

First News

Volume 19, Issue 12 December, 2019

First United Methodist Church

A Note From Pastor Toni

“Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth; break forth into grateful song and sing praises! Yes, sing songs of praise extolling Love’s way; lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy!” (Psalm 98, translation, Nan C. Merrill)

Dear Friends,

This year the beloved Christmas carol “Joy to the World,” turns 300 years old! Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invites

us to celebrate the coming King in a powerful and cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed.

Advent is a beautiful season that evokes all kinds of good memories of Christmas’ past. I remember gather-

ings and loved ones, many of whom have long passed. I remember particular recipes that were reserved only for Christmas, the bubble lights, the laughter, and the gift giving.

So much has changed since then: in

our homes and in our world. And yet I wonder if we might still be able to capture the joy we felt as children, even as we view our lives and the world today through “grown-

up” eyes.

Perhaps in doing that, it’s helpful to distinguish between “happiness” and “joy.” I’m not always “happy” with the way things are, and yet there is

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Longest Night Service Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 PM

First United Methodist Church will be hosting a community **“Longest Night Service” on Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 PM.** In its fifth year, the service continues to address the needs of our church family as well as the community to find pathways to hope. This type of worship service



honors the reality that Christmas can be a bittersweet time of year for some.

The service will begin at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, for sharing places with God, and for preparing hearts for the coming of Christ through scripture, prayer, and song. There will be time for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

We pray blessings upon you in the weeks ahead. May you feel the warmth of God's light in your life.

Bringing In Christmas by Barbara Pickut

We are looking forward to Bringing in Christmas on December 8! Please plan to stay after church that day for a light lunch (not a carry-in this year--sloppy joes and sides will be provided) and work on an Advent quilt. This is a

great opportunity for our young people and adults to interact together--we hope you can be part of it!

You will also see musical Advent contributions from our young people during 10:30 services during the Season.



Dr. James Rimel has Moved!

Dr. James Rimel has moved to Bremen. He no longer has email but his new mailing address is 65737 Miami Rd., Bremen, IN 46506. His telephone number will remain the same: (574) 936-3455. Please make a note of it!

December Boy Scout Christmas Buffet

December 8, 2019 11:30-1:30 is Troop 251's annual Christmas fundraising meal. Funds raised help the troop adopt families for Christmas. Due to conflicts with service in Fellowship Hall, we have partnered with the American Legion #27 who is now co-hosting the meal which will be an AUCE buffet at the American Legion. The buffet will include ham, turkey, salad bar,



many sides, brunch items and dessert. Tickets are on sale. The cost is \$10/person.

See Tom Pedavoli or the troop for a ticket. Tickets are also on sale at the Legion. Please support this buffet as it benefits families in need and is a great learning experience for the boys.

Boy Scout Court of Honor

The Troop recently held its bi-annual Court of Honor to recognize rank advancement and other awards earned. We had 8 advance in rank, 6 earn awards including Mile Swim and the World Conservation Award. 29 merit badges were also issued. The Troop will re-charter for 2020 with 13 scouts and 12 adults.



Boy Scout Registration Fee Changes

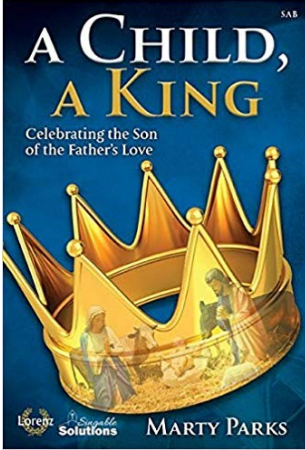
In a recent announcement from Boy Scouts of America/National, on January 1, 2020, annual registration for youth increases from \$33 to \$60/scout. Registration for Adult leaders will increase from \$33 to \$36/adult. This increase is reportedly needed to help cover program expenses on the national level including the escalating cost of liability insurance. A key expense is the BSA insurance premium for 2020 which is estimated to cost \$33 million dollars for the national program.

