years old and had most recently been living in Magnolia Place Memory Care Home in Rogers. The family has chosen to have her Memorial Service in our sanctuary on Friday, March 20. Please keep Hal, Beth, and all of their family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Paula.

Kenny Young – brother of Gene Young, passed away on November 4th and was laid to rest on Saturday, November 9th. Keep Gene and his family in your prayers as he mourns the loss of Kenny.



OUR FAMILY

Linda VanZant – Rev. Jeanne's aunt, passed away on Wednesday, October 30, after a sudden cardiac arrest on Monday. She and her husband John live in Illinois. Jeanne's mother and other family members gathered on Saturday, November 2nd and 3rd for a time to celebrate and remember Linda's life. Please keep the family in prayers and pray for wisdom for Linda's family as they find the next steps to caring for John, as his health is not good either.

Isa Lawry and Rita Prouty – sisters of Lora Burch, both passed away within 5 days of each other this past week. These were Lora's only sisters. Elsa lived in Bloomington, IL and passed away on November 7th, and Rita lived in St. Louis and passed on November 11th. Please keep Lora in prayers as she mourns these losses.

DECEMBER GROUP ACTIVITIES

FRIENDS OF CHRIST is a small study group dedicated to supporting each other as they dig deeper into their own personal relationship with Christ Jesus. They meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 1:30-3:00pm in the Parlor. December 9 they will be wrapping up their study "With an Ear for the Trumpet". December 23rd They will watch the video of Max Lucado's classic story "Back to Bethlehem", play games, sing Christmas hymns, and of course partake of delicious appetizers. January 13 & 27 they will begin their next study, "Hope" by Max Lucado. All are welcome.

ABRAM SHEPHERD GROUP will join in the caroling and dinner on Monday, December 9th. Please make your reservations through the office, but let Darleen or Lora know if you are coming.

SOLOS will go to Pineville, MO. on Friday, Dec. 20 to the America Legion Hut to enjoy an Early Christmas Dinner. The cost is \$7.00, which includes drink and dessert. **Cash or check only**—they do not take debit or credit cards. They will leave the Church at 4:30 P.M.. Please call Sue Nebrig 855-9269 or Judy Knadle 282-7333 by Thursday the 19th to let them know you can come.

HAPPYS SHEPHERD GROUP will have a gift exchange and finger-food snacks at the home of Carmen & Dorothy Phillips at 3:00pm on Saturday, December the 7th.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

Rev. Jim Rowland facilitates this group. Please join them the 2nd and 4th Sunday evening at 4:00 pm in the Parlor, and meet other grandparents who are in the same position as you. Share stories, concerns, questions, joys, second chances, practical ideas, and hope with others.



Please remember to wear your name tags at all church events and activities. This will give our newer members an easier time of learning your name, and you theirs. If you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself and welcome them to FUMCBV!



Shepherd group one

cordially invites you
to go caroling

and then return to the church for a Prime
rib dinner

Prepared by Marlene Clapp

Monday, December 9 ~ 4:00pm ~ \$12
Meet in the Upper Parking Lot at 3:45pm
to car-pool for caroling to our homebound
members. Please make reservations
and pay for the dinner no later than
Friday, December 6th in the Office.
Please join us as we bring a time of
joy to the life our homebound members.

Everyone is invited!



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, Dec. 29)
We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and blessed New Year!





Amy's Anecdotes
Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER ~ *As we prepare for all of the activities that the Advent Season brings, I am once again looking for a host/hostess for our church's Christmas Potluck. The church provides the meat and everyone who attends is asked to bring a dish to share. This is a casual meal, bringing together those who are not able to spend Christmas with loved ones, a time of fellowship and church family to celebrate our Savior's birth. If you are happy to take part in this ministry, or have questions, please let me know. My email is amy@lovelearnlead.com*

We will have **training for all worship volunteers** on December 15 at 1:00 in the Parlor. If you are currently a greeter, usher, communion server, host, etc., or have just signed up to be, please plan to attend. If you have any questions, please email or call Amy at amy@lovelearnlead.com.



How to Give Back Without Trying

Tithing can be complicated. We know that. AmazonSmile is a great way to help your church financially without you having to do more. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. It doesn't charge you extra like a donation at the grocery store checkout, rather it gives a portion of what you're already paying for items and donates it to the non-profit of your choosing.

