



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS – The People of the United Methodist Church

The **ECHOES** of Edwards

EDWARDS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4 West Seminary Street, Liberty, Indiana 47353
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Pastor Scott Bell
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DECEMBER
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Wanda Parker, Secretary
wparker@emumc.com
765-458-7489

Pastor's Column:

One night a little more than 2000 years ago, the angel Gabriel was summoned into the Holy Throne Room. From God's own hand he received an envelope formed from purest gold. Bewildered, the Highest of the Winged Creatures forced his trembling hands to break the seal and remove its message.

Typically, upon opening communications written by the Commander in Chief, Gabriel would smell the cologne of the Most High God. Strangely, this message had the distinct aroma...of straw. And instead of Holy Stationary made from the finest linen of heaven, Gabriel held within hands a greeting card having been fashioned from a burlap...diaper.

Inside, written in letters as scarlet as the blood that gives us life was written:

***"Announcing the birth
of the
Son of God."***

Before the winged emissary could ask, his Loving Creator answered. *"Gabriel, if their greatest need was information, I'd send them a teacher. If their greatest need was technology, I'd send them a scientist. If their greatest need was money, I'd send them an economist. But, alas Gabriel, their greatest need is forgiveness. And so I'm sending them a Savior. I'm sending them my Son."*

And so, on one star lit night, in the presence of some frightened shepherds, a worn-out teenaged girl, and an overwhelmed Jewish furniture maker... a burlap diaper was lovingly wrapped around a tiny, wrinkled, baby. And in a moment that now stands transfigured in time, an angelic messenger came to know the two reasons for which he had been created.

The first was to deliver a message announcing the birth of a baby named "Jesus."

The second was to deliver another message...one beginning with the sounding of a trumpet and ending with a Divine Proclamation saying:

*"...in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye,
He's Coming Back!"*

To those who will meet Him before His second coming, "Merry Christmas."
To those who will meet Him in the sky, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Peace.



Pastor Scott Bell

Membership: The congregation of Edwards Memorial welcomed and rejoiced as we witnessed the joining of Kenneth Eldridge into membership on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016. With his family and the congregation surrounding him with the laying on of hands we welcomed him into our Christian family of faith.



Thanks

to the following folk who provided us with flowers for the worship services during the month of November:

Frank & Kay Parks



Snowbirds: To our snowbirds that go to Florida for a few months every year, please make sure Wanda knows when you are leaving and when you are returning. This is so you receive your mail from the church especially the end of the year financial information. You may call 765-458-7489 and leave a message or e-mail her at wparker@emumc.com



This edition of the "Echoes" will be the last one that will be mailed out in the bulk mail format. We will be going to an electronic format with the newsletter available online at our website:

www.emumc.com

Just go to the website and click on the home page and then scroll down to the newsletter tab and you will be able to read all the information there.

Shut-ins will continue to receive one in the mail. If you do not have internet and would like to have one mailed, please make sure you let Wanda know. You may call the church office at 458-7489, if no one is there please leave a message for Wanda. Wanda is in the office on Tues. mornings 8am-11am and Thursday's. You may also email Wanda at wparker@emumc.com with your information if you would like to have one e-mailed to you. This will be **your responsibility**.

We thank everyone as we make this transition to the electronic format. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Scott or Wanda Parker.



NEEDED:

**LOTS
and
LOTS
OF COOKIES for**



The 26th Annual

“Cookie Walk”

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016

9 am – 12pm (Noon) or until cookies are gone!



Hopefully, many of you have already located your favorite Christmas Cookie recipes with plans to get your holiday baking completed ahead of schedule. Perhaps you have found new recipes in the recipe issues of magazines that look absolutely delicious, recipes that you simply cannot wait to try. Please remember, when you bake your cookies and candies, make a batch or two or more for the UMW Cookie Walk. There is only one week remaining before the deadline of December 10, 2016. Remember we have a goal of over 450 dozen of the best homemade Christmas cookies in our area. That's a lot of cookies!! With so many people baking cookies we can claim to have the greatest variety, the very best assortment of anywhere around.