With scout meals on hold due to services being held in Fellowship Hall, the troop continues to evaluate

expenses and is considering fundraising opportunities later this winter or next spring to offset the increase in registration. In the meantime, we are offering our fundraising experience to the Bourbon cub scout pack chartered by the Bourbon First United Methodist Church by helping them plan an after service meal in their church to help them raise needed funds for their small Pack. The troop also sponsored a Bourbon Pack 1st grader in financial need ensuring that she had a new scout uniform and book to kick off her scouting experience this fall.

Boy Scout reports by Michael Stephan, Scout Master Troup #251

Christmas Cantata, Sunday, Dec. 15



The Chancel Choir will perform "A Child, A King", a Christmas cantata composed by Marty Parks on Sunday, December 15 at the 10:30 am service. This musical tells the story of the birth of our Savior with original music and many familiar Christmas carols.

The story is one of hope, peace, love and

joy...relating the real reason for the Christmas season in the birth of Jesus in a humble stable.

David Hogsett will be the narrator with Tom Boys directing. It will be accompanied by Kay Finlay, pianist. Please ask friends and neighbors to join you on December 15 for this special service of music and joy.

MOTHERS' CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 9

6:30 pm at LaD'zert \$15/person

Please RSVP to Pam or Robin

by December 2nd

Jeanne Middleton would like to THANK everyone for their cards, prayers, and well wishes during her recent health issues. It is wonderful to be part of such a caring congregation.



Social Concerns by Mary Kaufman

Social Concerns' Christmas Clothesline Project is underway. Seventy-seven children will each receive three items of clothing. Please choose a child's paper doll for whom you buy clothing and return the wrapped item by December 8.

Funds given to the Social Concerns Committee are your chance to support several

local charities, one of which is The Neighborhood Center. They need cold cereal, pasta and pasta sauce, canned soups, and canned fruit, which you may place in the grocery cart at the back of Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for answering God's call to help those less fortunate than we are.



A Note from Pastor Toni *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

something deeper than happiness that we can call joy. The difference is a little hard to articulate, but we know it when we feel it. Perhaps a simple way to describe it is like this: "Happiness is when your face is smiling. Joy is when your heart is smiling."

We'll be talking about Joy in the month of December:

Hopeful Joy, Loving Joy, Unabashed Joy, and Peaceful Joy. On Christmas Eve, we'll give thanks for Incarnate Joy: the joy that comes to us in the gift of Jesus. We will discover or be

reminded—that joy continues to abide deep within us, even in the midst of suffering. The depths of joy can be found in the work of justice, and in the presence of compassion. All of these are a part of the coming of Jesus into this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

We'll be singing it together in the next few weeks—more than once! May it cause your heart to smile as we together

proclaim: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!!

Joyfully,

Toni



Youth & Education Opportunities in 2020

We could use a teacher and a helper for Junior church in the new year. This is a time commitment of approximately once per month. Junior church volunteers help our kids learn about Jesus and about how we worship him—it's been exciting to see the kids learn as they attend each week. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Barbie Pickut at 574-870-4981 or barbara.e.b.pickut@gmail.com.



Another need in 2020 is for a second Nursery volunteer so that we follow best practices by having 2 people with our kids in case of emergencies. This is a good opportunity for a youth or adult volunteer. Please contact the church office if you are interested. If you have been on the nursery rotation, thank you! We will place you on next year's schedule unless you request to be removed.

The Outreach and Support Committee Needs Your Help



We are planning to gather church members who would be interested to visit our shut in FUMC members no longer able to attend church. If you feel called to perform this loving and blessed outreach and support to our members, please contact Susan Wautelet or anyone on the Outreach/Support Committee.

“This is my commandment. That you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12



Please come and welcome the community diners! Many thanks to this committee and its helpers. Sign up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to provide food or help serve. In September,

over 95 people were served. We are truly making a difference in Plymouth.

Menu for December:

Chicken noodles, corn, mashed potatoes, mixed fruit & cupcakes!!!!