If you already have an Amazon account that you use, you already have an AmazonSmile account. Simply type in smile.amazon.com and follow the instructions on screen to select First United Methodist Church Bella Vista as your preferred donation recipient.

AmazonSmile : How to Give Back Without Trying



MEDIA MUSINGS
Kacy Spears, Director of Communications

Let's be Stars

Advent time sparks joy within me with the tingling of jingle bells, matching family outfits, communal voices caroling to create a sense of one-ness! It makes me smile to see friends exchanging presents, writing cards to loved ones, and making meals alongside one another.

At least once a year, usually around Black Friday and the wave of consumerism that comes with that "holiday," I hear someone say "Remember the reason for the season."

It's easy to get lost in jingling bells, outfits, wrapping paper, gift bags, trees, and cards! Though those things serve a purpose of bringing joy (and there's absolutely nothing wrong with that joy), none of it is why we celebrate.

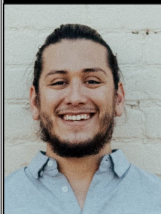
Lately, I've found myself lost in my negative thoughts - "We'll never get where we want to be," "It's them against us," "Christmas will not be like years past." These do not include the myriad of complaints that easily pop up. Being in the cloud of negativity that follows possible change (yes, I'm talking about the two services proposal) only nails that pain and sense of lostness deeper inside myself. When I walk from one end of the church to the other, I overhear this negativity, and it hurts. It hurts more than those speaking it know. It takes my negativity and multiplies it, which starts a chain reaction to others and keeps going.

When the magi sought the one who was born King of the Jews, they followed his star as their only reference point. Modern images of this star show it as bright, larger than any other in the sky, and clearly indicative of a King nearby. We even put comparable stars atop our Christmas trees as a reminder of this search and the Magi finding Jesus. This Christmas season, let's vow to be stars, shining a radiating, Christ light to all who need it, that they may follow.

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." - Philippians 4:8, NRSV

Blessings, Kacy





Young Whippersnappers

Kenneth Wilson, NextGen Youth

Hey Church,

We recently went to the Bella Vista Animal Shelter on a local mission. It was a ton of fun! We got a tour of the facilities, and we met some awesome volunteers. Also, we trained a group of puppies how to sit and follow other commands. Later, we took a few older dogs on walks to get them some exercise. Also, we brought some donations to help keep the animals warm, clean, and fed. We helped some of these animals become used to kind human contact again. A lot of these animals have better chances of adoption if they are better socialized. We cannot wait to go back in the spring! Remember, animals are an important part of families and communities... so ADOPT, DON'T SHOP.

I want to say thank you to everyone who came out to support our youth and eat good food at our 1st Annual Comfort Food Cook-Off. Thank you to all of the Youth who helped judge, and thank you to everyone who participated. We had over a dozen participants and a lot of good food. Our winners in the "Dinner" category were Sandy Fitch (Judge's Choice), and MJ Rhein, Sue Nebring, Judy Knadle (People's Choice) who made a combined dish. Our winners in the "Dessert" category were Ashdon Wilson (Judge's Choice), and Jerilyn Gemberling (People's Choice). Also, we had the pleasure of witnessing Caitlyn Rowland, Kacy Spears, Rev. Jim Rowland, Alec Gilmore, myself eat HOT wings. Alec's donation jar had the most cash in it... so he "enjoyed" eating Ghost Pepper hot sauce. Altogether we raised \$650 for Vista Youth! Thank you for your generosity. I hope you had a good time.

Peace and love, *Kenneth*

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9



Children's Chatter

Ashdon Wilson, NextGen Chil-

I once had a friend who despised Christmas time because she viewed it as superficial. She made comments such as "This is all so fake! All this giving and kindness should happen all year round! This is just a guilt trip to make people feel better about consumerism!" et cetera. Needless to say, her comments got me to think about my own beliefs about Christmas. I asked myself why I put up a tree, why I baked cookies for neighbors, why I bought gifts for those I loved. Was it all fake?

No! It's not! Just as Thanksgiving is a period to reflect on everything you've been given over the past year, Christmas is a time to share what you have been given with those around you! One of my favorite Christmas hymns says: "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices // for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!" Christmas is a time for new beginnings; it's a time when we're reminded of the promise of new life and a new hope born on Christmas Day. Of course we should respond by giving. Without Christmas, there would be no peace on earth and no goodwill towards men!

