

The MESSENGER

A publication of Steele Memorial United Methodist Church

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Advent Study – *BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM* by Max Lucado



Each year, the Christmas season compels people to ask the Christmas questions. What's the big deal about the baby in the manger? Who was he? What does his birth have to do with me? Of all the responses to these questions, there is one that stands out from the rest: Because of Bethlehem, God knows what it is like to be a human. When we talk to God about our challenges, our struggles, and our tough times, he understands, because he's been there. He's been here.

Because of Bethlehem, we have a friend in heaven. We have a Savior in heaven. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates. The child in the cradle became the king on the cross. Because he did, there are no marks on our

record, just grace. Because of Bethlehem, we have the promise God is always near us. Always for us. Always in us. We may forget him, but he never forgets us.

No day is accidental or incidental. No acts are random or wasted look at the Bethlehem birth. A king levies a tax. Joseph is forced to travel. Mary, as round as a ladybug, bounces on a donkey's back. The hotel is full. The hour is late. The event is one big hassle. Yet out of the hassle, hope was born. Christmas reminds us that "everything works together for the good of those who love God" (Romans 8:28). And long after the Christmas guests have left, the carolers have gone home, and the lights have come down, that promise endures.

The Spiritual Formation Team is offering a four week study to be held the weeks of November 10th and 17th and December 1st and 8th. Books are available for \$10.00. Classes will be held Sundays at 6:30 pm, Wednesdays at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Classroom.



DOING CHURCH EFFECTIVELY: 5 Things Your Visitors Are Thinking But Won't Ask

The West Virginia United Methodist Conference is excited to announce two training opportunities for our United Methodist churches with author and nationally known worship design coach and consultant Jason Moore! Jason brings many years of experience working with churches of all types and sizes. He has a real heart for equipping churches to reach people who are not already connected to a church home. The seminars he will be doing for us are called 5 Things Your Visitors Are Thinking But Won't Ask.

The workshop closest to us will be held on Monday, December 9, at Pea Ridge UMC from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. It's been said that every church wants to grow. If that statement is true, are we really poised for it in the way we treat and attend to our new visitors?

While you might not think it, guest readiness is one of the most important issues facing the church today. Without really meaning to, the majority of churches are blind to the things that visitors consider when deciding whether or not to return for future visits.

Attending either of these "guest readiness" seminars, you and your team will learn:

- Top Website Priorities
- Best Practices for Signage
- How to Develop a Child Check-in
- Visitor Welcome Do's and Don'ts
- Top 10 Things that Prevent Visitors from Returning
- How to Avoid Unspoken Rituals
- The 4 Things That Should Happen Every Sunday
- How to Conduct a Guest Readiness Training in Your Church
- And Much More!

We want to take a team for an experience filled with fun and practical learning. Contact Pastor Kevin or Jack Perkins if you're interested in attending, and be ready to engage in hands-on role-playing exercises and work to improve visitor conversations.

e-mail settings

Please Check Email Settings

We have identified a problem with our church eBlast. Due to a technical glitch not everyone is receiving church email. So, please check your junk or spam files to see if church emails from Steele Memorial United Methodist Church, (church@steelememorial.com) have landed in this file. The remedy for this is to highlight the email from the church and either send it back to your inbox or click on the box that says "not spam".

If you need any further assistance, contact Lisa at the church office, 304-736-4583.



They served our country

Jim Boggess
 Bryan Collins
 Ron Foss
 Paul Turman
 Buddy Beckett
 Bobby Bannister
 Jack Crandall
 Todd Lester
 Marvin Staton
 Carl Chapman
 Jon Hoover
 Robbie Baker
 Robert Ratcliff
 Tony Ryder
 Fred Huff
 Chris Olers
 Dick Desmond
 Kerry Robinson

Ed Chapman
 Gary Cox
 Denver Stevens
 Jim Reiter
 John Call
 Mike McClung
 Jack Black
 Eric Fetty
 Frank Hayes
 David Hedrick
 Ben Maynard
 James D. McNeil
 Greg Gesner
 George Lipsey
 Richard Jimison
 Tennessee Justice
 Brian Berry
 Kevin Ballengee