COMMUNITY MEAL
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 18
(NOTE NEW DATE)
5:00 to 7:00 PM

KNIT 2, PRAY 3

Thanks to everyone who helped make winter hats or scarves for all the children of our Christmas Clothesline.

The organizers of the Community Meal would like to have hats or scarves to give out to the diners. So, if you would like to continue to make hats, they

will be given out at the December meal on Wednesday, 12/18.

Knit 2, Pray 3 gathers on the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room. We each bring our own project to work on. Those who crochet are welcome to join us as well!



Our Prayers Are Precious to God by Dorothy Steinke

May my prayer be set before you like Incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
Psalm 141:2

My granddaughter's wedding was simple and beautiful. The weather was beautiful—sunny and in the seventies. The only hitch was the preacher that Darcie had known as a teenager got sick and sent a replacement—someone she didn't know. But everything went well.

Love of the Baby Prayer

Well God, good morning. We stand here this morning looking down at this manger full of straw. I'm sure we see what they saw all those years ago. Some see a young unwed mother, a man that is not her husband nor the baby's father. Some see a family that did not help this young couple find housing. A town that gave them no breaks. And a baby born in this stinky, animal filled stable. Then there were dirty shepherds that came to visit this family in an already crowded stable. And what about those kings or astrologers? What a waste of time and money.

Others see a woman that loved you and this child enough to risk everything. Others see a man who loved you enough to trust that the baby was truly your son, and he loved Mary enough to risk the humiliation that this pregnancy brought. Others saw an innkeeper that gave eve-

rything he had to offer this young couple. The shepherds willingly left their flocks to come and see this baby that you told them about. They praised you and left proclaiming your love. And the kings, came with their entourage bringing expensive gifts. They bowed before this baby and offered their thanks and praise.

God, I pray that we find the love of this baby. Love that came for each and every one of us. Real love. Your love! Jesus Wonderful counselor! The everlasting father! The Prince of Peace!

Author Unknown



MISSION STATEMENT

We watch the story of Loaves and Fishes [John 6:1-14] come to life every day at Community Development for All People. We live in a divine econo-

my that helps "all people" have the opportunity to receive warm clothes, healthy food, a good education and a safe place to live. Together, we are bringing shalom to the city as we build the front porch of the kingdom of God.

Katelin Hansen

Candidate for the order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, Community for all People, Columbus, Ohio

Henderson Settlement Trip by Brent & Mary Kaufman

Beginning last October 20, Mike Woolfington, Carol Beiter, Mary and Brent Kaufman, along with Sharon and Steve Westfall left their respective towns and travelled to Frakes, Kentucky, to begin their mission of serving God by helping a family in that community. Frakes is a small community within a county that has one of the lowest income per capita in the United States.



The team was assigned to place Styrofoam insulation, siding, and eaves troughs on a young family's "new-to-them" trailer. The 14x70 foot trailer was built during the 1970's and was moved and set in January of this year. Rain and ensuing mud made the work of the mission team difficult. In addition the trailer had particular is-

ues which caused the team to take additional steps to prepare it for siding. As a result, by Thursday of that week, the team was only able to get 3/4 of one side finished along with the placement of an eaves trough on one side. Even though the project could not be completed before the winter months, the young family was very grateful for what was accomplished.

The family whom the team assisted consisted of a husband, wife, a seventh grade girl and a fourth grade boy. Both parents worked at the Henderson Settlement. The team was very pleased to see the husband wanted to learn about the work we were doing by volunteering to assist wherever he was needed.

The mission team sincerely thanks the congregation's support of this project.

Meals for Methodists

On Saturday morning, November 2, nine ladies from Mothers' Club and the Casserole Committee met in the Fellowship Hall. They prepared multiple recipes of seven different freezer entrees. The items were divided up to go to 12 homes of people that are a part of our congregation. After the items were frozen, they were delivered to the grateful recipients for easy meals during the winter.

After the initial deliveries, there were remaining items that have now been disbursed to 5 homes of people having surgery or medical issues.