Our children have a lot planned during the Christmas season. We will be crafting, decorating cookies, watching movies, performing plays, and spreading a little bit of Christmas cheer! Below is a list of events, I hope to see everyone during this season of joy:

- ◆ **December 7th** – "Songs & Shadows: A Christmas Story" Rehearsal 9:00am—11:00am Becker Hall
Donuts & Juice will be served (coffee for adults)
- ◆ **December 14th** – Parents Day Out
10:00am—3:30pm in Becker Hall
Lunch will be served
- ◆ **December 15th** – "Songs & Shadows: A Christmas Story" Performance 3:00pm in Becker Hall
Refreshments to follow

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please let me know! My email is childrens@lovelearnlead.com and my cell phone is (870) 834-1597.

Merry Christmas!

Ashdon



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 John & Carol Zurn
- 12 Jerry & Cindy Snow
- 26 Wayne & Joanne Hubbert
- 28 Allen & Phyllis Janssen (60)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jo Ann Handel
- 1 Joe McGee
- 2 Doug Grant
- 2 Kathy Jones
- 2 Brittany May
- 3 Caitlyn Rowland
- 6 Margie Bowen
- 6 Isabelle Mendoza
- 8 Pat Wolter
- 9 Chris Klein
- 9 Heath Lehmann
- 13 Tristen Knannichfield
- 13 Roger Totten



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (continued)

- 16 Melba Brown
- 16 Phyllis Janssen
- 16 Shari Vermett
- 17 Jon Mendoza
- 17 Marilyn Pommerenke
- 21 Emma Kell
- 21 Shirley Newton
- 22 Joe Bowen
- 22 Madison Klein
- 22 Blake Roath
- 22 Gil Temple
- 24 Zachary Knannichfield
- 26 Diane Cox
- 27 Ruth Ireland
- 28 Connie Wilson
- 28 Kenneth Wilson
- 29 Everly Hickman
- 31 Carly Engle
- 31 Journey Marquez



Giving Made Easy - Scan the QR code with your smartphone to make an electronic gift to your church! This is a one-time gift. If you would like to set up a recurring gift, see Amy Gilmore in the church office.



2019 December Newsletter Financial Data			
@ October 31, 2019			
		2019 Actual	2019 Budget
Month of October, 2019	Budget Receipts	36,583.27	40,854.34
Month of October, 2019	Expense	49,889.38	47,617.34
	Difference	-\$13,306.11	-\$6,763.00
Year to Date (as of 10/31/19)	Actual Receipts	421,012.83	408,543.40
Year to Date (as of 10/31/19)	Actual Expense	452,713.23	476,173.40
	Balance	-\$31,700.40	-67,630.00

Income does not include Missions or Endowment interest.

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Recently I was thinking about what the Perfect Church would look and feel like. On this Sunday the church was packed, and the music was performed by angels led by Mahalia Jackson. The opening prayer was given by Billy Graham, and Norman Vincent Peale read the scripture. A prayer was given by Joel Osteen before the offering, and the plates were overflowing.

Of course the sermon was delivered by Jesus. He talked about the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. "How bright a light unto the world this church can be is determined by how much of the Kingdom of God is within its members. You are either dying or dead if you do not have the Kingdom. You cannot spiritually breathe without it. You cannot walk with God without it. Spiritual authority and spiritual maturity come through the Kingdom. The Christian's life is a life lived in and through the Kingdom. A Christian cannot live outside of the Kingdom of God, just as a fish cannot live out of the water"

A benediction was then given by John Wesley. How joyous that service was! Now I know I can go all day, day after day, living the life I was meant to live. I am willing to pay the price for the Keys to the Kingdom. See all of you in God's church. Our church.

Lou Kaufmann



We Are so blessed as a Church Congregation. As you reflect on the wonder of this Christmas Season.

please consider giving to our Staff Love Offering. We have an incredible Staff who give 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

UMW Christmas Luncheon . .



. . . will be held Wednesday, December 4 at 11:45 in Becker Hall beginning with quiet time. Dr. Larry Zehring will present a fabulous Christmas program. Come and enjoy! We encourage **ALL MEMBERS AND GUEST TO ATTEND** with reservations. Our menu for the luncheon will be hot turkey salad, roll, dinner salad, & dessert. The cost is \$7.00 and the deadline for making reservations is Sunday, December 1st through your circle, or call the church 855-1158. Child and Adult care will be provided for anyone wishing to attend, with prior notification. Please call Mabel with the number of children or adults who will need care.



