



The Connection

Our Purpose is to serve God by building faith, love and commitment.

January 2012

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GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

This is Part One of the January Newsletter. Part Two will be out sometime next week and will contain the Pastor's Page—State of the Church report, the Leadership for 2012, financial information on how we closed out 2011 and what we are looking forward to in 2012, upcoming Sermon Series, and other information that isn't quite ready for Part One!



UMW Mission Possible: COOKIE CARE PACKAGES !!!

for those serving in the Military and for College Students

Our local United Methodist Women unit will be sending off Cookie Care Packages for College Students and those serving in the Military just in time for Valentines Day and we need your help!



We need their mailing address so we can make sure to get one of these wonderful packages sent to that special someone! We need these addresses by mid January (January 17) so we have a count for the supplies needed.

CRAFTY?

Come join us when we decorate the boxes that we will use for the packages. Please mark your calendar for this craft night on **Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 pm**. We have heard that these boxes become a special keepsake for the recipient (and some bring the box back home for refills!).

LIKE TO BAKE?

Do you have a special cookie or candy recipe? We need to pack these boxes with goodies, and we would love to have your favorite cookie or candy included! Mark your calendar for the packing date – **Sunday, February 5, 2012**.

GOOD AT PACKING?

After the boxes are packaged and sealed, they are then taken to the post office for shipping. Help us make this a true gift of love and support for all those away from home during Valentines Day. Packaging date is set for Sunday afternoon, February 5 in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact any of the UMW ladies if you have any questions. Here are a few names of UMW leaders who can help if you have questions: Peggy Hallford, Cyndi Keeler, Alice Dills, Becky Kegans, Debbie Arnold, Debbie Leslie, Kim Kay, Patti Brunson... the list could go on and on...but this gives you some contacts to ask if you have questions about this.

Love and peace to you all! Peggy Hallford

Passionate Worship

Scriptures and Sermons for January

January 1 Matthew 2
The Journey of the Wise Men

January 8 LUKE 2:40-52
Jesus at the Temple

January 15 Matthew 3
The Baptism of Jesus—Reaffirmation of Baptism Service

January 22 Matthew 4:1-10
Temptation

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 7 P.M.

The Worship Committee will meet on TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, at 7 p.m., in the Lighthouse Room to evaluate the Advent/Christmas Season activities and services and to begin plans for the Lenten/Easter Season.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Becky Kegans, Chair, 903-456-4164.

Missed sermons can be found on the sermon page of our website: www.funleonard.org.

Intentional Faith Development

Adult Spiritual Formation

FRIENDSHIP CLASS

During January, the Friendship Class will continue their study of the Adult Bible Study book, Winter 2011-12: God Establishes a Faithful People, Unit 2: God's Protection.

You are welcome to join this great discussion class in the Lighthouse Room each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The Friendship Class ministers through Word and song to the residents of the Leonard Manor on the third Sunday of each month at 9 a.m. You are invited to join them there as they serve God by serving His people. Eugene Kegans is the facilitator of the Friendship Class.

S.O.S. CLASS

S.O.S. (Studying on Sunday) class meets in the choir room Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. We welcome you to come and take part in our lively discussions and see what God reveals through his word each week.

IMAGES CLASS

The Images Class will complete James W. Moore's book, *Do You Have Alligator Arms: Embracing Life, Hope, and God*, during the month of January after viewing Adam Hamilton's DVD of *The Holy Land Today*.

January 1 The Holy Land Today DVD and discussion.

January 8 Chapter 10: Reach Out and Wrap Your Arms around Your Christian Conscience
Romans 7:18-25

January 15 Chapter 11: Reach Out and Wrap Your Arms around Your Faith
Genesis 32:22-32

January 22 Chapter 12: Reach Out and Wrap Your Arms around What Christ Gives to Us
Luke 19:1-10

January 29 New Literature Starts today

Be sure to bring your "pocket change" for our Mission Basket. We are looking forward to a new year of study and spiritual growth. Won't you join us on this journey of faith?

Images meets in the classroom off the Sanctuary immediately following the Early Service. Join us: the coffee is always on and the covenant fellowship is warm and inviting! Becky Kegans is the facilitator of the Images Class with the help of class members and the Lord.