The Missions Commission contributed \$200 for ingredients and Mothers' Club paid the remainder for the over 100 meals that were prepared, frozen, and delivered.




Mothers' Club would like to thank Missions Commission and the ladies from the Casserole Committee for their participation.

December 2019

First United Methodist Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	3 10 am Knit 2, Pray 3 7pm Missions	4 ●	5 ☺ ☿ ☩	6	7	
8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT After 2nd Service: BRINGING IN CHRISTMAS	9 6:00 pm WOW in FH 6:30 pm Mothers' Club Party @ LaD'zert 6:30 pm Social Concerns	10 ◆	11 □ ●	12 ☿ ☩ ☺ ☩	13	14	
15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHOIR CANTATA	16	17 ◆	18 □ 5-7 pm Community Meal 7:15 pm Choir	19 ☿ ☩ ☺ ☩ ☩ 2-4 pm Game Day 5:30 pm Trustees	20 Noon Lunch Bunch @ LaD'zert	21 5:00 pm The Longest Night	
22	23 7 pm Youth & Ed	24 4:30 & 7:30 pm Lessons & Carols (7:30 pm Choir)	25 CHRISTMAS 	26	27	28	
29	30	31 6 pm-9 am Boy Scout Lock-In	Office will be closed				Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

KEY:
 ● Boy Scouts 7 pm
 ◆ Men's Bible Study 6:45 am
 ☺ Choir Practice 7 pm
 ☿ Early Birds @ Pickups 6 am
 ☩ Joy Breaks noon

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Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

December Preaching Plan

December 1 *1st Sunday of Advent*

Communion Sunday

Text: Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14

Title: Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy

Theme: The season of Advent is a time of anticipation. In the conversation between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama that resulted in the publication of the *Book of Joy*, one of the “pillars” of joy they identified was “perspective.” Opening ourselves to a different perspective can bring a sense of hope in the midst of despair—allowing joy to creep in no matter what. Being open to the perspectives of others can shift our fear to compassion, turning swords into plows. Salvation is near, says the scripture, when we wake up, when we prepare room in our lives for new light, new insight, new hope to enter.

December 8 *2nd Sunday of Advent*

Text: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 13:11-14

Title: Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy

Theme: Research shows that our very state of being can be transformed by music that resonates in our soul so powerfully that we can't help but join in. This is the vision of “Joy to the World” as the reverberating phrase urges us to “repeat the sounding joy” of the good news of Love. The prophet Isaiah offers a vision of radical love—the wolf and the lamb living together and being led by an innocent child. Can we lift our voices to joyfully and confidently proclaim the chorus of well-being for the world? This week we join creation and congregation in praising and thanking God.

December 15 *3rd Sunday of Advent*

Preaching only at 8:30; Cantata at 10:30

Text: Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:46b-55

Title: Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy

Theme: Joy doesn't wait for struggle to be over. Mary “rejoices” in the iconic scripture passage during her pregnancy, a state of affairs that would have put her in a position of dishonor among her people. Instead, she sings out powerfully because she knows that this turn of events will usher in the Presence of justice for the oppressed and freedom for the captive. As we join in a prophetic chorus of joy together, we are more deeply bonded as a whole, multiplying and magnifying the exuberance to all.

December 22 *4th Sunday of Advent*

Text: Isaiah 7:13-15, Matthew 1:18-25

Title: Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy

Theme: The name Emmanuel means “God with us.” From both the Hebrew and Christian narratives, we hear the yearning for this “Emmanuel,” for God to become so present that God's peace, truth, love and justice reign among all the world and bring balance to what feels out-of-sorts. Our Psalm in this series names the joyful expression of all creation as the response to the news that the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, is coming at long last.

December 24 *Christmas Eve*

4:30 and 7:30 services include both Lessons and Carols and preaching. The choir will

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Advent 2019



Please order your poinsettias (\$12.00) by Wed., December 4.

