



LATHROP UMC NEWSLETTER



Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 2018

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www.lathropumc.org

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou has found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:30-32

FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK



James Moore's advent study entitled *All I want for Christmas* certainly opened my mind to the larger meanings of Christmas. The last lesson in the series centered on the gifts of time, kindness, appreciation, encouragement and love. Throughout the series Moore shared many wonderful stories. One story he shared was about Bill Lufburrow's door bell ringing at 9:45 one evening just before Christmas. When he answered the door, he found six or eight children and their adult sponsor standing on his porch. The adult sponsor told Bill they were out, "**Cheering up the neighborhood.**" Then he counted, "one-two-three," and then they all the yelled loudly: "**Cheer! Cheer! Cheer!**" And with that the children all disappeared as quickly as they had appeared. As we start our "March to the manger" let us keep spreading Christmas Cheer by sharing our time, kindness, appreciation, encouragement, and love to all. Mary and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! And remember to make plans to attend the Christmas Eve candle-light worship service.

LIVING NATIVITY DRIVE-THRU



At 5:00 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, December 9th, the Living Nativity will begin at the Lathrop Antique Show Grounds south of town. This drive-thru display has been a community tradition for many years. And, has drawn people from many neighboring towns. (The UMC portion of the display will be 5:30-6:00.) If you would

like to donate a half hour of your time, please contact Kathy Mydland for more information. Load Grandpa & Grandma, the kids, and anyone who might need a ride and drive through the wonderful tour of our Christian Beginnings.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY BECKONS YOU FROM ITS PAGES



A Love Worth Giving

By Max Lucado

“The secret to loving is living loved.” It is the season. Enjoy this book. We are trying to locate all the other Lucado books and place them together on the top shelf in the nursery. Love others. Love yourself. Love reading this season.

The Patmos Deception

By Davis Bunn

Mystery...romance! Europe...priceless treasures missing from historical sites! Nick Hennessy...Carey Mathers...Dimitri Rubinos! What a way to end the year

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

K & M Beane Family



You have heard of people who are busy as bees. Wait until you read about this week's family. You'll see why we could change that expression to "Busy as Beanes". Let me introduce you to six, yes, half a dozen, very interesting, but extremely busy, people. Kyle became Dr. Beane after attending school K-12 at Lathrop, four years in the army as a field artillery systems mechanic, two years at NWMSU, finishing his Bachelor of Science Degree at Cleveland Chiropractic University, and achieving his Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine Degree there also. Mandy who has a brother named Damon, attended K-12 in Plattsburg, received her Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from William Jewel University, and her Master of Education Degree from Lesley University. To complete our half dozen, we have Dawson Scott Gillespie Beane (20), Andrew Michael Keith Beane (17), Keylie Shalom Lynette Beane (12), and last but not least, Garrett Maxwell Levi Beane (10). This family stays busy! Doing what you ask beyond the normal "family" things. Well, there is teaching third grade, exams and scans, the Teachers' Assistance Team, Rotary, wrestling practices and meets, sponsoring food drives, attending professional workshops, completing homework, participating in Masonic Lodge #506 activities, basketball games and practices, bulletin boards, corrective adjustment plans, a Christmas toy drive that reaches to the ceiling of Kyle's office, church committees, MSTA, baseball, practice and games, faculty meetings, football, making candy to give away, two cats (MSG and Miley). They attend church as often as they can and when you ask them to help, they say "YES!" without hesitation. Wow! Bees can't be any busier than this family. Just watching the Beanes at church you realize how loving and nurturing this family is. Thank you for taking time out of your busy week to brighten our church with your smiles and sharing your wonder talents and energy.

DATES TO REMEMBER



DECEMBER

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 2 December Birthday Breakfast | |
| 2 First Sunday in Advent | |
| 2 Women's Book Study | 10:15 a.m. |
| 8 Baby Grace Christmas Party for Parents and Children | |
| 9 Second Sunday of Advent | |
| 9 Living Nativity at the Lathrop Antique Grounds | |
| 9 Women's Book Study | 10:15 a.m. |
| 10 NO Trustees Meeting | |
| NO Administration Board Meeting | |
| 16 Third Sunday of Advent | |
| 16 Children's Bell Choir and Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship | |
| 16 Fellowship Dinner in Fellowship Hall following Worship Service | 12:00 Noon |
| With Santa arriving at the end of Dinner. | |
| 16 Living Nativity Drive-Thru at the Lathrop Antique Grounds | |
| 16 Women's Book Study | 10:15 a.m. |
| 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent | |
| 23 Women's Book Study | 10:15 a.m. |
| 24 CANDLE LIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE | 7:00 p.m. |
| 25 CHRISTMAS DAY | |
| 30 Women's Book Study | 10:15 a.m. |
| 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE | |

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Donald Griffin and Gerald Snodgrass