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

THROUGH THE BIBLE

Come join this class as we study what God's Word says through **John**. We are meeting in a classroom in the children's wing across from the sanctuary. We like Visitors! We are cross-generational, creating wonderful diversity in our great discussions.

Marty Vehslage is the Facilitator.

WALK TO EMMAUS



Emmaus Reunion Group

Meets Tuesday, January 3

7:30 pm at FUMC



BROTHERS

Meets 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 7:00 am

Breakfast followed by Devotionals/Bible Study. For men of First United Methodist and others throughout the community.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY -- The Four Women in Jesus' Genealogy

4-week study -- Taught by Pastor Martha --
No Homework!

Beginning on Monday, 9 Jan. 2012 thru
Monday, 30 Jan. 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

"James: Mercy Triumphs" by Beth Moore Women's Bible Study

James, Jesus own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Do you struggle with whether or not you are who Christ says you are?
8 weeks - Beginning Monday, February 6
6:30 p.m. - \$30.00 / materials
(financial assistance available)
If you are interested or need more info, please contact:
Debbie Leslie
home after 6:30 @ 903-587-2574
work 8-5 @ 972-758-3520
best to e-mail: debbie.leslie@ymail.com



United Methodist Women

Wednesday, January 4

Program: A Call to Prayer & Self Denial

Facilitator: Debbie Leslie

Hostesses: Debbie Arnold, Debbie Leslie, Lanna Jackson



We normally meet on the 1st Sunday of the month. However, due to the Holiday, we will not meet on Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Our next meeting is
Sunday, February 5 at 7:00 am
We have breakfast and a devotion

Our vision for the future—

- *Establishment of core men's ministry leadership team
- *Partnership with Pastor
- *Focus is outward to all men, not inward to a group
- *Creation of ministry entry points for men
- *Attitude of invitation, not expectation or obligation
- *Leadership by empowerment, not control
- *Development of mentoring relationships
- *Available to persons in the community
- *Alignment with mission and ministry of the local church
- *Builds positive relationship with women

CHURCH HISTORIAN SEEKS FACTS

What the record should show are the events and people that are responsible for making the Church the responsible and effective congregation it is today. You can be a great help by letting me know what actions were done and the people who took steps to bring this about. So you can be helpful by telling me about these changes that came about and the persons, lay or clergy, that were strong in making it happen.

Someone in 2036 or 2081 would benefit with this knowledge. E-mail me at shenedea@verizon.net or leave me a note at the church.

Rev. Tom Price

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Just For Kids

Just For Kids (JFK) is a ministry to and with children from age 4 (PreK) to 5th Grade. It meets on Sunday evenings from 5:30—7:00 pm beginning with a joint supper with our youth, provided by volunteers. JFK engages in ministry by making crafts, doing service projects, building friendships and fellowship in a warm Christian community. Staci and Terry Morris are the coordinators of this ministry.

BREAKFAST FOR GOD'S CHILDREN
Fun for ALL Ages!
Pancakes, Puppets, Crafts, Games

Next meeting—Saturday, January 7

Children's Sunday School Corner
Come join in!

The children love to sing with Kimberly Williams and Rhonda Schur. They have new praise & worship music to teach the children every Sunday. Staci Morris and Kim Kay read the Bible Stories each week, teaching the kids how it applies in

Youth Spiritual Formation

JANUARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, January 5, 2012-DEADLINE FOR Mission Trip. We will need a headcount on which Youth will be attending. (Several of you have already let us know. Thank you for responding so quickly.) Week of June 24-29, 2012. Tennessee

Sunday, January 8, 2012 - Tom Bean -Youth Christian Concert and Worship from 5-8 p.m. We will need DRIVERS!

Sunday, January 15, 2012- Bible Study "Am I Happy" DVD Series

Sunday, January 22, 2012- Bible Study "Am I Happy" DVD Series

Sunday, January 29, 2012- Bible Study "Am I Happy" DVD Series

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Sunday School meets at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings in the Youth room at the end of the Fellowship Hall. Terry Morris is teaching, with Pastor Martha as a consultant. We want all Youth 6th-12th Grade to join us!

