

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>ONLINE SERVICES AT MemorialSunday.org</p> <p>TITHES & OFFERINGS AT givememorial.org</p>			<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am - Bible Study 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:00 pm - Newcomers Dinner 7 pm - PrayZ Band</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10 am - Christmas Luncheon—UMW 1 pm - Blood Drive 1 pm - Yarn 6:30 pm - NAMI 7:15 pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE</p>	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>8:45 am - Traditional Service 10:00 am - Sunday Schools 11 am - Casual Service Noon - Finders Seekers Luncheon</p> <p><i>Second Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 pm - Leadership & Development</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:30 pm - Pancake Supper 6:30 pm - Advent Study</p> <p><i>Pancake Dinner</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am - Bible Study 6:00 pm - Bell Choir Kids Hope Christmas Party @ Sugar Grove</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 am - Margaret Circle 11 am - Line Dancing 5:00 pm - Yarn 5:15 pm - Young Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm - Euchre 6:00 pm - Scouts 7:15 pm - Chancel Choir</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>8 am - UM Men's Breakfast 4 pm - Crafts/Cookies 5 pm - Concert</p> <p><i>Crafts for Christmas Christmas CONCERT</i></p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:45 am - Traditional Service 10:00 am - Sunday Schools 11 am - Casual Service 2:00 pm - Newcomers</p> <p><i>Third Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30 pm - Outreach & Marketing</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10 am - Sewing Stitches 5:45 pm - Missions 6:30 pm - Advent Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am - Bible Study 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 7 pm - PrayZ Band</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11 am - Line Dancing 1 pm - Yarn 7:15 pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>POPLAR LEAVES INFO DUE</p> <p><i>Senior Lunch Bunch</i></p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>Mason/Sell party Fellowship Hall 2 - 4 pm</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:45 am - Traditional Service 10:00 am - Sunday Schools 11 am - Casual Service 12:15 pm - Lunch with Pastor</p> <p><i>FOURTH SUNDAY of Advent</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 pm - Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 pm - Advent Study 6:30 pm - Blue Christmas Service</p> <p><i>Blue Christmas</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am - Bible Study 5:30 pm - Caroling 6:00 pm - Bell Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00 pm - Yarn 7:15 pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>FOLD POPLAR LEAVES</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:30 pm - Worship Service 7 pm - Worship Service</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve Service</i></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas!</i></p> <p><i>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord</i></p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 am - Worship Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6 pm - Finance</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am - Bible Study 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 7 pm - PrayZ Band</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Noon - Yarn 7:15 pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 pm - New Years Eve Party</p> <p><i>Bring on the NEW YEAR!</i></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	

What will you and I give for Christmas this year? Let us in our lives give to our Lord and Savior the gift of gratitude by living His teachings and following in His footsteps.

Thomas S. Monson



Memorial United Methodist Church

Poplar Leaves



December 2021

MEMORIAL STAFF

Ron Branson Senior Pastor
Tim Voll Associate Pastor
Kevin Sell Admin. Assistant
Linda Lutz Treasurer
Pat Friday Financial Secretary
Christy Cresgy Education Director
Logan Williams Music Director
Joe Cresgy Media Director
Lydia Bridgewater Family Activities Director
Christy Cresgy & Missy Wilcox Preschool Co-Directors
Paula Metheny & Lydia Bridgewater Kids Hope USA, Co-Directors
Alexis Klug (temporary) Custodian

Ministers:
All the People of Memorial

Sunday Worship Times:
8:45 / 11:00 AM

Sunday School:
10:00 AM

2701 Poplar Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803
(812) 234-0776

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

"Do all the good you can in all the ways you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can as long as you ever can."

John Wesley

Reflections on Our Journey:

The holidays are always a busy time. We find ourselves rushing from one season to the next and when it's all over, we may feel like we've missed the mark. Last month, I mentioned the importance of finding Joy in our lives, so this month I'd like to suggest a way to do that.

