

# Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye

## DECEMBER

## 2019

### *Pastor's Column*

Volume 9

Issue 2



We were planning a Christmas play for Christmas but schedules are kind of hectic during December and so we were thinking about extending Christmas beyond December. We leave our church decorations up until sometime in January so we will be combining the two. Not sure on the date until the cast and crew can meet and plan the event. But we will take one Sunday in January to worship with the whole team for the morning to be "A Christmas to Remember" and after celebrating we will undecorate the church, eat pizza (Pastor Jack supplies) and leave remembering that Christmas can be any date we celebrate a Savior coming to save us from our sins and give us eternal life.

Remembering—how quickly we sometimes move from one season to another. Once an event is over we are happy for the celebration but we quickly replace it with the next highpoints of the year. The stores really promote that idea because they are always ahead to the next season. We still need to remember Thanksgiving but already the Christmas items are on the shelves and I imagine before Christmas is over the switch to Valentine's Day will be upon us.

And our mindset is to go from one season to another. So, let's slow down a little and enjoy Christmas for a while. In fact, Christmas and Easter are two really important seasons of the Christian year. By putting the play in January we are extending the memory of the birth of the baby Jesus. Actually, we should find an event each month to remember Christmas! Any suggestions for Feb. through Nov.?? I am open to hearing how once a month is "CHRISTMAS"! Slow down and enjoy each day that God gives us, it will never come back! As I get older each day, week and year go by faster and faster. There are 24 hours in a day but Sunday comes right after Wednesday every week. We need to appreciate each day and remember each day in some way is "CHRISTMAS"!

*Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Jack*



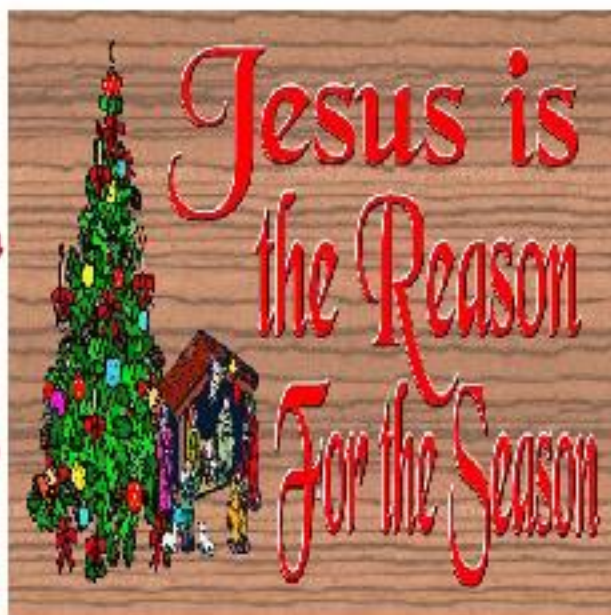
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# Scriptures for the Month of December



- Sunday, December 1:** Isaiah 2:1-5 • Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:36-44
- Sunday, December 8:** Isaiah 11:1-10 • Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13 • Matthew 3:1-12
- Sunday, December 15:** Isaiah 35:1-10 • Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10 • Matthew 11:2-11
- Sunday, December 22:** Isaiah 7:10-16 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7 • Matthew 1:18-25
- Sunday, December 29:** Isaiah 63:7-9 • Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18 • Matthew 2:13-23



## Advent-Christmas

Advent is a special time to prepare for the birth of Jesus. There will be four special Sunday messages—Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. We will highlight these four during each worship time. Our sanctuary is ready for the season, our choir will prepare for the season, the mission outreach is set for the season, the Christmas songs are ready, and now all we need to make it complete is YOU!!



### *Christmas Eve Candle Light Service*

## *Christmas Party*

My favorite service of the year is the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. It is a fun, warm, meaningful, joyous occasion to celebrate the birth of Christ. This is a great family service as we gather together, so I invite and encourage you to bring family, friends and neighbors to the celebration of the birth of Jesus!

The celebration is Tuesday night, Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Jack

The all church Christmas party is Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:00 in the Welcome Center. We are doing it in the Welcome Center because we use the TV to do part of the celebration. So, bring finger foods, dress in your Christmas attire, bring a \$10 or less gift to give away and your willingness to celebrate the Birth of Christ with joy, love, peace and hope!! Your gift to exchange can be anything you like but the food and candy go over the best!!







Peace  
On Earth

## Save The Date! For EmpowerU

Do you know anyone who would like to learn more about money management and budgeting based on Biblical principles? Open Doors UMC will be hosting Love INC's EmpowerU Money Management Course on Mondays beginning Feb. 10 from 1-2:30 p.m. facilitated by Susan Winston. EmpowerU is a free, highly-relational budgeting program for Stone and Taney county residents. It begins with a 9-week money management class, then provides up to a year of financial education, life skills, and mentoring for those who continue to develop a healthier relationship with their money.

For more information or to sign up for the class, please call love I.N.C. (In the Name of Christ) at 417-336-7058.

## Christmas Missions

Again this year we have chosen to sponsor the USO calling card for military personnel that cannot be with family during the Christmas season. We also received information from the county about 2 foster teenage girls that we will be helping. We will be taking a love offering on Dec. 1 & Dec. 8 for gift cards for the girls and for the calling cards.

Last year we sent \$232.00 for USO cards and bought presents for 3 foster children. We will be doing this the first 2 Sundays in December.