So please spread the word. Tell your neighbors and friends about the scrumptious cookies that will be available Saturday, December 10, 2016 in the Rogers Fellowship Center between 9 am till 12 Noon. Mark your calendar and come to the Cookie Walk. A box of assorted cookies and candies would be a delightful, tasty gift for people on your Christmas list, especially for shut-ins unable to bake Christmas cookies of their own.



**All Cookies and Candies should be brought to the kitchen of
the church 7am-7pm on Friday December 9th
or before 8 am on Saturday, December 10th**

All proceeds from the Cookie Walk are used to support Local Mission Projects

Great big Thanks to all of you for your support!!

From: The United Methodist Women



FYI:

What is: “Hanging of the Greens”



Many churches hold a service of preparation for Christ's coming, which includes hanging greenery traditionally associated with everlasting life. Greens such as cedar for royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus' death and ivy representing the resurrection are used.



What do the candles in your Advent Wreath mean?



The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.

The lighting of the first candle symbolizes Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

What are Chrismons?



Ornaments made from Christian symbols (or Chrismons, a contraction for 'Christ monograms') were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. Many churches display a Chrismon tree during the Advent and Christmas season decorated with handmade ornaments.

The Christian Year:

Advent: Beginning the Christian Year and including four Sundays before Christmas, this season is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ.

Christmas Season: The season beginning with the anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on December 25th and continuing through Epiphany on January 6th.

Epiphany: Celebrated on Jan. 6th, this day marks the coming of the magi to visit the baby Jesus. The season after Epiphany is observed from the First Sunday After the Epiphany until Ash Wednesday. The Last Sunday After Epiphany is also celebrated as the Transfiguration.

Ordinary Time: The Sundays that stand between the two great Christological cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. The shorter period of Ordinary Time is usually designated as Sundays After Epiphany and the longer period is designated Sundays After Pentecost.

Colors used:

Blue, a color of hope, may be used during Advent.

Purple, is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Green, a color of growth, is used in the seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost.

White is used during the Christmas and Easter Seasons and for other festive days, such as All Saints, weddings, services of baptism, and services of death and resurrection.



**OUR FRIENDS IN THE HOSPITAL
OR ILL DURING: November**

Get-Well Wishes to:

Norman Lake, Judy Redinger,
Dawson Olsen, Christopher Bass, \\\nAbe Dare, Esther Bunch,
Randy Gentry, Marilyn Heeter,
Tom Berry, Wanda Pierce,
Karen Bowers, Betty Gulley,
Malcolm Miles, Dale Stevens,
Quentin Richardson, Taylor Bunch,
Ruth Bertch, Juanita Jordan,
Christi Harris, Audrey Brown.



**God Bless you on your Birthday
God be with you everyday!**

Birthdays remind us of God's gift of life.
Your birthday reminds us of your special
place in our Christian family.

(Please notify us of Corrections or Omissions)

Here are the December Birthday's:

- 3: Joy Woodruff
- 4: Alicia Miller
- 5: Matthew Gharrity
- 6: Tim Bowers, Erica Moffett
- 7: Stanley Nichols
- 8: Anita Faye Howard, Brooke Pentecost
- 9: Jennifer Oster, Connie Powers, Braden Norris
- 10: Campbell Meier
- 11: Griffen Rude, Pat Gentry
- 13: Kadence Brock
- 14: Jason Bennett, Cathy Hensley, Sarah Schwendenman
- 15: Brian Keith Anderson
- 16: Ruth Bertch, Victoria Russell, Elizabeth Fallatt
- 18: Sandi Cox
- 21: Jacob Schwendenman, Karen Bowers
- 22: Courtney Bennett, Linda Jahosky, Amanda Jahosky
- 24: Stephen Whipple
- 25: Jesus, Phil Cox
- 27: Wanda Pierce
- 28: Betty Richardson, Rod West
- 29: Judy Redinger, Russell Hensley, Ryan Hensley
Jerry Tipton, Jalana Risch
- 30: Julia Porter
- 31: Beth Fields, Mary Alice Crowder

