

Windows of Faith



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Pastor's Perspective

In our world, nation, state, communities and churches we have been talking about how people are angry, sad, depressed, and despairing. The conversations take place in person, on social media, in the news. It can bring us all to places of sadness and depression. **OR** we can choose to develop an attitude of gratitude—looking at all with which God has blessed us.

For the entire month of November, we will be giving thanks to God for each other. We will be doing this with Gratitude Bags. Beginning November 4, we will have lunch bags out in the overflow area with names of all those members and friends who are our church family. Then all of you are invited to write something to fill the bags. You can do something on the computer that's the same for everyone or you can choose to write personal notes to a few or you can be creative with artwork and stickers or you can write personal notes to everyone! A list is included in this newsletter of all the names we currently have prepared for bags. Please let us know if there's an oversight so we can add bags. You can take your bag home after worship on November 25.

In addition, I invite everyone to join in worship in November as we learn to practice an attitude of gratitude. We begin on November 4 with expressing gratitude for ordinary saints in our lives. Some have passed, and we will honor them in worship by lifting their names and lighting candles in memory of lives lived in Christ. We will also honor those living, ordinary saints who bless us every day.

On November 11, Veterans Day, we will remember the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and all veterans. You are invited to bring pictures and family mementoes of WWI. Uniforms, or parts of uniforms, letters that were saved, newspaper pieces are all welcome. We ask that they be brought by Friday, November 9, if possible, in order to create the best display possible of all these items. If you can scan photos or have photos of WWI veterans, we will do a video display of those. Email scanned copies or bring hard copies to the office to be scanned. Our gratitude focus will be on service on behalf of others.

On November 18 we will build our gratitude for all that God brings to life. This will include our lives, all of nature, the seasons, and much more. The little things that we often take for granted but which enrich our lives will be celebrated. On Wednesday, November 21, we will give thanks at our Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7pm.

We will finish the month with gratitude for Christ our King, Christ reigning in our hearts and in our world today in ways that help us overcome hopelessness, selfishness, and partisanship by focusing on the gift of God's Son.

Come, let us worship and give thanks! Go, to serve others in love!
Come, with an attitude of gratitude! Go, to share the light of Christ!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

10 - Jessica Doran
13 - Pam Krominga
14 - Jennifer Whitfill
14 - Robin McPherson
16 - Will Barsema
18 - Craig Monson
18 - Jared Cagley
26 - Marcia Scherr
28 - Ann Champion



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

6 - Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schahrer
7 - Mr. & Mrs. Roger Friedman
25 - Mr. & Mrs. John Livengood

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Adrianna Cottrell
1-Sharon Monroe
2 - Jim Rich
3 - Nathan Myers
3 - Richard Roy
3 - Josh Roy
5 - Bobbi McKeon
6 - Wayne Kurth
7 - Sue Myers
8 - Roger Brown
9 - Darcy Atkins
11 - Deb DeWeese
12 - Jack Henkle
13 - Karen Munz
13 - Shelly Roy
14 - Amy Steidinger
15 - Robert Walter
15 - Ron Monroe
16 - Allison Kaisner
16 - Shay McDonald
17 - Gordon Gibson
18 - Carra Tinges
19 - Lakin Livengood
20 - Daren Friedman
20 - Keith Dunahee
21 - Charles McKeon
22 - Lori Schahrer
24 - Dianna DeWeese
26 - Dave McWilliams

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Mr. & Mrs. Jay McDonald
16 - Mr. & Mrs. Dick Barsema
17 - Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Dameron
21 - Mr. & Mrs. Roger Scherr



Please keep the following people in your prayers:
 Jessica Rathbun, Brent Edelman, Greg Graf,
 Jordan Broquard, Jamison Davis, Jan Metz,
 Colton Herr, Jerry Kaisner, Mari Lynn Hoselton,
 Mary Lynne Bailey



Clark Lindsey Village, Urbana-
 Ray Householder
 Evenglow, Pontiac -
 Walt Kohlman
 Fairview Haven Nursing Home-
 Joyce Crews Jim Steidinger
 Joan Steidinger Warren Ulfers
 Dean Moser Lucille Moser
 Meadows Mennonite Retirement Community-
 Glen Oakland
 Good Samaritan, Pontiac-
 Janet Metz
 Meadows at Mercy Creek, Bloomington-
 Florence Voight Eli Aupperle



Nursing Home Ministry

The Fairview Haven Communion Service will be held Sunday, Nov. 11th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Independent Living dining room. All are welcome!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Executive Committee - Tues., Nov. 13, 1:00 p.m.
Mary Martha - Tues., Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m.
 Hostess - Lolita Dunahee and Judy Bennett
 (meet in the Fellowship Hall)
 Program - Janet Kilgus
SOS - Thurs., Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.
 (meet at Shannon Brown's home)
Susanna - Tues., Nov. 27, 1:30 p.m.
 Fairview Haven Independent dining room
 Hostess - Sharon Kurth, Cindy Meister, Marge
 Mishler
 Program - Cindy Meister

Thoughts from Bette

Thoughts for the "forgotten holiday" and beyond.

Thanksgiving sadly seems to have "fallen by the wayside" in the stores, media and regretfully even us. Take a moment and think on it; take time to be thankful.

For a roof over our heads, food on our table, we thank Thee Lord. Keep us mindful of those who have not and thank you for any chance to help. For family, for friends for our church which is a little of both we thank Thee. For the voices of children even in church we thank Thee. For sunrise and sunset, for good days and bad for all that you are we thank Thee,

Through all the frantic days of the season ahead help us to keep a peacefulness inside. Help us to remember what it really means. Help us to keep the beauty, the wonder, the awesomeness of that long ago birth. The time when the angels sang, when the Wise Men came to worship a tiny baby. The story that is so old and yet every year, so new. Help us keep all this in our hearts to ponder as did Mary in that stable as she held that precious babe.



The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast in the fellowship hall. If you plan on attending, please contact the church office or Randy Lane so that enough food is prepared. This is a great way to revive the UMM!



The All-Town Food drive will be held on Sunday, Nov. 4th, at 1:00 p.m. **Volunteers are needed!** The pantry has been depleted of most of the food, so any and all food items are needed, as well as Dave's paper bags and paper towels. Contact Kathy Cook with any questions.



We will have the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, Nov. 25th, during the Sunday School hour. A light soup lunch will follow at noon. This is always a great time for fun and fellowship as we decorate the church!

Giving Tuesday 2018

On November 27, 2018, United Methodists will come together to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries on #GivingTuesday. In 2017, more than \$300 million was raised in 150 countries on #GivingTuesday! More than \$677,000 was given to Advance projects and missionaries around the world. The Advance continues to allocate 100% of all giving to the designated project or missionary.

#GivingTuesday is part of an international movement to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season. As a response to the hyper-consumerism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, people around the world celebrate #GivingTuesday by supporting organizations that are transforming the world. It offers an opportunity to start the holiday season by giving instead of receiving. #GiveUMC offers United Methodists a way to participate by supporting projects through The Advance. To donate go to <https://www.umcmision.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Advance-Project-Search>



Ebenezer Scrooge is a man in dire need of a second chance. Is redemption possible for such a greedy, dark, and sad character? The Redemption of Scrooge, from Matt Rawle's The Pop in Culture Series, shows us how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens' Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent study will "bless us every one" and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith. We will have four class times during Sunday School hour on Sundays beginning on December 2 and on Thursday nights at 7pm beginning on November 29. Contact the office to order your book. Cost is \$11.00.