



Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye

Volume 7 December 2017 Newsletter

Issue 2

Pastor's Column

What are you doing to prepare for Christmas? Everybody prepares in different ways. I used to like putting up decorations outdoors but as the years go by it seems harder and harder for me to do that. Well there are the inside decorations! Oh, by the way since it is harder to decorate I put it off and when I do decide I should do something outside it is the coldest day of the month!

Decorating inside brings warmth and light to set the mood for the season. I love a tree with colored lights and ornaments. I like decorating our living room and dining room because those are places we are in each day. The basement gets little attention because, well, we are not down there. Why all this talk about decorating? Well, because it changes the atmosphere. I like that we decorate our church. Even though it is much the same each year, it is beautiful. And it sets the tone for the birth of Jesus. All the decorations remind us something special is coming, the Greatest Gift—Jesus!! It reminds us that Jesus IS the Reason.

All the decorations prepare the way for the Lord to be born. There was a special star that guided the wise men, there were brightly lit angels proclaiming the birth to the shepherds. Christmas can be and is too commercial at times but if you decorate to set the tone, the atmosphere, the joy, the peace, the love and the hope then you are ready to celebrate the birth of Christ! We need these words in our Christmas. We will use them in our Advent and they will help us be prepared for Jesus. There is a lot of negative in our world and satan would love for us to give up the Celebration. Don't let that negative get in the way and drag your spirit down "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. Celebrate Folks with all the things that help you identify the event. "And He shall reign forever and ever." Amen!!

God's Blessina. Pastor Pack



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Scriptures for the Month of December

Sunday, Dec. 3: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, Dec. 10: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, Dec. 17: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, Dec. 31: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

My favorite worship service of the year is coming up—Dec. 24. Christmas Eve is an amazing night. It is a night filled with anticipation about the coming of Jesus. The Christmas story is read and even though we have heard it many times before it carries an encouraging message of hope, joy, peace and love. This year Christmas Eve is on a Sunday so we shall worship together that morning and then return to our special service at 7 p.m. that evening!! Please come, bring your whole family and let's truly celebrate Jesus being born into the world to save us all!!



Advent--The Story Unfolds

Advent is a special time (4 Sundays) to prepare the way for Jesus to be born. This year we are going to have to be inventive as we do not have a choir cantata or a Christmas play. Our fall has been very busy with various ministries and Christmas is a season for many activities. We will miss those events of choir and the play but we will experience some new adventures of the season. Our sanctuary is ready for Advent due to 15 people being able to stay after church on November 26. So, the physical preparations are made and now prepare for the experience to unfold. I am not sure how God is going to use these Sundays but I am open and waiting for the "story to unfold"!!

Reaching Out

Christmas is a time to reach out to others. The Church Council has chosen two ministries. The first is the USO calling cards for US military personnel that cannot get home for Christmas, but through our donations have an opportunity to call home for Christmas!! An offering will be taken the first two Sundays of December.

The second ministry is to foster children. We have 3 kids who need gifts for Christmas. The details of what their wants and needs are listed below. We have an opportunity to bring great joy to 3 young children this Christmas Season. Sign up at church starting Dec. 3 to help with a gift.

Girl, Age 8 - size 10 pants, size 10/12 shirts, size 3 youth shoes
Favorite colors are black & multi colors; likes science and singing.

Needs:
shirts, pants/leggings, socks, underwear, trunk/treasure box to store her things away from her siblings, pajamas, shoes (with light-up soles), winter coat

Would like:
Science kit (laboratory), Hatchimals, Trolls Movie, My Little Pony toys, Shoes (with light up soles)

Boy, Age 4 - size 4T pants (elastic waist), size 5/6 shirts, size 10 Toddler shoes
Favorite colors are green & blue

Needs:
clothes, pants (adjustable waist), shirts, socks, underwear, pajamas, shoes (with soles that light up), winter coat
Would like:

Dinotrux movies or toys, anything Lightning McQueen or cars, toy tool sets, Ninja Turtles, big character pillow

Girl, Age 3 - size 3T pants, size 4T shirts, size 9 Toddler shoes
Favorite Colors are purple, pink & blue

Needs:
Everything but a winter coat, shirts, pants, socks, underwear, pajamas (PJ Mask-4T), shoes
Would like:

Big Trolls or "PJ Masks" blanket or toys, Trolls Movie (so does her sister), baby dolls, Carebears, stuffed kittens