## Financial Note

**One financial note—Thank You! Because of your giving we have been able to accomplish so much for our Lord this year. To date over \$110,000 has come in for the workings of our church. Granted over \$27,000 of that is insurance money that paid for all the roofs to be reshingled plus one wall of siding, all guttering on Ministry House and some facia that was damaged by hail. And we had a great May garage sale which netted us over \$3,000. But the rest came from your generous giving. Thanks so much!**



## Bible Study

**You are invited to a 5 week study that looks at the Christmas Story in detail. Each Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. we will focus on how God chose each individual in the Christmas story for a specific reason. Because of the way it is done you feel like you are right there and the story unveils itself. Kyle Idleman does a great job along with a great drama presentation. Hope you will take time to come and visit "The Christmas Experience."**



# Trunk or Treat



We had a great time for Trunk or Treat but not out of trunks. The weather was not so nice so we decorated the Welcome Center and put lights outside to show the path to the treats. There were 17 people representing 10 "giving out" units so we were well represented. Actually we had fun giving candy to 87 people plus plenty of parents as well. Thanks to all who were involved.

With the month of December being very busy, we will only have one movie this month. Also, since it is getting colder and dark earlier we will try having the movie at 6:00 p.m. We will be showing "Christmas with Holly". It will be Tuesday, December 10.

Hope to see you there!



# MOVIE NIGHT



## Charles's Birthday

We are having a lot of 90th Birthdays this year. In October we celebrated Jean Florke's and now it is Charles Julian's turn. It will be Thursday, December 5 from 2:00 to 5:00 downstairs at church. Please come and let Charles know how much we appreciate him!

**Welcome Center Hosts**

December 1: Debra Tompkins  
 December 8: Bob & Debbie Lyon  
 December 15: Debra Tompkins  
 December 22: Randy & Laura Darden  
 December 29: Jack & Peg Smith

**Greeters**


December 1: Pat Bangert & Jan Hensiek  
 December 8: Sharon Gilliam  
 December 15: Barbara Curbow  
 December 22: Sybil Mitchell & Jo Chambers  
 December 29: Debra Tompkins

"It came without ribbons!  
 It came without tags!  
 It came without packages,  
 boxes or bags!" ...

Then the Grinch thought  
 of something he hadn't  
 before!

"Maybe Christmas,"  
 he thought,  
 "doesn't come from  
 a store.

Maybe Christmas...  
 perhaps...  
 means a little bit more!"



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.



November

January

# December



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday                              |
|--|---|--|--|--|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 1<br>Fellowship<br>Time 9:30<br>Praise &<br>Worship 10:30<br>COMMUNION                               | 2<br>Office Hours<br>1-5<br>Bible Study<br>10:30<br>Women's<br>Ministries<br>12:30  | 3  | 4<br>Office Hours<br>9-5<br>Brunch 11:30   | 5<br><b>Charles<br/>Julian's<br/>Birthday<br/>Party 2-5</b><br><br>Office Hours<br>9-5 | 6      | 7<br><b>Prayer<br/>Breakfast 8:15</b> |
| 8<br>Fellowship<br>Time 9:30<br>Praise &<br>Worship 10:30<br><b>Christmas<br/>Party<br/>5:00</b>     | 9<br>Office Hours<br>1-5<br>Bible Study<br>10:30<br>Women's<br>Ministries<br>12:30  | 10<br><b>Movie Night<br/>6:00<br/>"Christmas<br/>with Holly"</b>   | 11<br>Office Hours<br>9-5<br>Brunch 11:30  | 12<br><i>THRIFT STORE 12-4</i><br><br>Office Hours<br>9-5<br>Trustee<br>Meeting 10:00  | 13     | 14<br><i>THRIFT STORE 8-12</i>        |
| 15<br>Fellowship<br>Time 9:30<br>Praise &<br>Worship 10:30<br>Church<br>Council 11:45<br>Blue Sunday | 16<br>Office Hours<br>1-5<br>Bible Study<br>10:30<br>Women's<br>Ministries<br>12:30 | 17   | 18<br>Office Hours<br>9-5<br>Brunch 11:30  | 19<br>Office Hours<br>9-5  | 20     | 21                                    |
| 22<br>Fellowship<br>Time 9:30<br>Praise &<br>Worship 10:30   | 23<br>Office Hours<br>1-5<br>Bible Study<br>10:30<br>Women's<br>Ministries<br>12:30 | 24<br>Christmas<br>Eve Candle<br>Light<br>Service<br>7:00  | 25<br><i>Merry<br/>Christmas</i><br><br>No Office Hours                              | 26   | 27     | 28                                    |
| 29<br>Fellowship<br>Time 9:30<br>Praise &<br>Worship 10:30<br>Potluck 11:45                          | 30<br>Office Hours<br>1-5<br>Bible Study<br>10:30<br>Women's<br>Ministries<br>12:30 | 31<br><br>Happy New Year! |  |  |        |                                       |



December



| Sunday                 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday               | Friday  | Saturday                        |
|------------------------|--------|---------|--|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1                      | 2      | 3       | 4<br>John &<br>Monica<br>Bennett                           | 5<br>Charles<br>Julian | 6<br>Joanne<br>Burrows                          | 7                               |
| 8                      | 9      | 10      | 11   | 12                     | 13  | 14                              |
| 15                     | 16     | 17      | 18<br>Debbie<br>Herrmann<br><br>Jack &<br>Vivian<br>Jensen | 19                     | 20  | 21<br>Zackery<br>Wagner         |
| 22<br>Mary<br>Little   | 23     | 24      | 25<br>Sharon<br>Gilliam<br><br>Merry<br>Christmas          | 26                     | 27<br>Heather<br>Wagner<br><br>Clair<br>Gunther | 28<br>Frank &<br>Sarah<br>Evans |
| 29<br>Vivian<br>Jensen | 30     | 31      |  |                        |   |                                 |