

THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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DECEMBER, 2015



On Sunday, December 13 our choir will present their Christmas Cantata during both worship services.

Our annual Covered Dish Christmas Dinner (meat will be provided) will be held on December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that you bring a new unwrapped gift for ages 1-12. Men bring a gift for a boy; women bring a gift for a girl. The Children's Christmas program (with youth helpers) will follow the dinner.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: The Christmas card exchange box will be located in the Fellowship Hall on the table near the coffee beginning Sunday, December 6. Please sort your outgoing cards alphabetically when placing them in the box. **EVERYONE** please check the box for cards addressed to you and your family. Any cards not claimed by Sunday, January 3 will be donated to a charitable organization.

The UMM thank everyone for the great support of their chicken dinner. Approximately \$2,100 was raised to help support their scholarship fund and other projects. The November meeting was a huge success and the Real Life Children did a wonderful job with their program. The UMM will once again sponsor the Valentine Dinner on February 13, and will help provide turkeys and hams for the Christmas dinner. Officers for 2016 were elected: Dowling Watford, President; Ed Bobbitt, Vice-President; Ed Thornton, Secretary and Bennett Yeilding, Treasurer. There will be no meeting in December.



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 5:00 p.m. (Contemporary) and 7:00 p.m. (Traditional).

You are invited to go caroling with the choir on Monday, December 21. We will begin gathering at the church around 5:30 p.m. and leave at 5:45 p.m. If you have any questions or if you know of anyone that needs us to sing to them, please call Gail Minor at 467-0560.





A very special gift was received for our Conference Apportionments and we now have paid 57% of our obligation. We have also raised \$915 towards our \$1,000 goal for the “No More Malaria” project. We continue to maintain a positive balance, but would like to have a “cushion” going into the new year. The Finance Committee is very grateful for the special gift and for your continued support of our general budget.

FROM PARISH NURSE
DIANA SAUM, RN: Holiday Stress - The holidays can be a joyful time, offering a chance to reconnect with family and friends. They can also be stressful. The holidays are hectic. There is never enough time to get everything done. Think about what causes your stress. Focus on 1 or 2 stressful areas and what you can do to reduce that stress. Know your spending limits. Set a budget. Gifts don’t have to be expensive. They just need to be meaningful and personal. Bake cookies, make little cards promising them visits, lunch together, help with a task. Get organized. Make lists of what you need to do and when it needs to be done. Learn to say “no.” Be realistic. Try not to put pressure on yourself to make the holiday perfect, instead focus on the traditions that make the holiday special for you. Just because it’s a holiday, family problems don’t go away. It’s okay to set limits on your time, events and visits. Take care of yourself so you can deal with the stress – regular sleep, balanced meals and exercise.



This year’s Children’s Christmas Program (with youth helpers) will be a service of Lessons and Carols and will follow the annual Christmas Dinner which will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. Come prepared to sing your favorite nativity hymns. Thank you for supporting our young church family’s Christmas offering to God.

- 1st - David Straight
- 2nd - Gil Culbreth, Tim Bishop
- 3rd - Judy Mix, Pat Watkins
- 4th - Nicolas Suarez
- 5th - Kim Mucherino
- 6th - Anne Young
- 7th - Sandy Watford, M/M Larry White
- 8th - Joe Gutierrez, Missie Barletto
- 10th - George Cooper, Joyce Taylor
- 11th - Jeff Linville, Heather Wibbels
- 12th - Dana Straight, Preston Hall
- 14th - John Mix, Janet McKinley
- 15th - Darrell Enfinger
- 16th - Carlyn Schaefer
- 17th - Joel Enfinger, Jennifer Gagliano
- 18th - Stacey Handley, Earl Williamson
- 19th - Marcia Crane
- 21st - M/M Bennett Yeilding
- 22nd - Eleanor Milke, Larnell Merchant, Georgia Gerren
- 23rd - Kim Taylor, George Clement
- 26th - M/M Jack Wolff, M/M Joe Ostavitz
- 28th - Rita Rucks, Jeannette Jones, Bert Culbreth, Willard Suits
- 29th - Rodney Rucks, Alysa Bishop, Jim Barnhart
- 30th - Eric Wibbels, Dave Buddenhagen, Kathryn VanBeek, Joe Suarez
- 31st - Jeff Price, Buck Watford, Peggy Lampi



If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or has been omitted, please call the Church Office