Live by faith. In this season we remember the birth of baby Jesus, and marvel at the stories of the angels and stars; but I wonder, do we really think about what we are hearing? In a world where everything seems to revolve around what is true and what is false, the birth story of Jesus asks us to take a leap of faith and trust that angels visited Mary, and that her baby was conceived by the Spirit. We are to believe a choir of angels announced the birth on a dark night to shepherds, and a star guided seekers to the child. And truthfully, any one of these stories would be difficult for us to accept today if we heard they happened to neighbor or a friend.

In a modern era, people often try to explain the unexplainable through science or even through misperception. But this won't suffice. Even in ancient times, events like these were beyond normal experience; **they were miraculous.** For me, believing or trusting that something amazing happened long ago because the God who created heaven and earth wanted to make God's self known to us is an act of faith. There is something inside of me that simply knows there is more to this reality than meets the eye. There is something about life and its connectedness, one person to another, that affirms for my spirit that life is not an accident. Even as I reflect on these stories with my understanding of our faith traditions, my personal experience and reason I am led to simply believe God is real . . . and so I have faith.

Share Jesus. Knowing a thing in my heart and soul is one thing, but to truly find the kind of joy in our life that I reflected on last month requires us to share our faith, share the story of Jesus. At first, we may feel like this means being asked to stand on the street corner with a bullhorn, but nothing could be further from the truth. All we need to share our faith is focus on learning all we can about the ways Jesus taught in the stories of the Gospels. With these stories firmly written on our hearts, we can then begin practicing living the way Jesus did - by loving God and our neighbors as ourselves as a living witness to Jesus' work in our lives.

Grow Together. We have not been made to thrive alone. We need one another. In ages past people came together through gatherings based on shared or similar experiences. Often these gatherings revolved around the communities where people lived: city, state, or beliefs. People with like interests seem to naturally come together and support one another. While these regional gatherings begin as events that are exclusive, or for only those who look and act like us, Jesus calls us to something bigger. **Jesus calls us to love everyone** because all are our brothers or sisters, regardless of race, gender, orientation and even group affiliation.

It may sound like a tall order in today's world to have "no divisions among you" (1 Cor, 1:10) and yet, the story of the birth of Jesus requires us to take a leap of faith, to believe God is real and working in our hearts.

The Advent Candles speak of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love ... I pray you find all of these and more as you live in faith, sharing Jesus' story, so that you may grow together with your neighbors.

Grace and Peace my friends, Pastor Ron.

email - mumcoffice@umcmemorial.com

www.umcmemorial.com

Ramblings of the Associate Pastor

"Busy Box"

The beginning of the Christmas season is a curiosity for me. For some, the preparations begin during Thanksgiving weekend. While for others, the time requirements necessary to complete all the projects causes scheduling and planning to start much earlier. As I have shared before, my Dad was a carpenter. He made presents. Some of his creations were small toys which probably needed only a few hours to finish. Although most of his activity was beyond my perceptions at the time, I am sure he spent several weeks on the bigger items. I am sure all of us had some of those plastic toys that were so common during the 1970s and 80s. However, my Dad, the carpenter, crafted wooden toys simply because he could. He made play kitchen appliances for my sisters. He made child size furniture and large toyboxes for each of my siblings. My brother's toybox was a three-piece train that included an engine, a boxcar, and a caboose that hooked together and stretched across one wall of the bedroom we shared. My toybox was an army footlocker which daughter inherited before my grandson received it. My Dad made wooden animal figures and mechanical toys that could spin, tumble, roll, and even fly. One of the toys passed down from my older siblings was a busy box that had locks, latches, hooks, switches, and knobs screwed to every side. This toy was the subject of recent discussion. Its whereabouts are not known, so we discussed the possibility of recreating a new one. However, as I remember it, all the devices attached to the sides were actual pieces of hardware from my Dad's workshop. They were laden with sharp points, springs, and tiny metal parts. How was this construction visualized as a good idea for a toy for a toddler?

On most days, most of my time is consumed behind a desk or around a conference room table. However, some time is spent on a factory floor. In the production area, there are numerous sharp edges, loaded springs, and energized high voltage connectors. Like a coiled-up snake, each of these hazards can viciously bite and leave behind a lasting mark. How did I learn about working around such things? Curiosity is a peculiar thing. It has both risks and rewards. How do we learn if we don't try? How do we learn if we don't ask? If we don't learn, then what?

