

The Courier Advent-Christmas 2017

ALL IN THE FAMILY—

Christmas Through Joseph's Eyes

Holidays can get complicated—families come in all shapes, sizes and closeness. Everyone seems so busy, and yet for some it is the most difficult time of year. Amid the decorations, gifts, parties and blues, we celebrate one simple message: A child was born and the world was forever changed. Maybe it's been a while since your family were in church, maybe you participate in person every week. Regardless, NOW is the perfect time to share Christmas with your family. Make the opportunities at Cokesbury a priority this season as you prepare to welcome anew the Christ Child in your life.

PREPARE FOR HIS COMING: CELEBRATING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Saturday Dec. 2 GALS Christmas Tea, 1 pm

Advent I celebrated at CONVERGE, 5.30 pm

Sunday Dec. 3 Advent I: Worship 9:30 & 11—"A Carpenter Named Joseph," Mt. 13.54-56;

Advent Workshop for all ages, 4-6 pm

Tuesday Dec. 5 Sanctuary & campus decorated beginning at 10 am

Saturday Dec. 9 Men's Christmas Gathering, 9 am

Advent II celebrated at CONVERGE, 5.30 pm

Sunday Dec 10 AdventII: Christmas Cantata, 9:30 & 11—"Whose Child is This?" Mt. 1.18-19;
Shoe Box Gifts Packing Party, 4 pm

Friday Dec. 15 City of Margate WinterFest, 6 pm

Saturday Dec. 16 Advent III celebrated at CONVERGE, 5.30 pm and
Children's Pageant, 6:30 as part/follow-on

Sunday Dec. 17 Advent III: Worship 9:30 & 11—"Raising a Child Not Your Own," Mt. 1.18-21

Thursday Dec. 21 Longest Night Service of Light, 7 pm (remembering those we miss)

Saturday Dec. 23 Advent IV celebrated at CONVERGE, 5.30 pm

Sunday Dec 24 Advent IV: Morning worship 9:30 & 11—"Journey to Bethlehem," Lk 2.1-5;
Christmas Eve Candlelight family service at 7 pm and
Candlelight communion service at 11 pm—"Bridge Over Troubled Water," Lk. 2.4-20

Saturday Dec. 30 CONVERGE at 5.30 pm

Sunday Dec 31 Christmas I Worship 9:30 & 11—"Joe and the Power of Adapting," Mt. 2.13-15;
WatchNight service at 11 pm



The week of December 25th the Church Office will be opened only for short hours as staff check in and out. Please DO NOT RELY on messages left on the answering machine to be returned promptly. If there is an urgent need please call Pastor Scott, 954.520.6709. "Urgent need" includes hospital stays—please let Pastor Scott know if you or a loved one is admitted! THANK YOU for your help in ensuring family time for our staff.





GALS Christmas Tea is Saturday, 2nd Dec. at 1 pm. ALL welcome to come and enjoy fellowship while helping make Christmas bright for the infants of DREW Parenting Teen moms. Baby gift (Ages 0-2) or monetary donations welcome. Sign up, please, in the Narthex Sunday 26th.



Advent Workshop

Beautiful ornaments and gifts are yours for the making as Miss Janine helps all ages craft Christmas memories. Sign up in the Narthex or in the Church Office for the Advent Workshop, Sunday, 3rd Dec., at 4 pm. Cookies, mulled cider and Christmas music provide a warm backdrop to the gathering. Great event to invite neighbors and friends to come with you.



A CANTATA is a musical telling of a story. The choir AND congregation together will tell the story of Christmas at both morning services on the 10th December. Through songs new and old recapture the wonder of God's love coming down at Christmas.



Miss Joan and the children of Sunday School, Children's Church, CONVERGE and Thumb's Up present a child's understanding of the birth of Jesus on SATURDAY NIGHT, 16th December, 6.30 in the Sanctuary. Parents: PLEASE have your children attend rehearsals—they will be more confident!



Holidays can be difficult for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, whether by death, geography or estrangement. The "blues" also can color those facing losses of jobs, homes, health. Jesus comes to bring COMFORT and joy. We remember that he is with us always and that the light will not be overcome by darkness at a very special annual service held on the shortest day of the year. Please join us in the sanctuary for this meditative service. You will have an opportunity to light a candle on the altar in memory or honor of a loved one missed or situation in need of prayer.

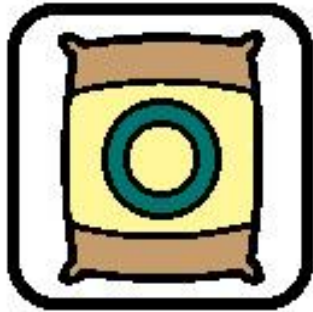
Don't be a victim of an EMAIL scam! 93 billion occur every day according to financial advisor Keith Albritton.

Remember: **E**xamine the **M**essage, **A**lways **I**nvestigate the **L**ink.





THANK YOU! While it is true that we cannot out-give God your generosity demonstrates his. **THANK YOU** for your support of time, talent & treasure to the Fall Festival, Street Clean-Up, Community Harvest Party, Pantry Thanksgiving, & Pastors' Appreciation. We are blessed beyond belief!!!



Apportionment Highlight: Our portion for the World Service Fund.

