

JANUARY 2021

## *Pastor's Column*

As we begin another year we need to look forward to how God will use us this coming year. The problem seems to be we always try to finish a year strong so that we hit the ground running as we approach a new year. In some ways it feels like we were traveling along and then we kind of stalled out in the second quarter of the year and it was lucky because the weather was changing for the better. So, we went back into the ministry by drive-in worship and I was surprised it went over quite well. It was not the same but we felt we were moving forward again.

Summer did not see the usual activities but we were moving forward with in-person worship and Bible study, women's group, and movie night, with some other outdoor activities like the big garage sale and gazebo ministry.

Then as school started things began to deteriorate again so it seemed we stalled again. And little by little people became more unsure of attending in-person worship or any other activity of the church until November when we were out again for two weeks.

We are back in-person now but the moving forward has been less than inspiring even though God is still using us through this whole year. As you will see in this newsletter we had a good response to our two missions for Christmas (USO and Toys for Tots).

But people are still leery of in-person activities and so we approach 2021 with less forward looking enthusiasm. We are going to need to find our enthusiasm for being the church in new ways.

First of all, we have two great ministries that need to happen - Janice's Ministry House and K & J Gazebo Ministry. We have two months to really figure this out before the first of March. God has led us this far and I believe He wants us to continue the development of these ministries plus all the favorite ones we love to do.

How will this happen? BY PRAYER!!! No other way, for it will take all of us praying that God will "open doors" on how to proceed forward. The church must move forward for a church which is either going backwards or standing still is actually a dying church. None of us wants that to happen so we need to start with prayers and listen to God speaking to us. I believe that God will direct us, support us, sustain us, and help us do His will. So, January is prayer month. Make it a priority in your life to daily ask God to direct our ministry. I believe He will give each of you the answers as to how you will be involved with Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye moving forward in 2021. Our God is an Awesome God!!!

*Pastor Jack*

# Scriptures for the Month of **JANUARY**

Sunday, January 3: Jeremiah 31:7-14 • Psalm 147:12-20 • Ephesians 1:3-14 • John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Sunday, January 10: Genesis 1:1-5 • Psalm 29 • Acts 19:1-7 • Mark 1:4-11

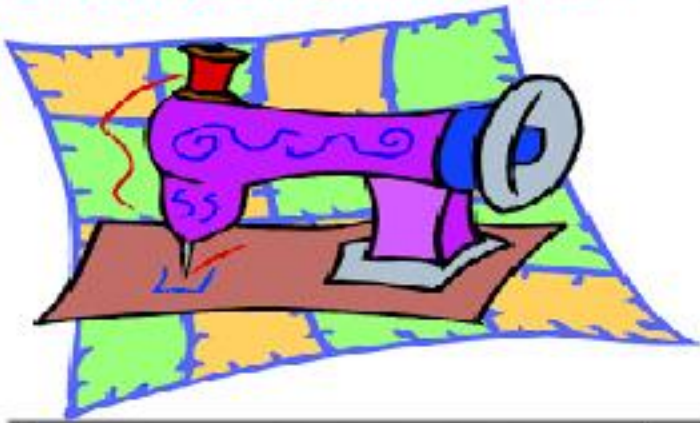
Sunday January 17: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) • Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 • 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 • John 1:43-51

Sunday January 24: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 • Psalm 62:5-12 • 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 • Mark 1:14-20

Sunday January 31: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 • Psalm 111 • 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 • Mark 1:21-28

## Women' Study

The Women's Group is working together on Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 and apart which is anytime they can come up to church or work from home. What are they doing? Making lap quilts for our nursing homes in the area. This has been going on for quite some time as we are on the third time around to the nursing homes. In December they gave 8 lap quilts to Shepherd of the Hills Living Center. The Centers love and appreciate the lap quilts and receive them with open arms. Keep up the good work ladies!!!



©2004 by Beth S. Johnson, Illustrations by Beth Johnson

## Bible Study

Mark Batterson has a 5 session study on "IF". It is a small but a powerful word. We ask ourselves a lot "what if?" What if I had chosen a different direction for my life? What if I decided not to help when I know I should have? What are God's "What ifs" for our live? Mark explores that in 5 sessions which we will combine into 4 sessions - Jan 4 (session 1&2), Jan 11 (session 3) Jan 18 (session 4) and Jan 25 (session 5). They are short sessions so we will have time for discussion and still be done by noon. If you have not been in Monday Bible Study (10:30-noon) now would be a good time to join! For the 'regulars' hope to see you there!

# if

Trading Your *if Only* Regrets  
for God's *What If* Possibilities

## Mark Batterson

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *The Circle Maker*



# Advent - Christmas



The Advent and Christmas Season were not normal this year. Our hanging of the greens was done by people who came in on their own and did a great job. That is why we are leaving it up for a longer period of time - just to enjoy. We didn't have a traditional Christmas Party which is always a fun event and well attended, a fun night of finger foods, gifts to share, and games to play plus plain good fellowship. The worship services were not well attended due to Covid and you could feel that the spirit was not as HOPEFUL, PEACEFUL, JOYFUL OR LOVING as in the past.