Upon further review, the whole Christmas season is a curiosity for me. Why does most of our family, friends, and community members re-structure their lives and schedules every Christmas season for weeks and months? Why do people put lights in their yards and trees in their houses? Why do people plan events and elaborate dinner parties for others in their lives? Why do people spend so much time and money searching for just the right gifts? Why do people hang garland in their office and antlers on their car doors? Why do factories close their doors on December 25th? Why do radio and television networks moderate their broadcasts for Christmas seasonal content? Why does society know so much about the Christmas season and so little about Christmas? How is this possible?

"She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The LORD is salvation), for He will save His people from their sins. All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet [Isaiah]: 'BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL'—which, when translated, means, GOD WITH US."(Matt 1:21-23 AMP) As our family, friends and neighbors prepare for the Christmas season, is this an opportunity for the faithful to talk about Christmas? As they work their busy box of Christmas season preparations, what can they learn about Christmas from you?

~ Tim

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Memorial UMC has partnered with the American Red Cross to host blood drives here at Memorial. These blood drives will be open to members of Memorial and the community.

The next blood drive is: Thursday: Dec. 2nd from 1–6 pm, in the Narthex.

You can sign up by - Calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: MEMORIALUMC (or your zip code) to schedule an appointment.

You can always call the church office for help or questions (812-234-0776)

Praying Together - Judy Hoover, Prayer Line Co-Coordinator

Thankful

As we read this devotion, we will all probably have just finished the last of our Thanksgiving leftovers and will be looking ahead to the incredibly hectic month of December. We will try to cram shopping, cards, parties, dinners, caroling and, hopefully, extra worship opportunities into the few short weeks that we have come to call the "Christmas Season". However, I would suggest that prayers and "attitudes of gratitude" should be as much a focus this coming month as they were during the November holiday. We find it hurtful when our children and grandchildren aren't thankful for the gifts that we give them. How much more must our precious Savior mourn when, during his own birthday celebration, we are too busy to thank Him for His "incredible gift" (II Cor. 9:15): leaving His glorious home in heaven to be born in a humble stable, taking on human form, receiving the punishment we deserve, and saving us from our sins! We know for sure that He was grieved when only one of ten cleansed lepers thanked Him for his healing: "Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?", He exclaimed, amazed, in Luke 17:18.

Of all the forms of prayer that we have discussed in these articles, one of the most important is the Prayer of Thanksgiving. Scripture commands us, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving [not a turkey!] and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name" (Psalm 100:4). The best way to get close to God is through prayers of gratitude and praise. This is the place where we all want to be, for "in your Presence is fullness of joy"(Ps. 16:11)! My complaining, begging prayers often leave me feeling sad and upset, while remembering to give thanks always lifts my spirit.

Have you ever wondered what God's will is for your life? I Thess. 5:16-18 contains some keys: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; **for this is God's will for you** in Christ Jesus." When we're in the center of God's will, we have peace and joy. In this season of "good tidings of great joy" and of "peace on earth, good will toward men", remembering to give thanks is perhaps the best way to abide in the true spirit of Christmas.



The annual Kids Hope Christmas Party will be happening on Wednesday, December 8 at the school, and because we were not able to have a party last year we are doubly excited! Many of our children are new to Kids Hope so they haven't experienced an after-school party with all the fun stuff – gifts, games, crafts, pizza, music, and a special story. But the party is a highlight for the children who have been a part of the ministry for a while. It is such a joy to see their faces light up when they recognize this party is for *them*.

You are a big reason for these smiles. You support Kids Hope in so many ways, and never more than at Christmas time. We believe in this mission and in this ministry, and we feel like you do, too. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, and may God bless you!

Reminder: The last day to mentor will be Friday, December 17. Christmas Break will be December 20-December 31. School will resume Monday, January 3.

