

Keep Christ in
Christmas!
Have a
blessed holiday!



Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye

Volume 8
Issue 2

DECEMBER

2018 *Pastor's Column*



Advent—Preparation time for Christmas. It seems like Advent just all of a sudden appears and takes us by surprise. I tried not to let that happen this year as the last 2 Sundays were preparing us to get to Advent and closing out the Christian year. Yet, now it is here and what are we going to do?

First of all, the decorating is done and the sanctuary is beautiful. Secondly, I have given all four Sunday bulletin materials to Debra so she has her work cut out to prepare the music and videos for the worship services. Thirdly, the choir needs to prepare for the 9th, 16th and 23rd. We do have the first Sunday ready (yea!).

So, we are somewhat prepared, kind of, sort of, but not totally. You know what I mean. Things seem to change, like the weather or when people will be going to celebrate Christmas with family, so it is hard to plan.

But with all that said we have to look at the reason for the season—Jesus! We need to prepare our lives for His coming again this year. Life is a cycle and we have finished one cycle but it is time to start a NEW cycle and again in our hearts and minds and soul prepare for this baby Jesus to come into the world. It is the same each year but different every year. Our faith journey changes every year and deepens as we profess our faith in Jesus. "For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord". "And He shall save us from our sins." A Savior is born who is Christ the Lord. Let us celebrate together another Advent for "He shall reign forever and ever!"



*Merry Christmas,
Pastor Jack*

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Scriptures for the Month of December



Sunday, December 2: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 9: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 16: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 23: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Sunday, December 30: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



This is a great family service especially for those who have their families together for Christmas. We invite and encourage you to bring family, friends and neighbors to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

The message is the same every year but it carries an encouraging message of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love!! Christmas Eve is a Monday night this year so please put it on your calendar now—Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m. Please come, bring your whole family and let's celebrate Jesus being born into the world to save us all!!

Christmas Missions

We have chosen two mission projects again this Christmas. The first is the USO calling cards for US Military personnel that are not able to be home for Christmas but have an opportunity to call home. This is our second year of supporting that ministry.

The second is Foster Children. Again we have three children — a 3 month old girl, 6 month old girl and 11 year old girl. The needs for these children were on Christmas ornaments and placed on the tree in the Welcome Center. Only two ornaments are left. Thanks for responding so quickly!!

Also \$232.00 was donated for the USO calling cards. Thanks again for helping make our missions outreach a success this year.

★ Christmas Get-To-Gether

Every year we have a Christmas Party and it will be held at "Ministry House". It is an evening of fun and fellowship. Everyone is to bring finger foods for sharing that evening. The drink will be provided!! During the evening we will play a few games and of course the "white elephant" gift exchange. This year we will go back to the food or candy exchange. You are to bring a wrapped gift (food or candy) under \$10. This exchange is always a fun time. Hope everyone can make it to this annual party on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 5:00 p.m.!!





Advent-Christmas



Advent is a special time (4 Sundays) to prepare the way for Jesus to be born. This will be the second year without a Christmas Cantata or Christmas play so we need to find a new spark for the season. Be ready to experience Advent and Christmas with new dimensions. Our sanctuary is ready for the season—"Thanks to you all"! Like last year I am not sure how God is going to use these Sundays but I know He will!! It is again time for the "story to unfold"!

Financial Note



Bible Study

Thank you for your continued support for the ministry of Open Doors United Methodist church of Blue Eye. An update as to where we are financially:

We started December with a cash flow of \$3,400.00 which is slightly down from previous months. Please help if you can during the month of December. We try to keep a \$4,000.00 Balance in our checking account in case of an emergency. Thanks for helping!!

We tried Bible Study twice a week (Monday a.m. and Wednesday p.m.). The Wednesday one did not get the response we needed so we are back to only Mondays from 10:30 to Noon. This seems to fit our schedules the best.

The schedule for December will be:

Dec. 3, Dec. 10 & Dec. 17

The schedule for January will be:

Jan. 7, Jan. 21 & Jan. 28

January 14 we will be on retreat at the Cliffs.

By the end of January we hope to finish I, II & III John and move on to a new study. Because of the handouts that go with each session if you miss a date you can still be a part of the study. Even if you did not start until Dec. 3 we have study guides for the sessions we have covered so come on and join the group on the dates listed above at 10:30 a.m.



*For Unto Us
a Child is Born...*



MOVIE NIGHT



This month our movies will be on Monday and Tuesday instead of Thursday. Tuesday, December 11 is "The Family Holiday" and Monday, December 17 is "Operation Christmas". Please try to come out to at least one of these movies. We always have a great time. Next month we will go to just one movie a month for a while. Since it gets dark out so early in the winter time we thought we would try this and see how we like it.

WELCOME CENTER HOSTS

Dec. 2: Merry Jo Bell
Becky McNabb
Dec. 9: Barbara Curbow
Dec. 16:

Dec. 23: JD Settles
Dec. 30: Jack & Peg
Smith



2019 Budget



The 2018 budget was \$70,923.00 and we have stayed within that budget.

The 2019 budget will be \$72,191.00 which is an increase of 1.8%. The finance committee tries hard to stay responsible to the congregation to keep the budget within our means but not cutting into our ministry. We believe this budget will keep us alive and well in the faith.

GREETERS

Dec. 2: Larry Finley
Dec. 9: Sybil Mitchell
Dec. 16: Merry Jo Bell
Becky McNabb
Dec. 23: Jan Hensiek
Dec. 30: Debra Tompkins



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Prayer Breakfast 8:15
2 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30 COMMUNION	3 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30	4	5 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00 Choir 5:30	6 Office Hours 9-5	7	8
9 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30	10 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30	11 Movie Night 7:00 "The Family Holiday"	12 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00	13 Office Hours 9-5 Trustee Meeting 10:00	14	15
16 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30 Church Council 11:45 Christmas Party 5:00 Blue Sunday	17 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30 Movie Night 7:00 "Operation Christmas"	18	19 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00	20 Office Hours 9-5	21	22
23 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00		26 No Office Hours	27 Office Hours 9-5	28	29
30 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30	31 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30					



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