DECEMBER 2018 BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Jared May |
| 2 | Sarah Howerton |
| 3 | Jan Ainsworth |
| 3 | Mikayla Dickerson |
| 6 | Larry Payne |
| 14 | I.D. Smith, Jr. |
| 19 | Bobbie Dickerson |
| 21 | Lucas Martin |
| 23 | Brooklynn Dickerson |
| 27 | Robert (Bobby) Gagnon |



ANNIVERSARIES

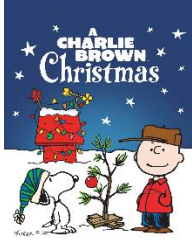
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| 22 | David And Amy Justus |
| 23 | Larry And Cathy Payne |



CARES AND CONCERNS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Wilma Tippet | Our Military |
| Heather Carter | Our Community |
| Jon Carter | Our Pastor |
| Mike Dickerson | Our Church |
| Carmen Stone | Children and Youth of |
| Wilma Griffin | our church |
| Ted and Mae Hepner | All people who have |
| Dylan Gowin | been affected by |
| Marguerite Pulliam | natural disasters. |
| Lilly Harrell | |
| Jim Lawley | |
| Bobi Jo McColleston | |

BELLS, CHARLIE BROWN, DINNER, AND SANTA



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 16th. This day will prove to be a busy day. Starting with Childrens' Bell Choir playing during the offertory. Followed by the Sunday School classes joining together to bring you the 2018 presentation of the Charlie Brown Christmas during the Worship time. The children always have a wonderful way of telling the story of Christmas. Following the program, the Fellowship Dinner will be downstairs in the Friendship Hall. Bring a covered dish and enjoy a delicious pot luck dinner followed by a visit by Santa Claus.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

12/26 Wednesday

12/27 Thursday

12/28 Friday



To Be Announced

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If you are interested in volunteering your time to deliver Meals-On-Wheels please call Wilma Griffin at 528-3184 or call the church office at 528-4280.

YOUTH GROUP ORGANIZING



Calling all youth in grades 6 thru 12. A new group is forming for the you at our church. If you would be interested in attending this group, please let Mary Gowin, or Pastor Richard know. She will be available following Worship Services. Adults, if you are interested in helping with this group, also please get in touch with these same people.

CHRISTMAS TREE FOR APPORTIONMENTS



With the Christmas season upon us, it is time to think of trees and sharing. The church has her brightly lit trees decorated to welcome you into the church and to remind you that Christmas Time is a Sharing Time. Again, this year we will be doing our Wish-Everyone-a-Merry Christmas card decorations for the tree in the narthex. While you are wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, you will also be giving toward the 2019 Apportionments, so they can be paid in a timely manner again this year. A box of cards will be on the table next to the tree in the narthex, take a card, write your Christmas greeting on it and punch a hole in the top corner, add a hanger and hang it on the tree. Next, take the envelope and put your apportionment donation in it, then place the envelope in the basket on the table.

TAKE 5 MINUTES TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER YEARS 2015-2018

| October | Avg. Worship Attendance | Avg. Sunday School Attendance | Income |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 2018 | 51 | 41 | \$4,389 |
| 2017 | 49 | 34 | 4,980 |
| 2016 | 50 | 33 | 5,909 |
| 2016 | 53 | 39 | 4,616 |

2018...A VERY GOOD YEAR



From **STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH** (Charge Conference November 12, 2018) Our church continued our three popular fund raisers (2 steak nights and a potato bar). Our membership continued to work in the food pantry, support Back Pack Buddies (food), put major efforts into Baby Grace, provided music for care centers, supplied health kits for UMCOR as a community Serve 2017 project, participated in celebrating Lathrop's 150th year celebration. We celebrated with a picnic in the park, our traditional Lake Lenore worship service in September, "build a Sunday" on Labor Day weekend, hosted the VBS program for the community with the Christian Church, participate in the community wide services on Easter and Thanksgiving, hosted the county Lenten cantata, and hosted the men's community breakfast. The Church had

two bible studies during the year and continued all of our prior educational activities. As usual, the Church celebrated Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter service.

AND THEN...AND THEN...On November 18th our Food Drive for the Food Pantry ended. With the help of this month's featured family in the Newsletter (Kyle, Mandy, Andrew, Keylie, and Garrett Beane) 409.6 pounds of paper goods, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and food were delivered to the Lathrop Food Pantry. 2018 has been a very year! Now it's time for the Christmas cards on our narthex Christmas tree for apportionments. Please help us to say "Merry Christmas to All the Congregation" plus be able to pay our apportionments spreading God's Love throughout the world.



New Year's Eve Party - Phantom Guest?

Trevor's New Year's Eve party was an annual occurrence with numerous guests arriving. During the evening, a man knocked on the door, was greeted heartily although no one knew who he was, and was led to where the drinks and snacks were, in the kitchen. He sat there happily, chatting away, for a couple of hours before a strange light dawned on his face. 'You know,' he confided to Trevor, 'I wasn't even invited to this party. I just came over to tell you that some of your guests' cars are blocking my drive.' He continued, 'My wife's been sitting out in the car waiting for me to get them moved, so that we can go out.'

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment



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