Spread
the
Word
...
Every
Knee
Shall
Bow



New Year's Eve Party

This year the New Year's Eve Party will be held in the warmth and glow of our own church. We thank Cody and Shery West for opening their home the past years. Our church affords the opportunity to have a new experience. The agenda for the evening is not set so if you have an idea let us know. We need to bring New Year's Eve food of some sort, plus games, time for conversation and maybe a movie. The biggest opportunity will come around 11:30 when we have an opportunity to go into the sanctuary for a short praise service for God helping, providing and loving us for the past year!! And of course the countdown to the new year. It will be a new experience this New Year's Eve, let's make it a great one. Let's get together with the "doors open" at 6:30 on Christmas Eve. Come when you can and stay as long as you can!!



Christmas Party

The Christmas Party this year will be on Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m.. It will be held at the parsonage and the Herrmanns will be hosting it for us. Please bring finger foods for the meal that evening. This year instead of a food item for the white elephant game we have decided to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament. This will be a fun change. Hope that everyone can make it to this annual party. We always have such a great time.



Garage Sale

We have had some great garage sales in the past 6 years. They are a time of real fellowship and hard work. Thanks to all who are able to help make them the success they are. This Fall was no exception. At the end of the spring sale we were down in items, but it never fails that by Fall we have plenty to offer. Thanks to Beverly Gunther and her family for leading us in another well done sale!! And when we think we have seen the top sale we find God provides even more—this year it was \$6000. (Amazing!!) That is so fantastic.

That money is not put into the General Budget but put into a savings account to provide money for special projects and ministries approved by our church council. Even though we have done some needed projects there is still over \$9500 in the savings account! Thanks so much for all your hard work!

"I will honour
Christmas in my
heart, and try to
keep it all the year."

-DORIS EDWARDS



Bible Study

Bible Study is going to be a little different this month. We are going to study—"A Savior is Born" by Pete Briscoe. We will listen to 2 presentations each session with a short discussion of what we heard.

Mondays at 10:30 Dec. 4—Hope & Peace, Dec. 11. no Bible Study, Dec. 18—Joy & Love, Dec. 25. no Bible Study.

Thursdays at 6:30 Dec. 7—Hope & Peace, Dec. 14—no Bible Study, Dec. 21—Joy & Love, Dec. 28—no Bible Study.

There will be no group sessions to do on your own. Please try to make it to one of the Bible Study sessions. I think it will make Christmas an even better experience!!

WELCOME CENTER HOSTS

Dec. 3: Barbara Curbow
Jan Hensiek

Dec. 10: Bob & Debbie
Lyon

Dec. 17: Gary & Debbie
Hermann

Dec. 24: Jack & Peg
Smith

Dec. 31:

GREETERS

Dec. 3: Helen Feuz

Dec. 10: Jack & Vivian
Jensen, Jan

Dec. 17: Barbara Curbow

Dec. 24:

Dec. 31: Sybil Mitchell



Movie Night

It is a very special time of the year- Advent/Christmas. I am hooked on the Hallmark Channels for Christmas. We record a few so we can watch them and skip commercials. The Christmas movies are great to set the right mood for the season. So, it is with the Christmas movies we have in store for you this Christmas. On Tuesday, Dec. 5 the movie is "Christmas Lodge" and on Thurs. Dec. 14 it is "A Song for the Season" AKA "A Holiday Romance". Come be a part of our family those evenings at 7 p.m. See you then!!



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 2017




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Prayer Breakfast 8:15
						
3 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 COMMUNION	4 Office Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30	5 Movie Night 7:00 "Christmas Lodge"	6 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00 Choir 3:30	7 Office Hours 9-5 Bible Study 6:30	8	9 "LEOTA" McFarlain's 12:15
10 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 Christmas Party 5:00 Parsonage	11 Office Hours 10-5 Women's Ministries 12:30	12	13 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00 Choir 3:30	14 Office Hours 9-5 Trustee Meeting 10:00 Movie Night 7:00 "A Holiday Romance"	15 Dine Time Cattleman's Green Forest 5:00	16
17 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 Church Council 11:45 BLUE SUNDAY	18 Office Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30	19	20 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00 Choir 3:30	21 Office Hours 9-5 Bible Study 6:30	22	23
24 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Pastor vacation	27 Pastor on vacation	28 Pastor on vacation	29 Pastor on vacation	30
31 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship Time 10:30 New Year's Eve Party 6:30 At Church	Happy New Year!					



December 2017



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