



LATHROP UMC NEWSLETTER



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

December 2019

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www.lathropumc.org

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK

RICHARD'S CHRISTMAS RAPS



The Advent season starts our Christmas “count down” with beautiful Christmas decorations gracing the sanctuary, weekly lighting of the “Advent Wreath,” Advent hymns, the children’s program followed by a big meal and visit by Santa and ends with the Christmas Eve Candle-Light service. While all this is “labor intensive,” it is none-the-less a joyous, wondrous time. So, as we gather to celebrate this joyous time of the year may the words the angel chorus sang to the shepherds on that “night of nights” ring also in our hearts, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom He is well pleased.” May your Advent and Christmas season be wonder filled!

THE CHURCH LIBRARY BECKONS YOU FROM ITS PAGES



The Glory of Christmas

By Charles Swindoll, Max Lucado and Charles Colson

How could a book with the title THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS written by Charles Swindoll, Max Lucado and Charles Colson be anything but good? It's a great addition to our library. Merry Christmas!

Additions to Our Youth Library

Till's Christmas by Nola Thacker
The Christmas Cup by Nancy Patterson
The Iceberg Hermit by Arthur Roth

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



These 6 questions were taken from interviews from 2008 to 2019 and published in our "Lathrop UMC Newsletter". Who are they?

- 1) They like to follow the NWMSU Bearcats and go to the games in Maryville whenever possible.
- 2) He was born in Marceline, Missouri, and she was born in Columbus, Ohio. They met at church.
- 3) He and his wife participated in 7 Navajo Nation Medical Mission trips.
- 4) They can tell you about castles in Ireland, four string banjos, exploring Australia, parking vehicles at KCI, and their amazing talented grandchildren.
- 5) They were married by Dr. Coleson in 2002.
- 6) She has been on 3 mission trips to Jamaica and he retired from Ford Motor Co.

IN CASE OF INCLIMATE WEATHER



As we have already had snow this year, it is time to worry about possible church closings. In case of bad weather that will make the sidewalks, steps and roads hazardous and unsafe to be on, closings will be broadcast on the Cameron radio station, KCTV-TV – ch 5, KMBC-TV – ch.9, KSHB-TV – ch.41, and FOX-TV – ch.4.

*CHURCH is not something you go to,
It's a FAMILY you belong to.*

DATES TO REMEMBER



December

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 01 December Birthday Breakfast | 10:30 am |
| 01 Advent Begins | |
| 07 Pearl Harbor Day | |
| 08 Second Sunday of Advent | |
| 14 Baby Grace Christmas at LUMC | 10:00am – 12:00pm |
| 15 Third Sunday of Advent | |
| 15 Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship | |
| 15 Christmas Carry-In Luncheon with Special Guest, Santa Claus | |
| 15 Living Nativity at Christian Church Parking Lot | 5:00 – 7:00 pm |
| 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent | |
| 23-24 & 26-27 UMC Delivers Meals-ON-Wheels | |
| 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | 7:00 p.m. |
| 25 CHRISTMAS DAY | |
| 31 New Year's Eve | |

Ushers for December

Suellen Pollard and Madeliene Pollard

December 2019



- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 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 | |



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



Mike Dickerson
Carmen Stone
Friederun Boone
Hunter Maddick
Wilma Griffin

Rev. Ted and Mae Hepner
Dylan Gowin
Marguerite Pulliam
Burla Lilie
Tom Newell
Bill Ainsworth
Jim Lawley
Brian Johnson
The JW Lile Family

Chad Howerton
Our Church
Our Pastor
The Children and Youth of our Church
Our Community
All Military Personnel and
Emergency Personnel

TAKE 5 MINUTES TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

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 2020 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.

WHAT IS ADVENT?



The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas."

Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. In 2019, Christmas falls on a Wednesday, and Christmas Eve on Tuesday night. Thus, in 2019 Advent begins Sunday, Dec. 1, and ends at sundown on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The color for Advent has traditionally been purple, although some churches have adopted blue. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more red, green and gold are appearing. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* upholds the traditional color of purple for Advent, signifying penitence and royalty, but also allows blue, the color of hope

SMILES

What is more beautiful than a child's smile? A child who is doing good for the Lord! Macklin is smiling to Grandma & Grandpa as he walks back down the aisle with Kaitlyn after lighting the candles at the beginning of Worship Service. Bright smiles are seen each Sunday by the children who carry the light of Christ into our church.



2019!

January through November with December yet to come...2019 has been quite a year. It all began in January when our church collected enough money to pay not only the Conference Apportionments, but also the District Apportionments. How? One family...one person...another family...another person put a Christmas card on the Christmas tree in our narthex and a donation in its envelope. Each donation represented our churches love to be spread throughout the world. That's what apportionments do. Then February came along and we filled our tummies with chili and/or soup plus dessert (of course for a good cause: Lathrop R-II's Backpack Buddies Program). The supper was a huge success and \$2,572 was matched by Masonic Lodge #504. This month also found us filling valentine sacks to spread a little love to the children of our church. Next two Lenten Bible studies were offered Angels Were Silent : Final Week of Jesus' Life by Max Lucado and Who Is This Man by John Ortberg. Our church hosted the Combined Community Choir and Band when it presented "Behold the Lamb!" The Vacation Bible School with the First Christian Church took off! "To Mars and Beyond" reached out to any and all children in our community and explored where God's power could take them. Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, bills, and checks were collected in baby bottles from Mothers' Day to Fathers' Day. It's amazing how much can be collected in a baby bottle! Working again with other churches: Turney, Holt and Kearney, a total of \$3,493 was collected for the Baby Grace Program. Lathrop's Masonic Lodge #504 came through again with matching funds. SOLD! Over 100 items were put up for auction at our annual fall fund raiser. Businesses in Lathrop, Plattsburg, Polo, Lawson, Excelsior Springs and Cameron joined with the congregation to make this event the most successful ever. The food was delicious too. Sprinkle into 2019: Ralph Rupe's 98th birthday celebration, special music, a picnic and service at the Lathrop Park and later one at Lake Lenore, Santa, Charge Conference, Care Portal, Meals on Wheels, and The Gospel According to Leviticus.

What's happening now? Necessities! The last Sunday in November will end our "Necessities and Food Drive" for the Lathrop Food Pantry. There is literally toilet paper stacked to the ceiling of our narthex plus paper towels, tissue, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, lotion, body wash, food and much much more. The donations (109.5# food, 292.8# personal products) totaled 402.3 pounds plus \$25! How did all of this happen? What was the secret for such a successful 2019? Maybe there were three: Working Together...Sharing Our Love...Making God Smile. 2019 is proving to be quite a year! I wonder what 2020 holds for our church. Hummmm!



DO YOU PRAY?

What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't just happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend, That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, 'drive safely' or 'be safe'. That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone by your heart. That is a Prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being.

Keep praying always!

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?" **The nativity play was going as planned** and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!"

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

A boy wanted to be Joseph in the Sunday School pageant. He was cast as the landlord and objected loudly, but to no avail. When the pageant was presented, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and asked him if he had a room for them. The boy smiled and said, "Yes, sure. Lots of room. Come on in!"



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