



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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December 2017

Securing the Flock

On the afternoon of November fifth, reports began to surface about a church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas. And then came a report of a shooting that also took place at a church in Fresno, California. Close to 50 people were killed or injured in these two incidents. Shepherding the flock today is more than just a concern for the spiritual life of those I am appointed to serve. I must also be very aware of caring for the safety and security of all who gather to attend to their spiritual lives.

In the days following November 5th, I have read articles and statements from the United Methodist Church and clergy subscriptions. I have spoken with law enforcement officials, insurance representatives, and colleagues. I have thought and prayed about the issue of our safety as we gather together at Memorial.

While all of this was being considered, I happened to be in the middle of reading William H. Willimon's book, Fear of the Other: No Fear In Love. I am sure I would have read the book differently before November 5th. But, instead, I read the bulk of it after November 5th. The book talks about our fears as a protective mechanism. The book also warns against inflating our fears. When we inflate our fears out of proportion, we lose our ability to be the children God has called us to be. God has called us to be light, salt, and witnesses in our community and in our world. We cannot let our fears stop us from proclaiming the Gospel message of love!

With all of these thoughts in mind, the question becomes, "Where do we strike a balance between being safe and secure and proclaiming the Gospel message?" I will be very honest with you and tell you I am still processing the answer to this question. However, beginning in December there will be some changes occurring around the building to promote safety and security as we go about our business of proclaiming the Gospel message. Here are the initial plans concerning the locking of the building:

- The church office is open for business Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Hicks Street door by the chapel will be unlocked, if there are 2 or more people in the building. A door bell has been attached to the door. If there is only one person in the building, ring the door bell and someone will let you into the building.
- Doors will be unlocked only for the areas of the building where programs are occurring. On Sunday mornings, the Hicks Street doors and main sanctuary door will be unlocked. At 10:15 a.m. all doors will be locked, with the exception of the Hicks Street door by the chapel and the main sanctuary door.
- On Wednesdays, the doors to the education wing and the Fellowship Hall will be unlocked.
- Doors will not be left unlocked and the building unattended. If you have need of the building at a time other than during business or program hours, you may arrange for someone to unlock the doors or borrow a key from the office.
- Please be courteous. If you have a key and enter the building, please identify yourself, if there is someone in the building.

With consideration to our safety and security, I will be asking the leadership of the congregation to consider our safety plans as we begin 2018. This is a good time to review, revise, or maybe implement fire, medical and safety procedures.

Blessings,
Pastor Donna

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Wednesday Night YUMS Line-Up

12/6—Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

12/13—Christmas Party

Christmas Program: Sunday, December 10th at 3:00 PM

We look forward to seeing you at this special celebration! Parents and loved ones, program participants should meet in the choir room at 2:00 PM for costuming and final preparations.

Christmas Party Wednesday, December 13th

We'll be starting our party at 5:30 PM in the YUMS room. We will provide a Chick-fil-a nugget tray and ask that each child bring a snack or treat to share for our meal. (Children will not eat our usual Wednesday night meal in the Fellowship Hall.) This will be our last YUMS of 2017. Wednesday night programming will resume on Wednesday, January 10th.

The Star Christmas Movie

Be on the look out for information about a time to join your friends from church to see the movie together. We're looking at a matinee time during the school holiday break.

Blessings,

Leanne

memorialumcyums@gmail.com

(865) 257-2946

YOUTH NEWS

Wednesday Night Study Schedule

12/06 Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

12/13 Christmas Party

Children and Youth Christmas Program

The Children and Youth Christmas Program will be held on December 10th at 3:00 p.m. Please meet in the Youth Room at 2:00 p.m. for costumes and final preparations.

Christmas Party

The Youth Christmas Party will be **Wednesday, December 13th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** A Chick-fil-a nugget tray and drinks will be provided. Each youth is asked to bring a snack or treat to share for our meal. Our meal, as well as the party, will take place in the Youth Room.

The Star Christmas Movie

Plans are in progress for a trip to the movies for the children and youth. We will attend a Matinee showing of The Star during the holiday break.

Blessings,

Pastor Donna

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(423)967-5365 (cell)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

We packed 81 shoeboxes! Thank you to everyone who participated in this endeavor, especially our coordinator, Harper Maxwell. Our shoeboxes are currently in the shipping process. We are tracking their journey so stay tuned to learn their final destination and continue to pray for the children who will receive them!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pat McBryde, Otto and Marie Briscoe, Lee Wysor, Kate Bailey and Deloris Johnson. Our Pastor, Church and Church Families; Our Nation's Service Men, Women, and their families.



CONGRATULATIONS

A.J. and Erin Howland on the birth of their daughter Olivia Carmen Howland.

