



Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye December 2016 Newsletter

Volume 6
Issue 2

Pastor's Column

I read an article in the Upper Room on Nov. 20 that I have never heard of before, but it was a great meditation.

In 1920 the coast to coast airmail began its delivery route. Because navigation was limited to what pilots could see, night travel and storms made it almost impossible to fly and keep on course. I understand that point but the solution was amazing. Going across the mid states of America every ten miles a 50 to 70 foot arrow was made out of concrete. On the end of the arrow a tower with a beacon was built to make the way for pilots to follow. On a clear night they might see two of those beacons at one time. Think about it: every ten miles for some 2,900 miles. If my math is right that's 290 arrows across America—Amazing!!

But it also made me think what are the arrows that point us in the right direction to Jesus? The Upper Room meditation suggested that the arrows are commandments, promises, precepts and teachings in God's word and I would have to agree. There are literally hundreds of arrows pointing us to Jesus. We have to read them, see them, hear them and follow them.

As navigation systems began to replace the arrows and beacons they disappeared off the earth and few remain.

But that is not true of the arrows and beacons that lead to Jesus. They are there and will continue to be there forever. All those arrows point us in the direction of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace the four parts of Advent. But moreover they point us to a caring and forgiving God, Savior and Holy Spirit. Let us follow the arrows of faith that lead us to life and life everlasting in Jesus Christ our Lord!

God's Blessing, Pastor Jack



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Scriptures for the Month of December



Sunday, Dec. 4: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, Dec. 11: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, Dec. 18: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, Dec. 25: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

I can't believe it is almost time for my favorite worship experience.—Candlelight Service! It is another program experience that sets the mood for accepting Jesus Christ into the world. Christmas Eve is an amazing night and this is my 6th year to celebrate it with you. Please bring your whole family and let's celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. Sat. Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.!!

Sunday Of Celebration

December 11 is a day of celebration! First, the choir has a "Christmas rendition" of the 12 days of Christmas. Second, we have a Christmas play which is called "A Christmas to Remember". You will enjoy this presentation about the real meaning of Christmas. This will fill our worship time on that Sunday, but there is more!! At 5 p.m. we will gather at the parsonage to have our Annual Christmas Party. There will be a sign up sheet so we can get a count of how many are coming.

Please bring finger foods, snack foods and desserts. Also, again this year each person bring a wrapped, edible gift under \$10 for our gift exchange. We will have games, songs and all sorts of fun! A good way to finish the "Sunday of Celebration"!!

Pines' Christmas Party

We have been invited to The Pines Community Church for their Christmas Party on Sat. Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. As many of us as possible need to respond to this gracious invitation. We have our annual party on the 11th but this is also an important event. Each person is asked to bring a fun gift around \$10 for exchange and a snacking food of some sort just like our own get together. There will be a sign up sheet with both events on there. Each event will last a couple of hours so I am praying we can attend both. Each party we are celebrating the birth of Jesus with other Christians which I think is important to do because it is the reason for the season!!

the best way
TO SPREAD
Christmas
cheer
is singing LOUD
for all to hear

Garage Sale

What an Event!! Seems like twice a year we gather enough items to have a sale. This Fall was no exception. We also started earlier this Fall in preparation and it worked quite well. Thanks to all who came and helped with the preparation and the sale!! We were down in people able to work the sale but we were not down in enthusiasm and spirit. Thanks to Beverly and her family for leading us in another successful sale. The sale came to \$3,779.60!! That is fantastic! That money was put into our savings account and will be used as necessary with approval from the church council. That brings our savings account to almost \$5,000. God truly blesses us as we work together!

Pastor Jack

TRUNK OR TREAT

Another great year of ghosts, goblins, princesses and a super girl or two. We had around 100 kids this year, a few more than last year. We had 3 more cars than last year, 12 in all. Hopefully next year we can get even more. If you are not joining in on this fun event, you don't know what you are missing.

Thanks to Beverly and her family for providing great food as usual for the treaters. Thanks to everyone who participated this year.



New Year's Eve Party



Another great night ahead of us is a New Year's Eve Party at Cody and Shery West's house again. As you can tell by the picture we had a great turnout and a wonderful time last year. Please come around 6:30 and be ready for a fun filled night. Bring something to snack on and a Big appetitell



Hanging of the Greens



Movie Night



It is a very busy season but we have two great Christmas movies to share. Please try to make it to movie night as you will enjoy the movies and it sets the right mood for celebrating Christmas. They are "The Christmas Card" Tues., Dec. 7 at 7p.m. and "Love's Christmas Journey" Thurs., Dec. 15 at 7p.m.

See You At The Movies!!



I am always amazed at how the sanctuary changes in just a few hours from just plain walls, nice pews and chancel into a beautiful warm, glowing atmosphere for Christmas. Thanks to all the folks for staying to put up the decorations. We had a good turnout for potluck and many were able to stay to help put up the "Greens"! Thanks!



GREETERS WELCOME CENTER HOSTS

Dec. 4: Jack & Neva Mielke

Dec. 11: Sybil Mitchell Sharon Gilliam

Dec. 18: Charles Jullian Barbara Curbow

Dec. 25: Jan Hensiek

Dec. 4: Randy & Laura Darden

Dec. 11: Bob & Debbie Lyon

Dec. 18:

Dec. 25: Jack Smith



This newsletter is published monthly. If you have an article for publication please get it to the pastor before the last week of the month. Also if you have an address of someone who you think would like to receive this newsletter please leave that information in the church office.

We have a Facebook page, please go to our page and "like" us. You can post suggestions, pictures or anything you would like. It is also a great way to find out what is going on and see the pictures of events already taken place.



December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Office Hours 9-5	2	3 Continental Breakfast/ Prayer Time 8:30
4 Welcome Center 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 COMMUNION	5 Office Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30 Finance Meeting 2:30	6 Movie Night 7:00 "The Christmas Card"	7 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00 Play Practice 5:00 Choir 6:30	8 Office Hours 9-5 Trustee Meeting 10:00	9	10
11 Welcome Center 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 Christmas Play Choir Concert Christmas Party 5:00	12 Office Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30	13	14 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00 Choir 6:30	15 Office Hours 9-5 Movie Night 7:00 "Love's Christmas Journey"	16	17 Christmas Party at The Pines Community Church 5:00
18 Welcome Center 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 Church Council 11:45 Blue Sunday	19 Office Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30	20	21 Office Hours 9-5 Choir 6:30	22 Office Hours 9-5	23	24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00 
25 Merry Christmas Welcome Center 9:30 Christmas Worship Time 10:30	26	27	28 Office Hours 9-5	29 Office Hours 9-5	30	31

Happy
Birthday

December 2016

Happy
Anniversary



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 John & Monica Bennett	5 Charles Julian Lori Maxwell	6 Joanne Burrows	7	8	9	10 Betty Frazier
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Debbie Herrmann Jack & Vivian Jensen	19	20	21	22 Mary Little	23	24
25 Sharon Gilliam	26	27 Clair Gunther	28	29 Vivian Jensen	30	31 