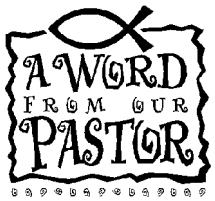


THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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DECEMBER, 2017



Merry Christmas!

December is more than gifts and giving, but Christmas is at the heart of the month. Advent begins this Sunday, a four week preparation so that we will be ready to celebrate the coming of the Savior. Are you ready? I don't mean, have you finished your shopping. Part of the expectation of the coming of Christ is not in the manger, but the return of the King that could happen before you finish reading this sentence. Are you ready? The good news is that you don't have to worry about anything else if you are ready. Join us this month as we get ready for Jesus as we anticipate the Good News!

Our Worship will focus on Good News! Advent Series: Good News!

Sunday, December 3 - Mark 13:24-37

Signs of the Times, Good News

Sunday, December 10 - Mark 1:1-8

The Beginning of the Good News

Sunday, December 17

Christmas Cantata, The Good News in Song

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. Mary's Response to "Good News", Luke 1:46-55

5:00 & 7:00 p.m. Good News Arrives!, Luke 2



COME SEE OUR CHILDREN and Youth retell the story of when Jesus was born. "God's Promise Came True" will be performed in the Sanctuary Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. before the Christmas Dinner. Our children enjoy being the worship "leaders" in this drama and congregational carol sing.

Our Annual Covered Dish Christmas Dinner (meat provided) will be held Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. During this year's dinner we will be honoring Nancy Fletcher for her years of service to our church as she prepares to retire at the end of the year. Everyone is invited to attend.



On Sunday, December 17 our choir will present their Christmas Cantata during both worship services which will be held at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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

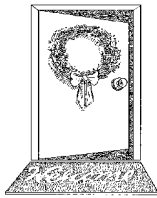




CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND PARTY: You are invited to go caroling with the choir on Monday, December 18. They will

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. If you can't go caroling, but would like to attend the party, please bring a covered dish and join them at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday afternoon December 17 from 2:00-5:00 p.m., Don and Joy Hanna invite you to visit your new parsonage at Eagle Point. Come and see the home that you have provided and join us for some refreshments. The address is: 2445 SW 33rd Circle.



OPEN HOUSE
at the
PARSONAGE



We received a very generous gift of \$15,000 for apportionments. This will insure that we will reach our goal of paying 100% of our Conference Apportionments again this

year. Thank you to this wonderful donor! Commitment Sunday was November 19 and we appreciate those who turned in a Commitment Card. If you did not turn yours in and still wish to, please mail or give it to Robbin in the Church Office. A contract has been placed on the old parsonage (first offer did not finalize) and we hope to sell soon. Please continue your support of our Parsonage Fund as we continue to make payments.



The UMM thank everyone for the great support of the Smoked Chicken Dinner. It was one of our most successful, with about

\$2,450 raised. The November meeting was our annual meeting with spouses/guests and Real Life Children's Ranch as the program. The children performed a wonderful interpretive dance and Mark Myers and several staff members shared their work at the Ranch. Officers for 2018 were elected: Dowling Watford, President; Richard Kersey, Vice-President; Ed Thornton, Secretary and Bennett Yeilding, Treasurer. In other business the men voted to purchase turkeys and hams for the Christmas Dinner and to donate to the Parsonage Fund in memory of Murrah Elmore. The UMM will not meet in December.

"Last Day Out with Miss Nancy" - Come and have a day of FUN at the Fun Spot North in Orlando on December 27th. We will leave early and come back late. Children, parents and "former" children of Miss Nancy are invited. Space is limited. Bring money for your food. For more information, call Nancy at 863-532-1618.



DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sunday, December 3
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 10
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 17 (Christmas Cantata)
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
10:00 a.m. One Service
5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Services
- Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)
10:00 a.m. One Service



- 1st - David Straight
2nd - Gil Culbreth
3rd - Judy Mix, Pat Watkins
4th - Nicolas Suarez
5th - Kim Mucherino
6th - Anne Young
7th - Sandy Watford, M/M Larry White
8th - Coleen Clark
10th - George Cooper
12th - Dana Straight, Preston Hall
14th - Janet McKinley
15th - Darrell Enfinger
17th - Jennifer Gagliano
18th - Earl Williamson
21st - M/M Bennett Yeilding
22nd - Eleanor Milke, Georgia Gerren
23rd - George Clement
26th - M/M Jack Wolff, M/M Joe Ostavitz
28th - Rita Rucks, Willard Suits
29th - Jim Barnhart
30th - Dave Buddenhagen, Kathryn VanBeek,
Joe Suarez
31st - Peggy Lampi

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

FROM PARISH NURSE
DIANA SAUM, RN: Sleep:
Here's what happens in each
sleep stage.



STAGE 1 (NREM)

You drift between being awake and falling asleep.

Brainwaves and muscle activity start to slow.

You may feel like you're falling, followed by sudden muscle jerks.

STAGE 2 (NREM)

You enter a period of light sleep.

Eye movement stops, brainwaves and heart rate slow, and body

temperature decreases.

STAGE 3 (NREM)

You enter deep sleep, and it is harder to be woken up.

Slow brainwaves (called delta waves) are present.

Your body becomes still.

Breathing slows, blood pressure drops and body temperature decreases further.

This is the most restorative stage: Muscles relax, blood supply to your muscles increases, your body grows and repairs tissue, and energy is renewed.

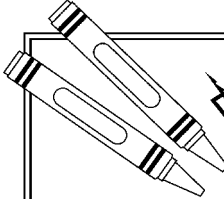
REM

Eyes move quickly back and forth.

Brainwaves are fast, your brain is active and you dream.

Breathing becomes fast and irregular, and heart rate and blood pressure rise.

Your muscles relax.




PUZZLE

JOURNEY TO

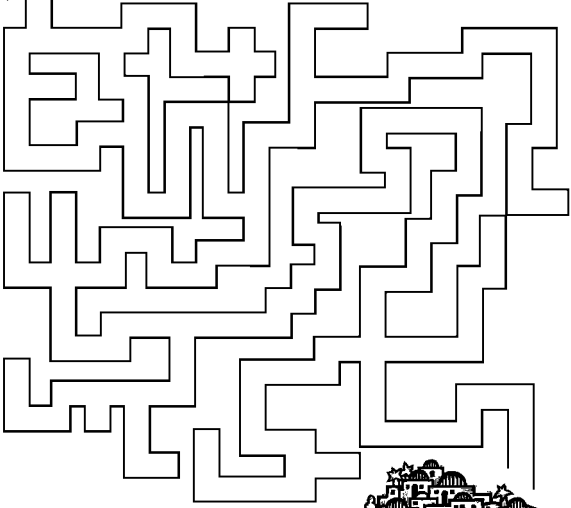
BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



START

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM