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Children should never go hungry. Yet, many children who depend on school provided meals have little or no access to nutritious food on the weekends. Backpack Food For Life volunteers assemble bags of child-friendly and nutritious food. These bags are given to elementary school children who have been identified as being high-risk for hunger. On Fridays the bags are distributed providing them food when other resources are not available. These children can return to school on Monday ready to learn.

(BFFL) Backpack Food For Life



Here's a list of donation suggestions:

- Single serving cereals
- juice boxes
- Slim Jims / Beef Jerky
- individual canned meals
- Pudding cups/fruit cups
- Cheese and crackers
- Peanut butter crackers
- Raisins/ dried fruit
- Breakfast bars
- Pop-Tarts
- Vienna Sausages
- Animal crackers
- Beanie-Weenies
- Chicken Salad w/crackers
- Tuna Salad w/crackers
- Rice Krispy Treats
- Jello Cups/Apple sauce
- Single serve Goldfish

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday, January 1

7:00 am UMM

8:30 am Worship (Praise Band & Communion)

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

10:55 am Worship with Communion

Monday, January 2

Church Office closed for the Holiday

Tuesday, January 3

6:30 pm Trustees Meeting*

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

7:30 pm Emmaus Gathering at FUMC

Wednesday, January 4

6:00 pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal

6:30 pm UMW

Thursday, January 5

6:30 Undecorating Day!

Saturday, January 7

9:00 –11:30 Breakfast for God's Children

Sunday, January 8

8:30 am Worship (Praise Band & Communion)

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

10:55 am Worship

5:00 pm Youth

5:30 pm JFK

Monday, January 9

5:15 pm Girl Scout Troop 9792

7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 156

7:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 103

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 10

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday, January 11

6:00 pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal

7:00 pm Administrative Council*

Friday-Saturday, January 13-14...NTC

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat 3 p.m.-3p.m.

Sunday, January 15

8:30 am Worship (Praise Band & Communion)

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

10:55 am Worship with Communion

5:00 pm Youth

5:30 pm JFK

Monday, January 16

5:15 pm Girl Scout Troop 9792

7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 156

7:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 103

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 17

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday, January 18

6:00 pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal

Sunday, January 22

8:30 am Worship (Praise Band & Communion)

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

10:55 am Worship

5:00 Youth

5:30 JFK

Monday, January 23

5:15 pm Girl Scout Troop 9792

7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 156

7:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 103

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 24

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 25

6:00 pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal

6:30 pm UMW decorating Cookie Boxes

Sunday, January 29

8:30 am Worship (Praise Band & Communion)

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

10:55 am Worship

5:00 Youth

5:30 JFK

Monday, January 30

5:15 pm Girl Scout Troop 9792

7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 156

7:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 103

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 31

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

**All meetings except for SPRC meetings are open meetings and all are welcome*

Interactive Christmas Pageant



Could our kids possibly be any cuter??



Keeping the Church Running

TRUSTEES TIDBITS

Trustee Tidbits:

A very big thank you to Lloyd Flanagan for the excellent work he contributed while serving on the board during his term. This past month he took care of several small electrical projects around the church and tackled some larger ones with the help of Ted Williams.

- The Images class appreciates the new ceiling fan that was installed.
- The fellowship hall floor has been buffed.
- Kyle Brown has mounted the suggestion box and installed a new bulletin board outside of the office. He will also be looking into a wireless door bell and the possibility of sound piped in from the sanctuary for the nursery.
- The thermostat settings have been adjusted and we would like to reiterate, please do not press the HOLD button when adjusting these settings.
- George Trenholm and Henry Bush took care of some wall problems in the sanctuary by installing backer rods in the west and south side walls.
- David Keeler has offered to put up handrails outside the new double front doors.
- The building usage policy has been reviewed and a few minor changes will be made and a separate agreement will be written for the borrowing of church property that will be removed from the church premises.
- After the first of the year, the trustees will be making some decisions on the sanctuary floor and how to proceed with handling repairs for that problem.
- Thank you also to the cub scouts who have volunteered to help with the cleanup around the outside air conditioning units.