Now with that said it could be judged as a real bummer, but lets put that in perspective. We did the preparation for the coming of Jesus. Jesus comes in all kinds of situations - good or not so good - Jesus Comes!!! Praise God for sending Jesus to us not just so we can have joyful celebrations but because we needed a Savior to help us with LIFE! We need Jesus in our lives to help understand, endure, find HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, The other celebrations are great, enjoyable and fun, but what is the center of this season? Jesus.

We have made Jesus the center and will continue to make him the center. When we are able to gather together as a total church we can rejoice and be glad for God was with us all the time. As long as we put Jesus first it will always be a great Advent/Christmas Season!



## The Un-Decoration

## Thrift Store

The Thrift Store will not be open in January or February but is planning to be open in March. We are still taking in donations. If you have any questions please contact Neva Mielke, Debbie Lyon, or the church office.

We have always left the decorations up for us to enjoy as long as we can and this will be no exception - FEBRUARY 14!!! Why Feb 14? Because it is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and, of course, Ash Wednesday starts the Lenten Season. January and February are kind of bland months except for Epiphany (January 6). So lets celebrate Christmas for the first 7 Sundays of 2021. Hopefully, by Feb 14 we can have pizza to go along with un-decorating!!!

## USO and Toys for Tots

This year our mission for Christmas was providing funds for the USO for military personnel who cannot be home for the holidays and beyond. We will be sending a check for \$250.00.

Our Toys for Tots program went really well for the short time we had to collect. Over \$250.00 in toys were collected and sent on their way to make some children (0-18 years old) happy this Christmas. We did a terrific job of making our outreach missions a success!

Thanks to all who gave donations to the USO and for donations and toys for the Toys for Tots program. The person who picked up the toys was impressed that we were able to acquire that amount of toys in such a short period of time.

God works in great ways! Let's give Him the praise!!!



# Welcome, Susan Winston

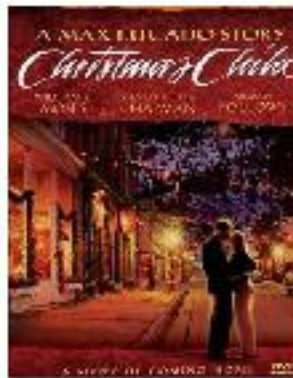
Susan Winston will be our new secretary for Open Doors UMC. She and Dan Winston came to Open Doors UMC from Salina, Kansas where Susan served as Director of Children and Adult Ministries at Salina First UMC. Before that she taught and was in administration at Butler and Cowley Community Colleges. She also works at Silver Dollar City as the School Marm. Together they have 6 children and 11 grandkids which keep them busy. They moved to Branson in 2017 and love living in the Ozarks. Stop by the church office and welcome her!



Thank You!!!

Peg and I want to Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. You are a very loving and caring church and you say it and you show it. We are very grateful to be a part of this congregation and its ministry. I was kind of kidding about your gift paying for my new glasses but it will actually do that with funds left! Thank You Very Much!!!

Open Doors United Methodist Church of Blue Eye  
6238 E. State Highway 86  
Blue Eye, MO 65611  
Phone: 417-779-5677 Cell: 417-527-1993  
Website: [www.blueeyoumc.com](http://www.blueeyoumc.com)



# Movie Night Wed. Jan. 20 6 p.m.

Christmas Child is an American Christian film directed by William Ewing starring Steven Curtis Chapman. The film is based on "The Christmas Cross", a short story by Max Lucado: A Story of Coming Home, and is a story about a Chicago journalist who finds himself in Clearwater, Texas around Christmas time to discover his past.

Debra

Debra's last Sunday was a joyful one. There were 25 (counting her) in church to greet her. She was also able to "zoom" with 3 families as well so it was a good day. She wishes to thank you all for her generous Christmas gift. It will certainly help with the move to Texas. The congregation also wanted her to remember them so, she received a quilt (blues and browns) made by Merry Jo Bell and Becky McNabb. What made it even more special is all the names of Open Doors UMC members are on there as well. It was a labor of love so she would not forget us. She also received a clock with a plaque to remember the time she spent with us. The clock was made by Dave Gilliam. She says - "Thank You So Much"!!!



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

February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						2
3 Praise & Worship 10:30 Communion	4 Church Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries	5	6 Office Hours 10-5	7 Office Hours 10-5	8	9 8:15 Prayer Breakfast
10 Praise & Worship 10:30	11 Church Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries	12	13 Office Hours 10-5	14 Office Hours 10-5	15	16
17 Blue Sunday Praise & Worship 10:30 Church Council	18 Church Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries	19	20 Office Hours 10-5 Movie Night 6:00 Christmas Child	21 Office Hours 10-5	22	23
24 Praise & Worship 10:30	25 Church Hours 10-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries	26	27 Office Hours 10-5	28 Office Hours 10-5	29	30
31 Praise & Worship 10:30						



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Marilyn Samuelson	4	5 Ruth Ann Finck	6	7 Keith Bouchey	8	9 Ryan Wagner
10 Morgan Johnson	11	12	13	14 Shery West	15	16 Heather Mitchell
17 Jim and Susan Perkin	18 Larry and Bonnie Finley	19	20 Jack and Neva Mielke	21	22 Larry Finley	23
24	25 Richard Burrows	26 Gary and Debbie Herrmann	27	28	29	30 Beverly Smith
31 Lily Short						