Spiritual Moment

***Joy is infectious; therefore,
be always full of joy.***

-Mother Teresa

Important Notice

**There will not be a
Trustees Meeting,
Worship Committee Meeting or
Administrative Council Meeting
in the month of December.**

Cheering Up Addresses:



Let's remember our shut-ins during the holiday season. Names and addresses are listed below for anyone wanting to send a card or note to help them know we care and are thinking about them:

Malcolm Miles, 219 E High St, Liberty, IN 47353

Vivian Kaser, 900 S A Street #608, Richmond, IN 47374

Alta Duggins, 215 W High St, Liberty, IN 47353

Anita Faye Howard, 9229 Weist Rd, Eaton, OH 45320

Juanita Jordan, 215 W High St, Liberty, IN 47353

Carolyn Winters, 622 S Nine Mile Rd, Liberty, IN 47353

Marsh & Betty Pouder, 2030 Chester Blvd,
Apt. 300, Richmond, IN 47374

Audrey Brown, 204 Knollwood Dr, Oxford, OH 45056

Ruth Bertch, 108 S Market St, Liberty, IN 47353

Cookie Drop Off:



Please note the office door will be open from 7am to 7pm on Friday,

Dec. 9th so cookies and goodies for the Cookie Walk can be dropped off. Please take items to the kitchen and leave on the bar. Make sure you mark your containers so they may find their way back home.

UMCOR United Methodist Committee on Relief

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for partnering with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

100% of your contributions will go to supporting UMCOR's response to disasters in the United States. Thank you for partnering with us to "Be Hope" to those who desperately need it.

Through the compassion and solidarity of faithful friends like you, UMCOR is able to provide comfort to those impacted by disasters like earthquakes and storms, food for the hungry, and healthcare to those who otherwise would have none. These are just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. You can find out more about UMCOR's work by visiting our web site at www.umcor.org. The gifts you give bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes
General Treasurer
General Board of Global Ministries

Contribution Envelopes: Envelopes will be available in the parlor on the table by the door starting Sunday, December 4th. If you currently do not use the contribution envelopes and would like to start in 2017 please talk to Wanda or Dale Cummins to let them know you need the envelopes.

Don't forget E-Giving on-line. Go to www.emumc.com and click on the E-Giving link and you may also make your contribution there. This is a secure site. We record the E-Giving donations the same as the contribution envelopes.

The envelopes and E-Giving make it easier to keep track of your contributions and for the year end Charitable Tax Report that you would receive. Remember your contributions to the church are tax deductible in accordance with the IRS rules.



Poinsettias: If you wish to order a poinsettia for the Christmas services, please sign-up on the sheet in the parlor on the table by the door.

Please use the second line under your name to write "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" the person or persons you wish to list. You may also email Wanda: wparker@emumc.com with your sign-up request.

Make checks out to EMUMC for \$9.00, **mark the memo section Poinsettia**, and drop in the offering plate. If you e-mail Wanda your request, you may mail your check or use e-giving for your payment.



Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church

Advent/Christmas Schedule 2016

Dec. 4th (Second Sunday of Advent)

Dec. 4th - 1:30pm
EMNS Christmas Program



Saturday, Dec. 10th
9am-12pm
"Cookie Walk"
in RFC



Dec. 11th (Third Sunday of Advent)

Dec. 18th (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Saturday, Dec. 24th
8pm

Christmas Eve
Service of Holy Communion
and Candlelight

Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church



December 25th
10am Worship Service
Merry Christmas to All!!



December

2016



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | <i>Dec. Newsletter goes out</i> | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service | No Trustees Meeting | | 7 pm Choir Practice | | Set-up RFC Cookie Walk | 9am-12pm "Cookie Walk" in RFC |
| 1:30pm EMNS Christmas Program | | | | | Drop off Cookies 7am-7pm | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service | No Worship Committee or Ad Council Meetings | | 7 pm Choir Practice | | | 10am-6pm Bunch's RFC |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service | | | 7 pm Choir Practice | | | 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29-Jan | 30-Jan | 31-Jan |
| 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service | | | | | | |
| Merry Christmas | | | | Office Closed | | |