The Methodist Men's monthly dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30pm in Becker Hall. They will be presenting the national Life Service Award to one deserving UMM Member who has tirelessly and unselfishly contributed to the betterment of FUMC and UMM. This is an award recognized nationally by the United Methodist Men. Their program is the election of new officers for 2020 and their annual business meeting. It is also Recognition of those members for the great job they have done during the year. Rhythm & Q will be catering the meal and it will be wonderful as always. All men of the church are invited to join them. Please make your reservations no later than noon, Monday, December 9, by calling the church office (855-1158).

PRAYER REQUESTS

As a church family we lift each other up in prayer for both our collective joys and our concerns. Prayer requests should be sent to Rev. Brenda Wideman at brenda@lovelearnlead.com or 855-1158. You may also complete a Prayer Request Card in the Narthex or Becker Hall and drop it in the Prayer Boxes there. They are checked daily.

MISSIONS



Methodist
FAMILY HEALTH

November~December
Mission

Share the Light

Share Your Light of Peace, Stability and Hope!
For the last two months of the year, our mission focus will be on Methodist Family Health and their *Share the Light* Christmas campaign. You may remember Methodist Family Health from earlier this year where we collected toiletries, paper goods, and clothing items for the tenants of their facilities. In November and December, we are collecting monetary donations.

Methodist Family Health offers programs and services such as inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, outpatient counseling clinics, grief counseling services, group homes, an emergency shelter for children, and more. Methodist Family Health receives no apportionment support from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church; instead, they rely heavily on donations made through this special offering at Christmas.

Your contribution makes it possible for Methodist Family Health to continue their mission of giving the best possible care to children and families by treating the whole person; psychiatrically, behaviorally, emotionally, and spiritually.

To learn more about programs and services, please e-mail info@methodistfamily.org or call (501) 661-0720.



Shoebox Ministry was able to send 160 Sunshine Hygiene Bags to Cooper School for November & December. Many thanks to the gals in Martha Circle for packing and delivering these. We will be receiving 200 Christmas Shoeboxes from St Bernard's Catholic Church which we will distribute to Salvation Army, Seven Hills, and other needy shelters in Northwest Arkansas.

As usual, we are always in need of travel-size toiletries such as soap, shampoo, hand lotions, & toothpaste. If you gather them on vacation, please think about donating them. Whatever you can give is greatly appreciated.

The Shoebox Team

SNACK PACKS for BACK PACKS

is our on-going mission to provide 20 snack packs per week for students of Cooper Elementary who are in need of food for the week-end. Two "Goat Banks" are out in the hallways across from the Library and the west Becker Hall entrance. Your quarters are needed for us to successfully continue this much needed program. If you would like to "adopt" a Back Pack to be filled every week, your donation of \$5.00 per month will be used for this purpose. Please make out a check to FUMCBV and in the memo write "Back Pack monthly donation". Thank you for your continued generosity for this new school year as we fill the banks with quarters.



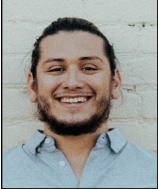
Bring your quarters !
Fill the Banks !
Feed a Child !

WESLEY SHEPHERD GROUP began their 4th annual Christmas Card Project for our homebound members on Sunday, October 13. The last day to turn in cards or sign them is Sunday, December 1st. Cards may be found at the tables at the Becker Hall entrance, in Becker Hall at the desk, and in the Narthex. The cards will be delivered early in December.

Please sign a card EVERY TIME you come into the church, and your family could each sign a card of boxed cards you may have at home. If you have any individual or boxed Christmas cards you will not be using this year, please bring to Church and leave on the "card" table in the narthex for others to sign. Unless you are signing with a group or family, please only have one signature per card.

Please do not seal the envelopes. We will need to see inside each card so they can be divided between all the persons receiving them without them receiving duplicate cards. Last year we delivered to over 50 recipients—the more cards you sign, the more cards they will receive! Thank You.



MUSICAL NOTES from *THE WELL* and the CHANCEL***In the Belly of the Well***

Kenneth Wilson
Contemporary Worship Leader

Hey Church,

It is such a joy to see all of you singing and clapping every week. Don't be afraid to give a shout of praise every now and then... trust me, it's okay! If you can do it for the Hogs, then you can do it for Jesus too! Right? Plus... Jesus is way better than the Hogs... especially this year.