14th & Chestnut Community Center

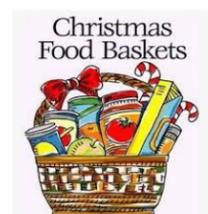
Annual Holiday Food Basket Drive, Offering Food Baskets to Families for Christmas

Items needed to fill One Holiday Food Basket

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 cans of corn | 1 cake mix |
| 2 cans of green beans | 1 can of frosting |
| 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese | 1 can of pumpkin |
| 1 box stuffing | 1 can pie filling |
| 1 can sweet potatoes | 1 can evaporated milk |
| 1 can/jar gravy | 1 can cranberry sauce |
| 1 package dinner rolls | 2 pie crusts |
| 1 box instant mashed potatoes | 1 foil roasting pan |

Bring non-meat items to 14th & Chestnut Center by *Monday, Dec. 13th*.

Due to limited freezer space, please bring: Hams ONLY ON DAY of distribution – Dec. 16th



Angel Tree *It's the most wonderful time of the year!*

It's that time of year, to sponsor meals for a child for 2021! For years members of Memorial have supported the 14th & Chestnut Community Center. At Christmas, we each select a child & place a generous donation in their envelope. This money is used 100% for providing warm meals all year for these children. HOW EASY - no shopping or wrapping & your gift continues to give all year. No amount is too small or too large. If you belong to a group (book club, sorority, men's or women's group, Sunday school class, etc) - select a child for your group to sponsor. Please select an envelope from the table in the narthex, follow the instructions & return before Christmas. If you prefer, you may send in your check to the church office, made out to 14th & CHESTNUT COMMUNITY CENTER. We will select a child for you. Questions: Contact Vicki Bailey, 812-242-4848. Thank You



Blue Christmas

This will be our 2nd Annual Blue Christmas, but since we were online only last year you may not remember that this is a special service on the longest night of the year. For many, Christmas is a time of year for parties, presents and celebration, but we often forget there are others who are dealing with loss and sadness. The purpose of this service with music, prayer and reflections, is to make room for us to grieve the empty seat at our table and the losses that come from not being able to do the things we had planned. But even in the "blueness" of the moment, we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus who brings hope, peace, joy, and love to all the world so we can be comforted. As you make your holiday plans, we pray you'll be able to join us in the Narthex at 6:30 on December 21st. This service will not be live streamed.



Christmas Eve Worship Service



We are looking forward to being together with you on Christmas Eve. This year, as in past years, we will have two services.

At 4:30 we'll have a service focused on our children with a Christmas story, music, glowsticks and candlelight.

At 7:00 we will have a more traditional candlelight service with our choir and a reflection on the birth of our Savior.

Communion will be available at both services, and both will be livestreamed. After not being able to worship together last year we are all looking forward to spending this special night together!

December 26th Worship

This season we have a Worship service on the day after Christmas. Because we know this day will be full of family travel and fellowship at home, we decided to do something completely different. On Sunday the 26th, we will have a single gathering at 10:00 am which will essentially be a Christmas Sing. We are planning traditional Christmas hymns as well as some favorites secular carols. Feel free to come early to visit over refreshments before the singing begins and stay late to continue the fellowship. Of course this service will be livestreamed as are all our Sunday morning worships.



Missions

This Lenten Season is little to no different than any other year. We have 35,000 families in need in Terre Haute and the near Wabash Valley. Again, this year we are dedicating our 2nd mile giving to 14th and Chestnut. In addition to our regular 2nd mile giving, we will have our Angel Tree so you can designate your gift to one of 14th and Chestnut's angels.

The doors are open for worship and masks are not required if you are fully immunized. With a sanctuary that seats nearly 500 and an attendance in the second service of 35 to 40 there is plenty of space for social distancing. While online worship is a suitable alternative, there is no better place to worship than in God's House.

Missions meets on the **second** Tuesday at 5:45PM **all are invited to join the conversation**. If anyone has a charity or mission that you feel we should act on, **please feel free to join us**. We can use the input of all to determine where best to place our missions. There is no budget item for Missions, so your 2nd mile gift is a major portion of the missions of Memorial.

Please continue to bring in, or purchase, peanut butter for 14th and Chestnut. **We are the "Peanut Butter Church"**.