Thank you as well to our members who give their valuable input and ideas for our consideration. We are all in this together. Lisa

Our Church Family

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our church family & relatives:

Jeremy Cook (Fred/Genece's son-in-law, heart murmur)
 Katherine Scardato (A.Dills Cousin)
 The Eades Family (Illness in family)
 Brad and Family (Brenda Snyder's son—employment)
 Our College Students
 Mary & Madeline Burke (Mother and sister of Anne. Maddie's transplant and continued improvement)
 Teresa Bonds (Continuing Illness)
 Mike Steele (Melissa Barton's father—healing)
 Bryan James (Graves Disease)
 Artie and E.B. Kent (John David Kent's Grandparents)
 Madell Blackerby (Fall)
 Kevin Roady (Illness)
 Carol Stroud (Marilynn Henderson's Father)
 Marie Marlo (Butch Henderson's Aunt)
 Shannon Jenson (Cara Walker's sister-in-law)
 John David Kent

Friends and Members of the Community

Russ & Carolyn Carlisle
 Jack & Lois Reese
 Tammy Alexander (Carl Harris' daughter) - hurt in explosion
 Cade Maham (30% burned)
 The family of Jason Ashley and Jase Watson
 Bettye Arnold and niece Connie
 Les and Charlotte Dickerson and family (son has cancer, daughter has had liver transplant)
 Rebekah Cowley (Military-Afghanistan/18 mo old daughter)
 Sue Adams (Healing)
 Leonard Stanley
 Pam Field
 Lisa & Ken Wappes & family (Lisa kidney transplant donated from Ken)
 Cody O'Neil (football injury)
 Ryan Lynn (Infant struggling with lung infection)
 Jenna Martin (10 yr old with degenerative muscle disease)
 Khai Nguyen (Liver Transplant)
 Adam King & family (Septic Shock staph)
 Tony Ward (successful transplant)

Fighting Cancer

Nancy Rough—brain cancer
 Barbara Carey—(requested by Terry Morris)
 Sidney Patterson (coworker of Peggy Hallford—diagnosed with cancer recently)
 Don Haines—has multiple myeloma
 Larry Reeder
 Janis Hensley
 Billy Frank Crawford

Jan Welborn
 Cathi Woodmansee (on hospice)
 Jenny Montgomery
 Jackie Adams
 Donald Helms (Marilyn Henderson's Bro/law— radiation, chemo)
 Ann Michele King (daughter of Rusty King, music director at FUMC Allen)
 Carter McMillan (tumor on brain) - a praise that the medication seems to be working
 Darold and Sandra Lewis (Darold's cancer has returned)
 Linda Laird (Breast Cancer)
 Jerry Covington
 Tommy Hope
 "Scooter" Harold West
 Bud Morgan (Leukemia)
 Shirley Hanson (Sandra Lewis' sister-in-law—stage 4 cancer)
 Donna Jones (cancer is back, in lymph nodes)
 Amy Simpson
 Jan Chapman (diagnosed with breast cancer)
 Debbie Gauntt (breast cancer)
 Borden and Dorothy Gray (Borden—cancer, taking radiation)
Prayers for safe pregnancy and healthy babies:
 Rebecca & Daniel for a healthy pregnancy (Rebecca is Greg & Denise Harvey's daughter)
 Courtney & Tyler McCarley for a healthy pregnancy

New Church Starts

Frisco—Pastor Edlen Cowley
 380 Corridor—Pastor Chris Yost
 Melissa—Pastor Allen Hitt

Around the Conference

Carolyn Karrer
 Mary Lois O'Neal (Lay Leader in Sherman)
 Jason Andrew Timmons (son of Rev. Carol Sparks at Bogata UMC)

Military Residents

Justin Horton
 (Amanda's husband, Songer's son/law)
 Tyler Boyer & Tanner Boyer
 (sons of Greg and Gwen Boyer)
 Lorena Brand
 Megan McDonough
 Robert Howell
 Bryan G. Cheairs
 Gloria Kuzmicki
 Jonathan R. Taylor

Nursing Home Residents

Lindy Coker

Alice Beaty

Floydine Campbell

Christean Bowman

Jeannette Buchanan

Nelda Stevens

Homebound Residents

Iva Morrow

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