Also, I am so excited to enter into Advent with you all and sing Christmas songs together.

HALLELUJAH! AMEN!,

Peace and love, Kenneth

P.S. read Galatians 6:9!

MORE MISSIONS**Sager Brown Trip 2019**

With 4 women going down to the UMCOR Warehouse in Baldwin, Louisiana this year the trip was not only filled with good work but lots of chatting, giggling and solving of world problems. Lynn Prueitt, Cheryl Campbell, Mabel Ashline and I left Sat. Oct 19 and stopped in Texarkana for overnight, and a nice visit with Brother Jaimie and putting on of calories after having dessert at his house. We had rain the first working day which had everyone working indoors, but the weather was great after that so some volunteers helped with outdoor projects. Mabel & Cheryl helped in the warehouse, readying 1,980 cleaning buckets. Some of the other volunteers from 8 different churches helped put together 4,704 Hygiene Kits. Lynn and I worked in the sewing room making school bags. We also were able to help with the food distribution to local people as well as doing some off-campus activities such as playing Bingo with seniors and cleaning their apartments. For our afternoon off, we had a leisure time visiting a museum to learn about the local sugar cane industry and then found a quiet park on the Gulf to relax.

I have enjoyed working and visiting this mission all 8 times that I have gone, but it is getting more difficult to get other volunteers to go. If anyone is interested, I have all kinds of pictures and information to share. I have not scheduled a time for 2020 as of yet but would be happy to organize something if there is serious interest. Contact me at 876-1392.

Verna Bottjen

From the Organ Console

Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist



I feel like this column might seem a month early. After all, the Roman god Janus looked backward and forward, and as a result, had a month named after him! I promise not to bring him up in January if you'll permit me to do some reflecting now!

The class in Sacred Music wrapped up in Midweek Manna, and no surprise, there weren't a plethora of people eager to study the music of the Middle Ages. However, those few who did really appreciated seeing the roots of music in the church and its evolution over the 15 centuries between the early followers of Christ to the origins of the Reformation in 1517. How we complete that class in early 2020 is really up to you. If no one else wants to join us as we finish up the work to the modern-day, we may meet as a private group and take turns leading the discussion. However, if a number of newcomers buy the book and pledge to attend, we can do a more organized class in the spring. Please let me know!

I closed my two-year cycle of playing Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier Preludes and Fugues in late November with the 24th and final Prelude and Fugue. To celebrate, I enlisted Kacy Spears's help to broadcast it via Facebook Live. You can find it via my FB link below. This piece is unlike the previous 23 preludes and fugues in that it shares the pathos of Bach's other famous compositions in B minor, including the final chorus of the St. Matthew's passion and the B minor mass. The complete Chopin Waltzes will be featured on next year's Piano Postludes.

This month, I am presenting an organ recital on Sunday, December 15th, at 12:10 pm. It is the first recital given under the banner of the Curious Squirrel, which I'll explain elsewhere. It has an Advent/Christmas theme and is played in reverse order of composition. I begin in the 20th century with a short selection from Dupre's Magnificat and finish in the 17th century with a fantasy of Nicolaus Bruhns based on the choral prelude *Now, Savior of the World, Come*. If you can't make it on the 15th, I'm playing the recital again on Christmas Eve at 6:25 pm, preceding the traditional worship at 7 pm.

I also present a piano recital at 2 pm on Sunday, December 22nd, featuring the entire cycle of 12 pieces in Liszt's Weihnachtsbaum (Christmas Tree). I played a few of these pieces two years ago on one of my first Sunday at Noon(ish) recitals. This will be Curious Squirrel recital number two!

Broc

Please join me online!

On the Web: <https://brochite.com>

On Facebook and Instagram: @BrocKeysPedals



Book Nook

If it has been a while since you have visited our fabulous church Library, please stop in some day soon. You will be amazed at the variety of books—and we have many books of best selling authors and book titles. We have new books coming in all the time, so check us out—and check out a book while you are here!

FICTION:

- ◆ *WHEN JOY COMES TO STAY* by Karen Kingsbury
A heart-wrenching story of one woman's struggle with depression, her husband's search for understanding and a child's unwavering faith.
- ◆ *WHERE YESTERDAY LIVES* by Karen Kingsbury
Will facing her past tear Ellen apart or teach her what is truly important in her life?