Sunday, Dec. 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent – HOPEFUL JOY

- 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services including Lighting 1st candle of the Advent Wreath and Communion
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well*

Sunday, Dec. 8 – 2nd Sunday of Advent – LOVING JOY



- 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services including lighting 2nd candle of the Advent Wreath
- **BRINGING IN CHRISTMAS** immediately following the 10:30 service
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well*

Sunday, Dec. 15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – UNABASHED JOY

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service Rev. Toni Carmer preaching; lighting 3rd candle of the Advent Wreath
- 10:30 a.m. **CANTATA** by the Chancel Choir; lighting 3rd candle of the Advent Wreath
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well*



Saturday, Dec. 21 – LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE



- 5:00 p.m. A Service of Reflection and Healing

Sunday, Dec. 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent – PEACEFUL JOY

- 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services including lighting 4th candle of the Advent Wreath
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well*



Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve - INCARNATE JOY

- 4:30 p.m. Family Service of Lessons and Carols
- 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols, Choir Singing

Sunday, Dec. 29 – 1st Sunday after Christmas – COMPASSIONATE JOY

- 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well*

December Worship Participants

	8:30 am Liturgists	10:30 am Liturgists	Ushers	Greeters	Sound System	Nursery
1	Pam Michel	Donna Hemmig	Woody Schinbeckler, Ryon Massey, Ryan Gray, Bert Rans, Brent Kaufman	Brent & Mary Kaufman	Tom Pedavoli	Jane Woolfington
8	Cathy Clough	John Finlay		John & Kathy Mills	Ken Daren	Judy Goebel
15	Deb Wise	Cantata		Bill & Lynn Gee	Ralph Booker	VOLUNTEER
22	Dick Tobias	John Finlay		Mike & Jane Woolfington	Robin Cupka	Stacey Jackson
29	Don Wilson	Ralph Booker		Ralph & Norma Booker	Lynette Espich	Robin Cupka

WOW Christmas Dinner will be on Monday, December 9 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Reservations, along with your check for \$15, are to be turned in to Kay Finlay by December 3.

December 2019 Birthdays

First United Methodist Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Eugene Chipman Sr.	2 Cameron Capper Don Delap	3	4 Carole Ralston	5	6 Bob Heiden Sr.	7
8	9	10 Barbara Friesner	11 Kay Finlay Marilyn Rans	12 Patti Bates Karen Capper	13	14 Brynn Rans
15	16 David Cochern Cindy Flagg	17 David Hogsett	18 Stacey Jackson	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Bob Beiter	27	28 Alex Morris
29 Ruth Crutchfield	30 Linda Langfeldt	31	HAPPY BIRTHDAY			

First United Methodist Church



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December Preaching Plan *continued*

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sing at 7:30 p.m.

Text: Isaiah 52:7-10, Luke 2:1-20

Title: The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy

Theme: "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!" On this Christmas Eve we celebrate the world-altering narrative of the inbreaking, indwelling, incarnation of the Holy among us. Do you remember the feeling you may have had in moments, events or revelations that changed your life, your outlook, your focus forever? The depth of that feeling is what "deep joy" is about. Not simply happiness, that can be fleeting, but the idea that no matter what, there is something living within you that can sustain you for the long haul. God is birthing this within us again and again.

December 29 *1st Sunday after Christmas*

Text: Isaiah 63:7-9, Matthew 2:13-23

Title: Wonders of His Love: Compassionate Joy

Theme: On this last week of our series about joy, we encounter a text about a fearful and vengeful ruler who has it out for the newborn "King" Jesus and takes it out on the children of the land. The cruelty of the story is hard to imagine, and yet children too often become the victims of fear and vengeance. What's joy got to do with it? The Hebrew root for "joy" used 54 times in the Hebrew scriptures—*ranan*—means "to shout, to cry out" and to "overcome." Our shouting for joy trains the lungs and the courage to shout aloud for the overcoming of injustice. How will we use our exuberance for the righting of wrongs for the sake of the wonders of God's love to come upon the earth?