

Wesley United Methodist Church



Dec. 2016

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we get closer to Christmas, the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives seems to get faster and faster. The routines, expectations, and demands upon our lives get stronger and stronger. But this advent season, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, we must never forget the true reason for the season. While presents, spending time with your family, traditions, music and cheesy hallmark movies are good things, if they become the reason for the season we have missed the mark. The Ball Brothers in their song, 'It's About the Cross' says, "It's about the cross. It's about my sin. It's about how Jesus came to be born once. So that we could be born again. It's about the stone that was rolled away. So that you and I could have real life someday." This is what Christmas day is all about. Christmas day means nothing without the cross. The cross means nothing without Christmas day. Because without the cross, Christmas day is just another baby being born to a carpenter, who turns out to be a great teacher. Without Christmas day, the cross becomes a dead man, a great teacher, who taught things that were contrary to what society desired. May we never forget the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus Christ is THE REASON for the season. May we not get caught up in the hustle and bustle that surrounds us but may our focus be pointed to the tiny manger and the cross upon the hill.

Our Mission: As members of Wesley Church we are called by God to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

Announcements

Small Groups: The restructuring of small group ministries is on hold until after the holidays, but don't let that stop you. Please consider joining one or creating your own! There are several small groups currently active at Wesley so be sure to check the church bulletin for those details. No current fit; don't have an idea for a new group; actually if you already gather regularly with other believers that is a small group! Please feel free to contact Meredith Peachey at (814) 355-0521 or email her at meredithpeachey@gmail.com to find out how to plug your existing gathering into the Wesley small groups ministry.

Choir: There is a standing invitation to anyone who would like to join the church choir. Music is one of God's great gifts that He gives us to be used for His glory. On an average Sunday we have two tenors and two basses. If you sing either one of these parts, we need your help. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm in the choir room on the main floor of our church.

Choir Robes: The old choir robes have found a new home! A church in Mount Union responded to our online offer of free choir robes. We are happy and excited to supply them with 33 robes as an answer to prayer.

Christmas Caroling : Would you like to go Christmas Caroling? If you desire to be doing good works for our Lord, consider taking two hours of your time to go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins within our church family. We will meet at the church at 3pm on Sunday December 18. Bring your friends and families. We will carpool to different addresses. This is an invitation to any and all.

December 25th: We will have service at 10:30am on Christmas Day. Come and worship our Lord as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. There will be NO adult or Child Sunday school before the service.

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Announcements Continued

Nativity Scene: A live Nativity scene will be held at Christ UMC December 14,15 and 16. They need your help. If you are interested in helping out with the presentation of the nativity please call (814) 684-3561.

Food Bank: A Big 'Thank You' goes out to the Boy Scouts who did a magnificent job in the collection of goods during the recent food drive. We also want to thank Albemarle's Tyrone plant for their generous contribution, which will enable us to supply a gift certificate for meat, to those in need._

Trustees: As you know, the Trustees presented a list of tasks for present and future maintenance needs for our church, some of which are major. The projects and repairs needed now are sidewalks, steps and railings totaling \$5,935; parking lots sealed and lined costing \$1000; emergency lights in the amount of \$355; door closers in the amount of \$150; and radiator valves for the sanctuary in the amount of \$500. We are also in need of replacing the carpeting, roof and ceiling lights in the sanctuary in the future. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of any of these projects please indicate on your envelope or in the memo line of a check. Thank you so much. From the Trustees.

ITEMS FOR 2017 Calendar:

January 2017: Homemade Vegetable Soup and pie sale. The soup will be sold by the quart and the pies by the piece or the whole pie.

February 18, 2017: There will be a ham potpie dinner that will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more information.

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Basket Auction

The basket auction that was held November 13 was a HUGE success! A good time was had by all! A big “thank you” goes out to Amy and Revel for serving as auctioneers and for making the auction so much fun. We also want to thank all who created and donated baskets and to those who contributed delicious desserts for the sampling. Thank you to all who helped in the kitchen and dining room and to all who came to the event as well as those who made monetary donations. Due to the event being such a success, the Basket Auction and dessert tasting will be an annual event with the next auction to be held on Sunday November 12, 2017. Put your thinking caps on.



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Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all who donated school supply items and shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We collected 130 boxes that were delivered to Hollidaysburg on November 14, with the help of George LeGrand, Darlene Ritter and Jean and Earl Bressler.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1st- Tiffanie Hall
- 12th- Meredith Peachey
- 13th- Hannah Campbell
- 16th- Jack Ashcroft
- 17th- Sage Rumberger
- 18th- Bill Hunter
- 20rd- Peggy Campbell, Sharon Duda
- 24th- Bill Miller
- 26th- Melissa Miller
- 27th- Penny Campbell
- 30th- Jane Ashcroft

Anniversaries

- 8th- Jack and Faye Gill
- 15th-Bill Angie Goss
- 27th- David and Myra Hess
- 29th- Suzanne and Michael Cherry

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