Remember there are always ways to donate without attending church. The first is to drop by the church office and drop off a second mile donation. The second is electronically. You can now give at GiveMemorial.org or open to the Church website (umcmemorial.com) and tap on the menu button in the upper right corner. Then select GIVING from the menu. If you have not donated this way before, create a profile. If you have, simply login. Then you can select where you want to give (2nd Mile Giving is the second selection) and the amount. After you complete the first page the second page allows you to enter all your donation information, including a NOTE to be more specific about this donation. (Note if you use VPN you must disable it before entering the giving site.) One final note, all Memorial services are available at MemorialSunday.org.

Hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and will have the merriest of Christmases.

Do no harm, do good, and stay in Love with God revel in the Fall colors.

ADVENT STUDY

Tuesday November 30th we will begin our four-week Advent study based on Adam Hamilton's book *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*. We will be at Memorial meeting in person at 6:30 for each of the Tuesday sessions and we will simultaneously connect folks online via Zoom.

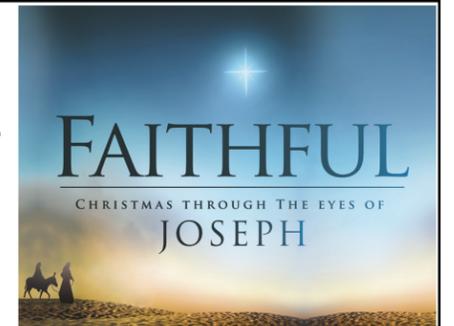
At this time of year, we often think about baby Jesus or Mary but what about Joseph. From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Join Adam Hamilton as he examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

Through this study you will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Because we have heard deliveries are going to be extended it won't be necessary for you to have the book, but you are welcome to order one if you wish. And finally, please call the office to let Kevin know if you plan on joining us so we can get you on the list for a Zoom link and so we can prepare for the event.

MISSION:
POSSIBLE



Lay of the Land

"Highest Praise: The Word of God ... and Music"

It's Christmas time again, and the songs of the season remind me of a wonderful observation from Martin Luther (a framed version of which my musician husband and I received as a wedding present): "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." It's no surprise then to see Memorial's commitment to Ministry, Mission, and Music, which are often interwoven in the things our people do throughout the year and at Christmas.

In skimming favorite Christmas songs, I was struck by how many of the lyrics discuss music as a preferred means of communication and praise (especially by angels). Imagine what it would have been like to hear angels sing the good news to us that Jesus had been born:

- ***Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king...***
- ***Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains ... Gloria in excelsis Deo!***
- ***What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping, Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing....***
- ***Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia, Christ the Savior is born!***
- ***It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold, "Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, From Heaven's all gracious King!" The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.***
- ***Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices, Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born... Sweet hymns of joy, in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us, praise His holy name....***
- ***Joy to the world! The Lord is come, Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing..., Joy to the world, the Savior reigns, Let men their songs employ....***

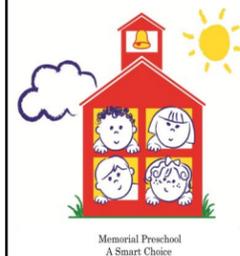
I recently learned of a wonderful example of people from Memorial employing their songs and the Word of God in support of senior ministry, conducted monthly in a number of nursing homes and senior living facilities, by Judy and Keith Hoover. Judy presents a devotional, then Keith plays his guitar and leads the residents in hymn singing, then Judy continues the devotional; they go back-and-forth about three times intermixing music and a devotional lesson. At the end, they call for prayer requests from the residents and conclude with a prayer led by Judy as well as the Lord's Prayer. This vital ministry of word and music reaches many throughout the year, including Christmas.