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will be making fleece blankets for St. Mary's Infusion Center in November. (The infusion center is for patients receiving chemotherapy; and is a way we can help to make their time in the infusion center more comfortable.) Join us by bringing 1 1/2 yds. of fleece material (and a sharp pair of scissors) to LYDIA CIRCLE on November 14 at noon; or to the ESTHER/RUTH CIRCLE on Thursday, November 21, 6:30 in OFH. Romans 12:13 *"Share with the Lord's people who are in need..."*



REACHING NEW PEOPLE

-The Engage Team

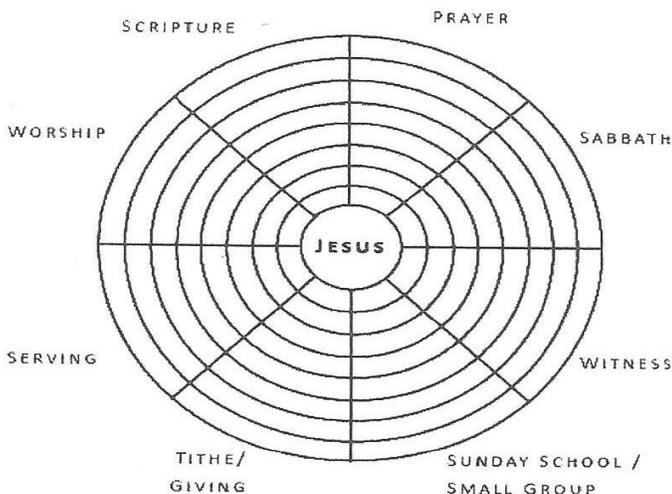
On October 20, 2019 we were blessed to have Ken Willard, Conference Director of Discipleship, Leadership, and Congregational Vitality with us for our Sunday morning worship and a joint meeting with the Adult Sunday School Classes. He came at our invitation to help us learn what we can do to reach out to those in our community who are unchurched.

Ken reminded us that the role and the mission of the Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. As we think about this mission, where is God calling us as we seek to engage and connect with others, using the gifts God has given us as individuals and as a congregation?

The Church has changed over the last 20-30 years. To reach new people we may need to do new, different things to engage the community. We want to go places we don't normally go – to go where our community is, not waiting for others to come to us. Prayer will be a powerful tool as we seek to serve the Lord, reaching out to those who have not heard the gospel message. We need to pray for those we are trying to reach. It's so important to build new friendships with those around us who are separated from Jesus Christ.

Ken called us to an intentional, radical hospitality practiced by all the members of the church, not just the greeters, ushers, pew shepherds and hospitality team. People are not looking just for a friendly church. They are looking for a church where they can make friends. We want to help others feel that they have a place here with us. In Ken's sermon "You Can Do It, We Can Help," he encouraged each of us to grow in our own spiritual formation so that we are better able to reach others. As we strive to grow more Christ-like he asked us to:

1. Clarify our Priorities – Philippians 3:7 - 8
2. Craft a Plan – Proverbs 24:27
3. Consult Some Partners – Proverbs 27:17
4. Commence Practice



Our bulletin insert included a target with Jesus in the center divided into eight areas of the spiritual life: [See Figure 1] We were invited to locate ourselves within one of the circles that would represent our current position as we think about each of the eight areas in our journey to Christ-likeness. And then choose which one on which we would focus as we take one step toward Christ. What would that "one step" look like for you?

As each individual takes a step toward spiritual growth, our church takes a step. We want to pledge to start our step – and help others as they take the step they feel they need to take so that we can be faithful to go into the world and make disciples for Jesus Christ!

– Jack Perkins



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Our Greater Barboursville Community Thanksgiving Worship will be **Sunday, November 24, at Steele Memorial United Methodist Church, 7 p.m.** with Father Mark Elliott from the Huntington Greek Orthodox Church will serve as our preacher. Let's share gratitude together with our community!

TURKEY TROT

How about a little jog in the morning before the big Thanksgiving feast?

The Churches of the Barboursville area are sponsoring the "Racing Hunger 5K Turkey Trot" beginning at 9 a.m. at the Barboursville Park near the big lake. The route takes runners or joggers out the Soccer Road and back to the lake. Race day registration is \$25, but you can pre-register for \$20 at tristateracer.com and search the calendar for races on November 28. If you sign up as a family with 5 or more, the cost is \$15 each (with on-line registration only). There are age groupings and some awards to be given!