NON-FICTION:

- ◆ *DOG TRAINING, FLY FISHING & SHARING CHRIST IN THE 21st CENTURY* by Ted Haggard (253.7) Empowering your church to build community through shared interests.
- ◆ *PRAYERS THAT AVAIL MUCH* by Germaine Copeland (248.3)
Three best selling works in one volume.

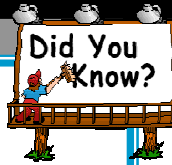
DVD/VIDEO:

- ◆ *THE DOTTIE RAMBO STORY* The greatest song writer of gospel music.

BOOKS IN SERIES:

- ◆ AMISH INN MYSTERIES SERIES by various authors
 - Book 7: *A SILENT BETRAYAL* by Rachael Phillips
 - Book 8: *HUMBLE PIES AND WHITE LIES* by Elizabeth Penney
 - Book 9: *DECEPTIVE HEARTS* by Marlene Chase
 - Book 10: *STOLEN PAST* by Tara Randel
 - Book 11: *GRAVE INHERITANCE* by Rachael Phillips
 - Book 12: *HOMESPUN HOMICIDE* by Elizabeth Penney
 - Book 13: *BROKEN MELODY* by K. D. McCrite
 - Book 14: *HORSE AND BURGLARY* by Virginia Smith
 - Book 15: *A FATAL HARVEST* by Rachael Phillips
 - Book 16: *A SIMPLE DEDUCTION* by Kristi Holl
 - Book 17: *THE HOUND AND THE FURY* by Sandra Orchard
 - Book 18: *UNHAPPY RETURNS* by Josie Damico
 - Book 19: *SKATING THE LAW* by Rachael Phillips
 - Book 20: *BOOK CLUBBED* by K. D. McCrite
 - Book 21: *FARMED ROBBERY* by Marlene Chase
 - Book 22: *SCENE OF THE CHIME* by Josie Damico
 - Book 23: *AMISH AND OLD LACE* by Tara Randel
 - Book 24: *TO HONOR AND BETRAY* by Rachael Phillips
- ◆ WINDS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE by Martha Rogers

Book 1: <i>BECOMING LUCY</i>	Book 4: <i>CAROLINE'S CHOICE</i>
Book 2: <i>MORNING FOR DOVE</i>	Book 5: <i>CHRISTMAS AT HOLLY HILL</i>
Book 3: <i>FINDING BECKY</i>	Book 6: <i>AMELIA'S JOURNEY</i>
- ◆ AT HOME IN BELDON GROVE by Ann Shorey
 - Book 1: *THE EDGE OF LIGHT*
 - Book 2: *THE PROMISE OF MORNING*
 - Book 3: *THE DAWN OF A DREAM*



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BUSINESS REFERRAL PROGRAM

There are various businesses and individuals who are members of our church who would like to offer their services to our congregation. For referrals to them, and completed business from church members, they will contribute up to 25% of their profits back to the church. In some cases, this can be quite significant. Dr. Gretchen Magee, audiologist from Better Hearing and Balance has joined the cause. We also have some Realtors who are members: Carolyn Sutton ~ Doug Grant ~ Lou Kaufmann. They will donate 25% back to the church, on any commission earned.

Any business member or individual of the church who would like to participate, please let Janet Walton, church Secretary, know to get on the list.

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Concert pianist Jean Alexis Smith has “gifted” our church with several compact disc recordings of her performances of Bach Transcriptions. Jean’s generosity comes in gratitude for being able to use the piano in our sanctuary to make these recordings. With Christmas coming, if you find that you need stocking stuffers for friends or family, we have these wonderful performances of Bach piano transcriptions featuring our own sanctuary piano – the one that you hear every Sunday – available on CD for only \$5.00 each, with proceeds going to our church’s music program. I will tell you that they sound wonderful, and Jean’s playing is superb. They would be a bargain at twice the price in any record store. If nothing else, buy one for yourself – you’ll be glad you did.

As a side note, Jean will be returning shortly after the first of the year to record a second CD.

Dr. Larry Zehring, Director of Music Ministries



“Giving Tuesday is a day to remember charitable giving during the busyness of the holiday season. Please mark your calendar for December 3rd and support the students at U of A Wesley College Ministry. Please visit their Facebook page at UofAWesley or make a donation directly on their website at uawesley.com.”