Throughout the last two and a half years, I've highlighted in this "Lay of the Land" column many other examples of Memorial's commitment to Ministry, Mission, and Music, the people who make that happen, and opportunities to get involved. It has been one way for me to share with everyone things that I happened to learn during my time at Memorial and also to connect with all of you. My journey as Lay Leader started a little over five years ago, as we approached the Christmas season, when the inimitable Mary Ward asked me to serve. (Those of you who had the privilege of knowing Mary know that she could be very persuasive.) When I asked what being a Lay Leader entailed, she indicated it was a three-year term and I'd automatically serve on four committees: the Finance Committee (meeting monthly); Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (quarterly and as circumstances arise – e.g., staff changes, workplace issues to address); Nominations Committee (annually to fill appointed positions, but now monthly as it has become the Leadership & Nominations Committee in 2021); and Administrative Council (Memorial's top decision-making entity, meeting about six times/year, plus district meetings and leadership retreats). I talked further with Pastor Scott, who handed me some articles and took me out to Rick's Smokehouse to fill in further details. It's been a privilege to serve with so many outstanding leaders at Memorial. Now after 200-plus committee and district meetings (I also served on Memorial's Marketing Committee during this time), about 30 Lay of the Land columns, and half a decade as your Lay Leader (two years past my original three-year term), I will be passing the torch to David Peter, who will serve as Memorial's next Lay Leader starting in January 2022.

I end my last Lay of the Land column with a wish that the music of Christmas will make your spirit bright and that you will repeat the sounding joy throughout the coming year.

Memorial Preschool News

November went by fast for the preschool. The Little ones celebrated Thanksgiving by watching the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving movie and then enjoying the Thanksgiving dinner that Snoopy prepared in the movie. We had a dress up day where we dressed up like anything related to Thanksgiving. There were little Pilgrims, Indians and turkeys running around.



December will be a fun filled month with the Littles being very excited about Christmas and our winter break, which will be held December 20th – December 31st. The Preschool will be performing at the United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 2nd as well as our Christmas program on Wednesday, December 15th. We will be having our Christmas parties on Thursday the 16th and Friday the 17th. If you would like to join us for our dress up day on Wednesday, December 8th, wear your ugly sweaters or red and green.

The Preschool Staff would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Ministry Together,
Christy and Missy

Margaret Circle

Margaret Circle will meet on Thursday, December 9th, at 10:00 am in the chapel.

No additional information was provide at the time of printing the Poplar Leaves

Questions? Call the church office

UM MEN PANCAKE SUPPER

On Tuesday, December 7 from 4:30 to 6:30, the UM Men will be having their Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Supper. Planned during this time of the year so you can grab a quick bite to eat and then go Christmas shopping, school functions, or simply a night you don't have to cook. A free will donation will be accepted and will go to the UM Men Scholarship Fund which comes back to help a Memorial Youth on their way to college.



Advent Readers Needed

Individuals or families are needed to read an Advent devotion and light the Advent candle(s) on a Sunday during Advent.

Name(s): _____

Phone or email: _____

(Circle times available)

November 28th	8:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
December 5th	8:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
December 12th	8:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
December 19th	8:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.

**Drop this form in the offering plate on Sunday morning.
Additional forms will be available in the Narthex.**

Thank you! Paula Metheny will call or email you to confirm.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Caitlin Manning	16 Pam Crane
6 Lincoln Austin	Sarah Henman
7 Margaret Whitworth	Judy Chinn
9 Eric Graves	18 Samantha Monser
Jess Shively	21 Bill Jenkins
10 Katie Wilcox	James Legg
12 Edward Wheeler	22 Linda O'Neal
14 Jack Hendrix	24 Dick Becker
Ruby Pearce	25 Kenneth Crane
Connie Smith	27 Rea Jane Linville
15 Johannah Bro	Jaxson Mason
	28 Jennifer Ferency
	29 Hannah Johnson-Plock
	Lora DeVault



Happy Anniversary

December Anniversaries

- Jerry and Jan Cockrell - 7
- Christine & Andy Gordon - 8
- Steve and Pat Friday - 17
- Chuck and Glenda Hilton - 20
- Amanda & David Perkins - 20
- Sue & Phil Welch - 24
- Randall and Carolyn Hopper - 28
- Tim & Donna Voll - 31

We apologize if we've left off your birthday or anniversary. Please contact the church office and we will be happy to include it in the future.

Thank You! Thank you to all who contributed to the fundraiser for our neighbors, Covered with Love Diaper Bank of the Wabash Valley! \$200 was raised through this event! Your abundant generosity will provide much needed support to families in need of essential diapers that aren't covered under other assistance programs.

-Thoughtful Studies Sunday School Class

I would like to thank all who came to the UMM breakfast in November. We would like again to invite all persons of the church to all of our breakfast. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 am. Hope to see you there.

