



The Messenger

Vol. 23

Our mission: Connect people in a growing, engaged, active relationship with Jesus Christ

December 10, 2014

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Shawnee United Methodist Church, www.ShawneeUMC.org
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Hello Friends,

Each week we draw a little closer to the end of things and the beginning of something new. At this time of year, there is no doubt that Christmas is upon us. All of the lights and songs of the season are upon us, and yet Christmas will have its end and we will begin a new season of waiting, not as anxiously as now, but a time when we will wait for a new Christmas to enter our lives and remind us once again of the Christ child. Shortly thereafter we will experience the end of the year. We will lay to rest all of the things we wished we could have accomplished, realizing that another year has passed where something we've wanted to do didn't get done. With the ending of the old year, we will put to bed all of the promises (broken and realized) that we made the previous year. But, also with the ending of this year we will experience the beginning of a new year — a resurrection of sorts. It will be a time when we will set new goals, or perhaps revisit some old dreams that we still nurture in our hearts. Needless to say it's difficult to end some things, but it is a part of life. We are built to grow and to release things that have their life cycle.

There are many Scriptures that remind us of this cycle of life. One is found in the Hebrew Scriptures of Ecclesiastes — words of wisdom for any age and century. They remind us:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)

These aren't idle words. These are words of wisdom from our God. They explain the temporary nature of life and things. Another Scripture is found in the words of Paul from the New Testament. Paul says it in this way as he leaves his Jewish heritage behind to embrace faith in Christ as his savior:

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. (1 Corinthians 13:11)

Paul is clear that he saw his old relationship with God as a childish relationship that he had to let go of in order to become a mature man of God.

Can you imagine letting go of something you'd believed in your entire life in order to accept the truth of God. That had to be one of the most difficult steps in Paul's life. And yet, these words of God spoken by wise kings and apostles, remind us that in our lives there are things that we all have to let go of in order to mature. It's just the cycle of life.

As we prepare for the closing of another Christmas season and another year, perhaps now is the time to reflect on our lives just to see if there might be things that we need to let go of. There are a couple of things that we might consider letting go of — old anger about something that's no longer important; old resentments that we can no longer do anything about; old feelings of disappointment that prevent us from basking in the joy of God's blessings on our lives today.

There may be many other things that it may be time to let go of in order to embrace a stronger relationship with God. We get to decide. But allow me to leave you with two Scriptures as we all move forward in our faith and growth — something we can remember each day.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Also, *And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See. I am making all things new."*

(Revelation 21:5)

May God bless you in all of your efforts to let go of old things to embrace the new.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Ron

COME & WORSHIP

8:00 & 11:00 Traditional

9:30 Praise Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

One Service—10:50 a.m.

December 21, 2014

Luke 1:26-38

"Waiting in Certain Hope"

December 28, 2014

Galatians 4:4-7

"The Best Gift Ever"

January 4, 2014

Ephesians 1:3-14

"That Left a Mark"

Sunday School

All Ages – 9:30 a.m.

Youth – 11:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Ronald King

Pastor

Connie Perry

Office Administrator

Julie Bahnsen

Administrative Assistant

Nancy Carson

Director of Student

Ministries

Phyllis Capps

Coordinator of Children's

Ministry

Scott Fears

Chancel Choir Director

Tammy Page

Child Care Coordinator

Harry Moyer

Building Supervisor

Dominick Italiano

Custodial Assistant

Pastor Ron contact info:

Work, 913-631-2280

Cell, 913-620-4535

Home, 913-422-7432

Email: PastorRon@shawneumc.org



Notes from Children's Ministry



The Christmas Pageant "Unfrozen" will be a part of the one worship service on December 21st at 10:50 a.m. The children will be having the Jesus Birthday Party at 9:00 a.m. that morning before the worship service. The Kindergarten through 6th graders will be rehearsing the pageant on December 13th and 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in the sanctuary. Don't miss this wonderful morning of celebration!

Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who brought nativity sets for our beautiful display on December 7.