TRUSTEES JOB BOOK

Have you seen a burned-out bulb somewhere, or a faucet leaking, or any other “something that needs to be fixed”? There is a JOB BOOK in the office where you can fill out a job request form. The Trustees check this book frequently, and try to fix whatever needs to be fixed—but if they don’t know about it, it won’t get done! Thanks for being the eyes and ears of the church.



DECK THE HALLS of FUMCBV will be Monday, December 2nd beginning at 8:30am. We can use all the help we can get, so put on your work clothes and join us as we transform FUMCBV for the Advent Season. We need ladder-climbers and lifters and carriers and puter-uppers and hangers and anyone else who wants to join in this fellowship. And, if you would like, you can bring a snack to share.




ALL-CHURCH COOKIE EXCHANGE AND PIZZA will be held Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30 in Becker Hall. Bake 3 to 4 dozen of your favorite cookie

recipe and bring a take-home container. Everyone who brings cookies will be able to pick and choose from the many varieties which will be available. There will also be Hot Pizza to share for a small donation. Please call the office and let us know you will be joining us so we will know how much Pizza to order. There will also be a special shopping opportunity for you! UMW will have Bazaar items for you to purchase for unique Christmas gifts or decoration.

THANK YOU



I want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who worked at Helping Hands on November 2nd! We may have had only a skeleton crew but everyone worked so hard to promote this worthy mission. Special thanks to Ron Buker who came down from Neosho to work with Weldon Hyde in the afternoon. Morning workers were Darrell Bottjen, Dennis Reed, Jack Hollingworth and Arlan Paulson. Inside was handled by Linda Hyde, CoEllen Sterwald, Lynn Prueitt, Mabel Ashline, Tong Parishard and myself. We don't have next year's schedule yet but will let you know when the next chance is for you to join us. *verna Bottjen*



Thank You to everyone for your cards, calls, visits, prayers, and concern during my recent visits to the hospital and rehab. I am slowly recuperating and will be back with you soon. This church family is the very best, and I am so happy to be a part of it. Blessings to you all. *Helen McBride*

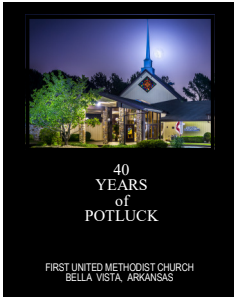


I want to say THANK YOU to all the wonderful people of FUMCBV. So many of you sent cards and visited me in the hospital. Cheryl and I appreciate all of your prayers and concerns for our welfare. Thanks to you we are doing very well. My prayer for you is for God to watch over each of you to keep you well and safe. May God Bless you. *Chet Campbell.*




Please let the congregation know how much we appreciate everything they do for our kids and families. You are such a blessing in helping meet their needs. Thank you again for your many donations. *Buddy Herndon, Counselor, Cooper Elementary*





**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 "...mmmm...that was yummy - wish I had the recipe!" Now you can have it and many more. The books are \$15 each, and you can purchase them in the office. Christmas is coming—would make a great gift, especially if you bake up and include a finished recipe!!



**Prayer
Shawl Ministry**



... has moved to Friday mornings at 10:00am in the Parlor. Prayer shawls are lovingly knit or crocheted, blessed by one of our clergy, and given to a church or family member, or a friend who is dealing with the death of a loved one, or a serious illness or injury. Prayer Squares and Coverlets are also lovingly constructed. All are welcome to join this group. If you do not know how to knit these simple patterns, there is always someone who is willing to teach you. Please contact Pat Fox, the Prayer Shawl Team Leader, with any



Christmas Pot Luck **CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK** will be from 11:30am ~ 1:00pm, hosted by **?????**. Turkey will be provided and those coming for the meal are asked to bring a dish to share. If you are unable to bring a dish, we ask that you pay \$5.00 to cover the expense of your meal. Do you have friends or neighbors who will be spending this day alone? Please invite them to join us for a wonderful time of food and fellowship. Make your reservations in the office or call 855-1158 by Friday, December 20th. If you are able to help in the kitchen or with the set-up or clean-up, please let the office know.

Please read Amy's article on page 6 ~ we need help if this is to take place!