- Phil Briggs

Memorial's Kids Hope ministry wants to thank the United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women for their contributions to the Backpack Program at Sugar Grove. The need for extra food for children on the weekends has increased while donations are down, so these gifts will go a long way to providing better nutrition to kids when they are not in school. It's very much appreciated!

- Paula and Lydia



Prayer is an important ministry of our church! You are welcome to be a part of our internet prayer ministry at Memorial. Maybe having a loved one on the prayer chain has comforted you. You are welcome to join in this service to another in need of prayer. Judy Hoover and the church office are facilitating this prayer ministry and you may send your email address to be added to this group.

Just send a message to Judy Hoover at hoover@rose-hulman.edu or to the church office at mumcoffice@umcmemorial.com

Please Pray for those listed below and for the struggle/s they are dealing with...

Requests made in November:

- Gene Johnson**, cancer treatment
- Sally Manning**, health issues
- Dan Klug's mother, Marilyn Klug**, heart surgery
- Betty Porter**, fall

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### MILITARY:

- Sgt Curtis Korby**, Ft. Campbell, Clarksville, TN;
- John Peters**, U.S. Air Force,
- Bryce Wilcox**, U.S. Marines

### Condolences to:

To the family of Donn C. Jones upon his passing



### January Poplar Leaves

Please submit your articles and request for the January Poplar Leaves to the church office by Thursday Dec. 16th.



**The church office will be closed on The following days.**

- December 24th**
- December 27th**
- December 31st**



## United Methodist Women News

The next UMW meeting is *Wednesday, January 12th at 11:00 am.*

Remember that all women are welcome to attend.

If there is something you want to be discussed in the meeting please contact Joanie Kendall.

### Yarn Ministry

Meeting dates in December are:

- 2nd - 1-3 pm
- 9th - 5-7 pm
- 16th - 1-3 pm
- 23rd - 5-7 pm
- 30th - Noon

### Sewing Stitches

Will meet on the following days at 10 am.

December 14th

See Freda Hocking or call the church for information.

### Yoga at Memorial UMC with Devaki

Is taking a break for the holidays.

Yoga will resume on February 15, 2022

**Everyone is welcome**

### Country Line Dancing

With Sue Paulin

Every Thursday From 11am - 12pm In the Narthex

**\*No Dancing on Dec, 2, 23, 30**

**Everyone is welcome**

The Annual Christmas UMW Luncheon is Thursday, December 2nd at 10:00. We will listen to the pre-schoolers sing Christmas songs, install new officers for 2022 and honor those that left us in 2021.

Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office to sign up so we can be sure to have enough food.

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A special thank you to everybody that helped out with the UMW Annual Chili Supper and Craft Fair.

It was VERY successful making \$1400! Some commented that it was the best chili ever!

The 2 day craft fair was successful as well and will continue to grow as it becomes known as a 2 day event.

### Triple F Monthly Luncheon

The Triple F Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 17th at 11:45.

The Program will be a Christmas Sing-A-Long with John Blair and Shirley Martin.

Menu: Ham dinner. All is provided. Just bring yourself.

Please call in your attendance to the office by Wednesday, December 15th.



### United Methodist Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men breakfast will be on **Saturday, December 11th at 8:00 a.m.**

We will meet at Memorial.

Come out and enjoy a wonderful breakfast and fellowship.



### Fellowship Coffee/Snack time

We are asking different groups, committees and Sunday School class to supply snacks for Sunday mornings between service. The church will continue making the coffee. We ask that each group provide individually wrapped snacks (these can be homemade items). Items may also be placed in small (4oz) drink cups. We do not want "open" bowls or plates of snacks available. Snacks & Coffee will be available in the kitchen.

### Fellowship Coffee Hour:

Will be hosted by the following.

- January - Worship Committee
- February - Education Committee
- March - UM Women
- April - Trustees
- May - Koinonia Class and the Thoughtful Studies Class
- June - Kids Hope

- July - Open Door Class
- August - UM Men
- September - **To Be Determined**
- October - Finance Committee
- November - Mission Committee
- December - Member Care