The proceeds from this Turkey Trot will provide meals and supplemental food assistance to local families. We are proud that we will be giving to those in need this Thanksgiving morning!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

So what do all these funny symbols on the Church Christmas tree stand for? Bring your children and join us on Sunday evening, December 1, as your young ones help decorate "the big tree in Church!" The evening begins with a fellowship meal at 5 p.m. and we move to the sanctuary at 6 p.m. as we decorate and learn more about the special symbols and sing the carols that surround us at Christmas time!

ORDER POINSETTIAS

Members and friends of the Church can order Christmas Poinsettias that will be used to decorate the Church for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas. These poinsettias can be used to honor those who are living or to remember those who have entered into the resurrection life. An order form is included on page 8 and a worship insert will be included on Sundays in December or you may contact the church office at 304-736-4583 to place your order.

NUT & CANDY ORDERS



Our nut and candy orders will be available on Sunday, November 10. There are always extra bags ordered for those who may want to shop and pick up extra bags or to fill your own fancy!



SAMARITAN'S PURSE is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization founded by Franklin Graham to provide spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing love and changing lives IN JESUS NAME. OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is a part of that ministry; and is the world's largest Christmas project, bringing joy and hope to needy children around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoeboxes will be available in the narthex and in the Fellowship Classroom, beginning Sunday, November 2. Make this a family project, or a class project; and fill the shoeboxes with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies; and return those to church on Collection Sunday, November 17. Thank you for being the "hands" through which God uses you to help others!



- 3RD
Terry Triplett, Jr.
- 4TH
Stephanie Fetty
- 5TH
Maridel Witten
- 7TH
Brian Berry
Ashley Rottgen
- 8TH
Larry Dickens
- 10TH
Carl Chapman
Ron Nisbet
Robert Ratcliff
- 16TH
Kim Workman
- 17TH
Julie Merritt
- Cindy Ballengee
Vickie Delp
Joan Gross
- 26TH
Teresa Blake
Tracy Blower
Frank Hayes
- 27TH
Jack Black
Terry Shy
- 28TH
Elizabeth Allman
- 30TH
Chip Merritt
Crystal Merritt
Tony Ryder

Youth News

November is going to be a busy but exciting month for our youth! We are going to tackle how to study God's word using the S.O.A.P. Method. SCRIPTURE Writing (Soak in each word!), OBSERVATION (What jumps out at you?), APPLICATION (Personalize your study!), PRAYER (Talk to God!) We will have our Thanksgiving feast on Wednesday, November 20th and fix a special treat to deliver to our shut-ins. Also, watch for dates and times to be announced for Open Gym Day and Bowling! Our November verse is Psalm 9:1 "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with

all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." What do turkeys like to eat on Thanksgiving? Nothing, they're already STUFFED!

~Miss Becky





FROM THE MISSIONS TEAM

ECCHO

Special thanks to everyone who donated to our “ECCHO Food Box” during the past few months. We were able to deliver 52 boxes of cereal, 64 cans of vegetables, and 21 breakfast bars thanks to your commitment of “1 item once a week”. A big thank you also goes out to the Singles class for their donation of 300 lbs of potatoes, and to UMW and Pennington Class for their continued monetary support of ECCHO.

LILLY’S PLACE

Thanks to everybody who helped with our drive to collect supplies for the little ones at Lilly’s Place: we collected over 100 diapers along with baby bottles and formula.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

It was wonderful having Rev Wells and the United Methodist Marshall students here to speak to the congregation. This is just one of the local organizations our Steele UMW are able to provide monetary support for during the year. Over the last several months, the UMW has also given support as well to Ebenezer Outreach, UMCOR, and our own Celebrate Recovery.

SINGLES & MORE CLASS

The Singles class was also a big help to Celebrate Recovery in September with their donation of 42 items of clothing and 18 most needed bed pillows.