December 2019

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
1	BP ✓ Between Services 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Srv 3:00 Leadership Team 4:00 Church Council	2	DECK THE HALLS 9:00 Calico Spec Projects 10:30 Staff Planning Retre 12:30 Women's Chorus 5:50 Girl Scouts 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	3	9:24 Men's Golf-BVCC 10:00 Advent Study 11:00 Yoga 3:00 BV Library Board 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir	4	8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Disciple III 11:45 UMW Board Mtng 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:45 Chancel Choir 5:30 Cookie Exchange 6:00 Youth Life 6:30 Broc Rehearse	5	9:58 Men's Golf-Highlan 12:30 Caregivers Supprt 6:00 Worship Bnd Rehrrs 6:30 Scouts	6	10:00 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Chancel Coir	7	8:30 Amp Big Book 9:00 Chrstms Play Rehrrs 11:00 Sunshine SG Brunc 6:00 Broc rehearse
8	8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 1:30 Stewardship Team 2:00 Finance Team 4:00 Grandparents Sprr	9	9:00 Calici Cut-ups 10:00 Calico Board 10:30 Staff Mtng 12:30 Women's Chorus 1:30 Friends of Christ 4:00 Caroling II 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 Caroling Dinner 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	10	9:00 PEO-BR 9:41 Men's Golf-Scotsda 10:00 Advent Study 11:00 Yoga 1:00 Sarah Circle 6:00 Scouts 6:30 SPRC 7:30 Bentnvl HS Orchestr	11	8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Calico Sew Many 9:00 Disciple III 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:45 Chancel Choir 6:15 Youth Life 6:30 UMM Dinner 6:30 Broc Rehearse	12	9:50 Men's Golf-BVCC 1:00 Hope Circle 4:00 Small Grp leaders 6:00 Evening Circle 6:00 Worship Bnd Rehrrs 6:30 Scouts	13	10:00 Prayer Shawl 11:30 Preschool Board	14	8:30 Amp Big Book 10:00 Parents Day Out 6:00 Broc rehearse
15	7:00 Handbell Practice 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 12:15 Hite Organ Concert 1:00 Worship Volunteer 3:00 Christmas Play	16	9:00 Martha Circle 10:30 Staff Meeting 11:00 PEO-CD 12:30 Women's Chorus 5:50 Girl Scouts 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 Cub Scout Board 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	17	12:00 Men's Golf-Kingswd 10:00 Advent Study 11:00 Yoga 1:00 Naomi Circle 6:00 Scouts	18	8:00 Quilters 8:30 Preschl Parent Coffe 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Disciple III 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:45 Chancel Choir 6:15 Youth Life 6:30 Broc Rehearse	19	9:58 Men's Golf-Kingswd 2:30 Emmaus Btful Cirs 6:00 Worship Bnd Rehrrs 6:30 Scouts	20	10:00 Prayer Shawl 6:00 Staff Party	21	8:30 Amp Big Book 10:00 SAR 6:00 Broc rehearse
22	8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 2:00 Hite Piano Concert 4:00 Grandparents Sprr 6:30 Blue Chrstms Service	23	10:30 Staff Meeting 12:30 Women's Chorus 1:30 Friends of Christ 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	24	10:00 Advent Study 12:00 Christmas Eve Srvce 5:00 Christmas Eve Srvce 6:25 Hite Chrstms Recital 7:00 Christmas Eve Srvce	25	CHRISTMAS Dinner 11:30-1 	CHURCH CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 1					
CHURCH CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 1													
29	9:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 2:00 Hite Piano Concert 4:00 Grandparents Sprr 6:30 Blue Chrstms Service	30		31	9:33 Men's Golf-BVCC	1	WELCOME to the NEW YEAR 	2	12:30 Caregivers Supprt 6:00 Worship Bnd Rehrrs	3	10:00 Prayer Shawl	4	8:30 Amp Big Book 6:00 Broc rehearse



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

We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. Jeanne Williams
Associate Pastor - Rev. Brenda Wideman
Church Administrator - Amy Gilmore
Church Secretary - Janet Walton
Communications Director - Kacy Spears
NextGen Youth - Kenneth Wilson
NextGen Children ~ Ashdon Wilson
Music Ministries Director - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson
Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite
Contemporary Worship Leader ~ Kenneth Wilson

Phone: (479) 855-1158
Fax: (479) 855-0850
www.lovelearnlead.com
facebook.com/fumcbv

Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month

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 15th.

Please fill out a separate order form so that we have your correct information. We will print a special recognition insert for the December 22nd 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.



**Christmas
Pot Luck**

Please join us Christmas Day for a pot luck in Becker Hall from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Turkey will be provided, so cook 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 read Amy's Anecdotes - page 6 for more info!
Hosts needed or there may not be a dinner!*