Community Dinner Update

The last Community Dinner was a big success. It was a delicious Thanksgiving affair with everything one would wish for. Thank you to United Methodist Women for the turkeys, mashed potatoes and gravy and all of you who brought your specialties. It was a good time with our friends from the community.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Volunteers are available to help in a number of ways when short-term difficulties occur. This time of year snow blowing and shoveling may be needed. Then there may be car trouble and a ride or rides may be needed. Transportation is an ongoing request throughout the year. HHM also provides small home repair assistance. These three areas of care and support are only a few helping services available.

If you have a need for a volunteer or questions, call Dee Nelson at (913)322-1669 or Margie Voiles at (913)631-6836 or the church office, (913)631-2280.

KEYSTONE CLASS MISSION PROJECTS

The proceeds from our 2014 nut sales were split evenly between John County Christmas Bureau and SUMC Youth Mission services, both receiving \$205.00. Thanks to all of you for supporting this project.

SUMC FOUNDATION

As we enter into the Advent Season, we are reminded of the coming of Christ. It is a wonderful time for reflection and sharing. With all of the secular promotion of Christmas, we get caught up in the emotional urges to get out there and take advantage of all the "good deals". What a hurried time for getting our gifts and cards finished before Christmas. It truly is a busy time. In this time of Advent our Church's Foundation Committee is asking you to put SUMC on your Christmas gift list. What a great opportunity to give a gift that won't wear out or be outdated. No gift is too small or too large to help establish the Foundation's principle to help our Church grow into the future. As you reflect during the Advent Season, please keep the Foundation in your thoughts and prayers.

From the library...a quiet ministry

Some books for your Christmas reading: SECRET SANTA by Donna McGuire is the story of KC's own Secret Santa, the late Larry Stewart, who randomly and anonymously gave cash to folks in need. THE NATIVITY was adapted by Angela Hunt from the recent screenplay. We have several "coffee table" sized books of Jesus' life, beautifully illustrated. CHRISTMAS IN PLAINS, by Jimmy Carter, tells of some of his Christmas memories. New to our collection is the novel THE CHRISTMAS CAT, by Melody Carlson. You will find these and many other Christmas related books on the library cart, in displays, and on the "Christmas shelf" in the library. There is also a wonderful collection of children's Christmas books, from THE GRUMPY SHEPHERDS, to THE CRIPPLED LAMB, THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY!, and many more!

HEIFER CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT - The Gift That Keeps Giving

We will be selling Heifer Project animals again this year in the Narthex now through December 21. For those people who don't know how Heifer Project works, animals are given to people in third world countries, but the neat part of the program is that they are required to pass an offspring on to someone else the next year, so the gift continues to give. Heifer Project also teaches people in third world countries better farming techniques, etc. You can give an animal in a relative or friend's name. We have cards that you can give or send to the friend or relative.

"JESUS' BIRTHDAY PARTY"

Please invite families with small children to join us Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 a.m. for seasonal crafts, a living nativity, gift unwrapping and cookie decorating! A light breakfast will be served for all as well in Fellowship Hall. Let's celebrate the reason for a season! This event is aimed at children preschool through 6th grade, but open to ALL! Please invite friends to join us this day!

We're collecting gift-wrapped baby items for this event to be opened by the children & donated to Della Lamb charities- see the manger in the Narthex.

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR HOSPITALIZED TEENS:

Our youth are collecting comfort items for other teens who find themselves in the hospital over the holidays. Ideas: fun socks, throw blankets, small games like cards & electronics, puzzle books, fun pens & pencils, itunes and other "online" gift cards, DVD's, nail polish sets, craft kits... Please place in the tub under the Youth bulletin board outside the chapel- thank you!

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY: DEC. 21

Spread the word to college-age students - we're having a reunion gathering to celebrate Christmas, Sunday, December 21st, 6:00-8:00 p.m.! Bring hors d'oeuvres to share as well as a wrapped gift to exchange. Gather in Fellowship Hall. "Welcome Home" Young Adults! Questions? Contact Nancy Carson.