Jordan and Natalie McGrew on the birth of their son Shields Creighton McGrew.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE

WITH: The family of Gordon Thompson who passed away on November 25th.

Flower Donors for December 2017

December 3 Betsy Jernigan
December 10 Patti Harmening
December 17 Altar Guild—Poinsettias
December 24 Altar Guild—Poinsettias
December 31 Leslie and Betty Sellers

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Dear Friends,
December is upon us! As your schedules fill I encourage you to include the UMC Choir Lessons and Carols Concert. The concert begins Sunday, December 17th at 6:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm. A reception will follow.
All are welcome, and admission is free. Join us as We celebrate the gift of Christmas. Josh

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2018 Stewardship Campaign is proceeding very nicely. We want to thank those who have returned their pledge for the coming year. If you have not done so, there is still time to return it to our financial secretary, Pat Stonecipher.

UMW NEWS

The Grace Circle of United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, December 7th at 11:30am. We will enjoy a Christmas lunch together. After a short program, we will fill goody bags and address Christmas Cards. All ladies of the Church are welcome to attend this meeting. Don't forget we have pecans and sliced almonds for sale.

DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

- Sun., Dec. 3 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service (Prophets)
Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Isaiah 9:2-7
1:00p Staff Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 6 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Adult Bible Study
6:00p-7:15p YUMS
6:00p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- Thur., Dec. 7 11:30a Grace Circle and UMW, FH
5:30p Food Pantry
- Sun., Dec. 10 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service (Angels)
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Luke 2:8-14
3:00p Children and Youth Christmas Program
- Wed., Dec. 13 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Adult Bible Study
5:30p-7:15p YUMS Christmas Party
5:30p-7:15p Youth Christmas Party
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- Sun., Dec. 17 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service (Mary)
Psalm 126; Luke 1:26-66
6:00p Lessons and Carols Concert
- Thur., Dec. 21 5:30p Food Pantry
- Sun., Dec. 24 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service (Joseph)
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Matthew 1:18-25
5:00p Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
9:00p Candlelight & Communion Christmas Eve Service
- Mon., Dec. 25 **OFFICE CLOSED—Christmas Day**
- Sun., Dec. 31 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service
Psalm 148; Matthew 2:1-12

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild has several openings in January and March for donors for the Altar flowers. If you are interested in being a flower donor please contact Libby Freels at 457-6742.

ADVENT WORSHIP

During this year's Advent Worship Services, we will focus on the many ways the birth of the Christ Child was proclaimed. The proclamation came about through the prophets, the angels, Mary, and Joseph. Our decoration of the Sanctuary tree will also witness to the proclamation of the Birth of the Christ Child. Your help is needed and will be a part of each of the services. We will bring representations of these messengers each week of Advent. You are invited to bring ornaments that portray the messenger for the week. The schedule is as follows:

December 3, 2017 Prophets (ornaments of prophets or that represent prophets)

December 10, 2017 Angels (ornaments of angels or that represent angels)

December 17, 2017 Mary (ornaments of Mary or that represent Mary)

December 24, 2017 Joseph (ornaments of Joseph or that represent Joseph)

In each service we will decorate the tree after we light the Advent Wreath. This is a creative and thoughtful congregation, it will be exciting to see how we represent the messengers who brought us the story of the Christ Child. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Donna.

SPECIAL SERVICES OF THE SEASON

During the seasons of Advent and Christmas there will be many opportunities to prepare for and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child that you will not want to miss!

Sunday, December 10th at 3:00 p.m. The Children and Youth will present their annual Christmas program. Plan to attend an afternoon of stars and fun. The children's portion of the program will be star studded as they tell their version of the birth of Jesus. Our youth are a very creative crew and have written, produced and cast their very own production. This is sure to be a very special afternoon. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. A nursery will be provided beginning at 2:00 p.m. You are encouraged to use the nursery throughout the afternoon, as needed.

Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. The choir will present their Lessons and Carols Concert as the birth of our Savior is told through Scripture and music. This was a favorite of everyone who attended last year. Invite your family and friends for this wonderful evening. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be our first opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus. During this service, we will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with Scripture, music, and candlelight. This is a casual service. A nursery will be provided.

Sunday, December 24th at 9:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service will be the second opportunity of the evening to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. During this service we will celebrate with Scripture, music, Holy Communion, and Candlelight.

Memorial United Methodist Church

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Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00

Serving God's People

Donna Hester
Joshua Allen
Leanne Hennessey
Andrea Fritts
Dawn Walker

Pastor
Music Director/Organist
Children's Activity Coordinator
Secretary
Housekeeping/Custodian

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