BUSY BEES

The Bees are back and they have been a “busy as bees collecting” over a 100+ packages of assorted snacks/food items for the NICU at Cabell Huntington Hospital, along with flip flops for parents using the shower facilities at the unit. What a wonderful, thoughtful gesture!

ALL-STARS 4-JESUS

All-Stars are collecting pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House.

CLOTHING CLOSET

As cooler temperatures come, so does the need for winter coats, hats and gloves. There will be a rack in the old fellowship hall on which to hang your donations!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Thanks to all who continue to help in providing warm meals every Tuesday evening to our friends in recovery. Thanks to the van drivers, cooks, dishwashers, childcare providers, keepers of the closet, teachers, singers and group leaders. YOU are making a difference!



CHILDREN’S CHURCH

- 3RD Patty Mast
- 10th Susan McClung
- 17th Stephanie Fetty
- 24th Becky & Sarah Damron

PARKING ATTENDANTS

- Terry Wooten/Larry Dickens
- Kelly McGuffin/Pat Cornwell
- Donnie Barbour/Mike McClung
- Tony Ryder/Larry Dickens

All Stars 4-Jesus



What are YOU Thankful For?



ELLIOT

Family

TINLEY

Family

MEGAN

Job

KENNEDY

Jesus

ADDYSON

School

CAYDANCE

Family

HADLEE

World

BRYAN

God's Grace and Mercy

RHETT

Being Alive

NATHAN

Family

JAEDON

Family and Friends

TYLER

Family, God and Friends

7TH

Russ & Zenaida Prichard

12TH

Jerry & Phyllis Johnson

Paul & Lorri Turman

18TH

Pat & Brenda Cornwell

Eddie & Vicki Smith

19TH

Ron & Becky Nisbet

22ND

Bob & Betty Miller

23RD

Ed & Brenda Chapman

Richard & Louetta Jimison

30TH

Frank & Judy Hayes

Happy Anniversary



News From the Hive



The bees are very thankful this month for our Steele Memorial family. We are very excited to begin our holiday season. This month's Bible story is Daniel and the Lion's Den, our Bible verse is "1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good" and our mission project is to collect change to purchase gifts for children on the SMUMC Angel Tree. We will celebrate Thanksgiving together by eating a special Thanksgiving snack. And we will welcome a new wee bee to our family this month, when our very own Ms. Allison delivers baby #3! Happy Thanksgiving, friends!

—Mary Howerton



Poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary for the Advent Season. You may place a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one or special event. To place an order, fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate with \$7.00 for each flower ordered. Make sure you mark your envelope "Poinsettias".

Orders must be turned in by November 24, 2019.

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Given By:

No. Of Poinsettias _____

Do you have a preference for the Sunday you will take your poinsettia?

Yes _____ No _____

Dec. 8th _____ Dec. 15th _____ Dec. 22nd _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2019</h1> <h2>WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</h2>						
				SUNDAY 8:45 AM Worship 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship		WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM Youth Program 6:30 PM Young Adult Small Group
					1	2 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 – 3:00 PM Western District Leadership Training
3 1:30PM – 5:30 PM Western District Leadership Training	4 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout 7:00 PM Charge Conference	5 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	6 5:30PM All- Stars/Youth 6:30 PM Pastor's Study	7	8	9 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
10 6:30 Advent Study Noon- Missions Team Mtg.	11 Veteran's Day OFFICE CLOSED 11:30AM Girls of Faith 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout	12 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	13 1:00 Advent Study 5:30PM All- Stars/Youth 6:30 PM Pastor's Study & Advent Study	14 12:00 PM Lydia Circle	15	16 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
17 2:00 Engage Team Pea Ridge UMC 6:30 Advent Study	18 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout	19 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	20 1:00 Advent Study 5:30PM All- Stars/Youth 6:30 PM Pastor's Study & Advent Study	21 5:00 District Lead Team Mtg. 6:30 PM Esther/Ruth Circle	22	23 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 Refit Singles & More Thanksgiving Dinner
24 Last Day Poinsettia Orders 7PM Community Thanksgiving Worship	25 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout	26 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	27 5:30PM All- Stars/Youth	28 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study



**Steele Memorial
United Methodist Church**
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www.steelememorial.com

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November



**My God will supply every
need of yours according to his
riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:19, ESV