CHURCH CALENDAR

December 21, 2014 – January 4, 2015

4th Sunday of Advent, December 21

7:45 a.m. Prayer Time, Conference Room
9:00 a.m. Jesus' Birthday Party, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. One Worship Service (*A musical celebration of Advent and Christmas with the Chancel Choir and Intergenerational Christmas Pageant "Unfrozen", Sanctuary*)

3:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ron, Room 304
6:00 p.m. Young Adult Christmas Party, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 22

6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Pack 3352 Den 2, Room 307
7:15 p.m. Holy Spirit Conversations, Room 308
7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 93, Fellowship Hall, Gym

Tuesday, December 23

10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Rooms 304, 306
7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3352 Bears, Room 300

7:30 p.m. Open Coed Basketball, Gym

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5:00, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 25, Christmas

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 27

3:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall, Gym & Kitchen in use

Sunday, December 28

IHN Week Begins

7:45 a.m. Prayer Time, Conference Room
8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Praise Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Youth to Pegah's for Brunch
12:30 p.m. Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ron, Room 304

Monday, December 29

IHN, Annex

7:15 p.m. Holy Spirit Conversations, Room 308
7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 93, Fellowship Hall & Gym

Tuesday, December 30

IHN, Annex

10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study, Room 304

7:30 p.m. Open Coed Basketball, Gym

Wednesday, December 31, New Year's Eve

IHN, Annex

Thursday, January 1

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, January 2

IHN, Annex

Saturday, December 3

IHN, Annex

8:00 a.m. Trustees' Meeting, Room 305
9:00 a.m. Cross-Lines Food Prep, Kitchen
10:00 a.m. Room 307 in use

Sunday, January 4

7:45 a.m. Prayer Time, Conference Room
8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Praise Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Youth Brunch Bunch, Gym
11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School Hour
1:00 p.m. God & Me (Grades 2-3), Room 301
3:00 p.m. God & Family (Grades 4-5), Room 300
3:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ron, Room 304

Attendance

November 30, 2014	December 7, 2014
8:00 a.m. 62	8:00 a.m. 69
9:30 a.m. 60	9:30 a.m. 76
<u>11:00 a.m. 82</u>	<u>11:00 a.m. 94</u>
Total 204	239
<i>Sunday School – 109</i>	<i>Sunday School - 126</i>

Baby Crib Needed

Do you have a 2004 or newer baby crib you no longer need? Please consider donating to the church nursery. Contact Tammy, 913-406-8073, to set up pickup/delivery. Thank you in advance for the generous gift.

CROSS - LINES

We are now collecting cold and hot cereals, canned goods, boxed dinners (Hamburger - Tuna Helpers), 13 gallon kitchen trash liners this month for the EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY. There is a collection box in the hallway by the Chapel.

Telling Our Stories

Each of us has a distinct story to tell - and wouldn't it be wonderful if your life story was preserved for family and friends? Be looking for news about a video heritage program, sponsored by the Library Committee. Filming will begin after the first of the year. We hope to host a workshop centered on writing our stories next year. Please consider sharing your personal and family history. Be thinking about what you would like others to hear in your own words.

Coats & Jackets Needed

Time to think about the winter season. Yes, coat/jackets continue to be needed in all sizes for men, women and children. The wardrobe continues to be available outside the main entrance to the Chapel. The coats need to be clean and in good condition. They will be made available to Johnson County Christmas Bureau, Cross-Lines and Shawnee Community Services for persons in need. Just hang the coats in the wardrobe and each will be delivered to one of the three organizations. If you have questions, please call Dee Nelson at 913-322-1669.

Messenger Change:

Due to the short work week of Christmas, there will be no newsletter.

REMINDER: All meetings held in the church need to be on the church calendar in a timely manner in order for the heat to be turned on for your particular area.

4th Sunday in Advent, December 21

9:00 a.m. "Jesus' Birthday Party"

Fellowship Hall

Breakfast, crafts, Living Nativity with gift unwrapping, cookie decorating. We will be collecting wrapped baby items for this event, to be opened by the children during the party then donated to Della Lamb charities- place wrapped gifts in the manger in the Narthex.

10:50 a.m. One Worship Service

"Waiting in Certain Hope"

A musical celebration of Advent and Christmas with the Chancel Choir and Intergenerational Christmas Pageant "Unfrozen", Sanctuary.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School – all ages

3:00 p.m. Bible Study

December 24

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON

Christmas Eve

"A Good Season to Sing"

Candlelight Communion Services

5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Family service with Christmas music in blended styles

8:00 p.m. Traditional music styles with brass and Chancel Choir

11:00 p.m. Traditional music styles with instrumental and vocal selections

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE AT 5:00 & 8:00

December 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

P.R.A.Y. Religious Emblem Classes 2015

All young people in grades two through five and their parents are invited to join us in January to begin the God and Me and God and Family program at Shawnee United Methodist Church.

We will be meeting for six weeks in January and February. This program is officially recognized by the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire USA, Girl Scouts of the USA and Heritage Girls as the religious awards program for youth in protestant churches. Youth in those organizations are particularly encouraged to attend with their parents or guardian. In addition to participating in the meetings and completing family projects, youth are required to share what they have learned with the pastor before they are eligible for the award.

Please call Harry Moyer at 913-749-3273, or email at time4tunes@hotmail.com by December 23rd to register for the program or if you have any questions.

Weekly Prayer List

Please pray for our members:

- Kathy Madison
- Dennis Brown & Family
- Judy Petersen
- Wilma McReynolds
- Bob Waller
- Gus Gosche
- Don Kennett
- Nancy Bosché & Family
- Joan Kern
- Darrel LaRue
- Hammons Family
- Kay Reid & Family
- Pete Cuppage
- Jess Clark

Please pray for our friends:

- Gloria Benson
- Nancy Morando
- Christie Goebel
- Rich & Barb Sussenbach
- Francis Schumacher
- Norma Moore
- Dennis Newsome
- Helen Holtan
- Linda & Mickey Houser
- Family of Jean Applegate
- Lois Hammons
- Don Waddell
- Mike Daniel
- Dana, Michelle & Joanna Gouge & Family

Please pray for our homebound members:

- Lois McAlister
- Bob & Harriet Guthrie
- Beth Crane
- Lois Higbee
- Ruth Lund
- Lorene Cobb
- Virginia Hubbard
- Prue Basel
- Jess Clark
- Earl Love
- Gifford Spaugh
- Berneta Neese
- Jack Richter
- Doris Cathey

Please pray for our church, that God would:

- Enable us to be successful in achieving God's mission for our church to connect people in a growing, engaged, active relationship with Jesus Christ,
- Send laborers for the harvest (evangelism) *See Luke 10:2*
- Make clear God's vision for our church,
- Enable Shawnee United Methodist Church to become a House of Prayer (*See Isaiah 56:1-8*), and reveal any other prayer needs in the life of our church.



Nancy Carson, Director of Student Ministries
Contact us on Facebook: Nancy SUMC
Facebook group: "Shawnee United Methodist Youth"
E-mail: shawneeyouth@yahoo.com

WED. DEC. 17- UMYF (Youth Group) 6:00-8:00, Gym

SUN. DEC. 21- Jesus' B-day Party prep 8:00- Dress festive, bring decorator icing- Breakfast, crafts, cookie decorating, Living Nativity & gift unwrapping w/ the children at 9:00. One worship 10:50 (No youth SS), YOUNG ADULT (college-age) PARTY 6:00-8:00 Fellowship Hall- bring hors d'oeuvres to share & a gift to exchange!

WED. DEC. 24- Christmas Eve Worship 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 (No UMYF)

SUN. DEC. 28- Praise Worship 9:30, Outing to Pegah's (walk) for "brunch bunch" & SS 10:30-12- bring own \$

WED. DEC. 31- New Year's Eve (No UMYF)

FRI. JAN. 2- "The One Event" departs for Grand Island, NE 1:00

SAT. JAN. 3- "The One Event"

SUN. JAN. 4- "The One Event" returns 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Gifts for hospitalized teens! Place unwrapped items in the bin under the Youth Bulletin board outside the chapel.

It's not too late to join "The One Event" Jan. 2-4!

Register NOW for summer 2015 "Youth 2015" trip to Orlando! Extra forms on bulletin board!