The **World Service Fund** is the heart of our denomination-wide ministry, underwriting Christian mission and ministry around the world. This fund strengthens our evangelism efforts, stimulates church growth, expands Bible studies and enriches spiritual commitment. By giving to the World Service Fund we help God's children everywhere shape the lives of tomorrow's leaders and proclaim our Christian faith. The **World Service Fund** truly demonstrates the Mission of the United Methodist Church by:

- Supporting specific local church work with children, youth, students, persons who are mentally and physically challenged, adults and older persons;
- Providing leadership and coordination for denominational ministry with youth;
- Continuing nearly 200 years of commitment to quality college and graduate education;
- Certifying United Methodist professional Christian educators, communicators and musicians;
- Assuring United Methodists speak and work to help encourage a more ethical, just and human world;
- Continuing a proud tradition of cooperation and dialogue with other faith traditions through interdenominational and ecumenical work;
- Giving our denomination a presence in the mass media and making new communications technologies accessible to the church.

The Two-Part Pledge Card

At Cokesbury we make it a habit to pause and **give thanks** for the many blessings God has provided us. As an annual act of thanksgiving our members and friends designate a percentage or a specific amount of money that they intend to give in the coming year in support of our shared mission and ministry. We give thanks for those pledges and the faith that lies behind them! They are a sign of how we delight in being a part of God's work in the world!

In December regular attenders and members will receive a **two-part pledge card**. WHY should you complete one and turn it in? Evidence is great that when we commit actual figures (% or \$) we are more likely to recognize the value of our participation—and give GOD the glory. We know everything we have comes from God; a written commitment helps us to act on that conviction.

Part 1 invites you to support the **2018 Mission and Ministry** at Cokesbury. We are not asked to give to a randomly chosen goal; we fund the mission and ministry God calls us to undertake. As good stewards, we have a budget to keep track of expenses but as in any household surprises happen. We believe **EVERYTHING** needed—planned and unplanned—for the work will be provided by God through you. Mission and ministry for 2018 will provide the staff, programs, current facility operations and benevolent outreach to the larger church, local community and world family. We know we need to do a better job at reaching the unchurched and nominally Christian community—and that



takes resources beyond what we have been allocating. Our projected mission and ministry budget for 2018 is around **\$270,000** to **BUILD CONNECTIONS** through nurture (worship & education), welcome and witness (media, evangelistic events), send and outreach (need-based mission & ministry), and equip (people & property) avenues.

Part 2 invites you to go **“above and beyond”** by supporting the **BUILD THE FUTURE** campaign. This three-year campaign (2018-20) will be a catalyst in furthering our mission and ministry by funding needed maintenance and renovations to the oldest parts of our campus. Right now, when a roof leaks or an air conditioner goes we have to meet that urgent need instead of funding important needs such as the renovation of the sanctuary and office bathrooms. If 100 people give \$10/week above their regular giving for the next three years we will have over \$150,000 for the improvements.

Commitment Saturday/Sunday is **December 16-17**. You will be invited to bring your pledge card forward at the end of worship that day. You may also submit your pledge to the church office. THANK YOU for continuing to make a kingdom difference through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness through Cokesbury

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Other Groups Sharing the Campus:

Monday through Friday, **Victory Living**, 7 am- 4 pm, Rooms 2, 3, 4

Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, **Spanish Alcoholics Anonymous**, 8-10 pm, Grace's Place (Room 4)

Tuesdays, **Boy Scouts**, 6.30-9 pm, Settle Hall

Wednesday and Fridays, **Anglo Alcoholics Anonymous**, 7-8 pm, Don Lowe Chapel

Thursdays, **Spanish Al-Anon**, 8-10 pm, Don Lowe Chapel

Always check with our Church Secretary about room availability before you schedule usage as there are “one-off” meetings NOT listed. Thank you.

NOVEMBER

- 25 5:30 **CONVERGE** — Settle Hall
26 9:30 & 11:00 am **Worship; also Sunday School & Children's Church**
9:45 am - **Choir Practice - Room 7**
10:45 am – **Bible Study – Lowe Chapel**
27 4:30 pm – Food Pantry – Settle Hall & Room 1
6:30 pm —**CHURCH COUNCIL**, Lowe Chapel
29 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
30 3:00 pm – Thumbs Up – Settle Hall & Room 1

DECEMBER

- 02 9:30 am – **GALS – Christmas Tea – Settle Hall**
5:30 pm – **Advent I celebrated at CONVERGE— Settle Hall**
03 9:30 & 11:00 am **First Sunday of Advent: Morning worship**
also **Sunday School & Children's Church**
9:45 am - **Choir Practice - Room 7**
10:45 am – **Bible Study – Lowe Chapel**
4:00 pm – **Advent Workshop for All Ages – Settle Hall**
04 7:00 pm – Trustees Meeting – Bowman Library
05 10:00 am — Decorating Sanctuary and campus
06 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
07 3:00 pm – Thumbs Up – Settle Hall
7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice – Sanctuary
09 9:00 am – **Men's Group Breakfast – Settle Hall**
5:30 pm – **Advent II celebrated at CONVERGE – Settle Hall**
10 9:30 & 11:00 am **Second Sunday of Advent: Christmas Cantata**
also **Sunday School & Children's Church**
9:45 am - **Choir Practice - Room 7**
10:45 am – **Bible Study – Lowe Chapel**
4:00 pm – **Shoe Box Gifts Packing Party – Settle Hall**
11 4:30 pm – Food Pantry – Settle Hall & Room 1
13 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary
6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
14 3:00 pm – Thumbs Up – Settle Hall
7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice – Sanctuary
15 6:00 pm - **City of Margate's WinterFest—Margate Blvd. & 441**
16 5:30 pm – **Advent III celebrated at CONVERGE – Settle Hall**
6:30 pm – **Children's Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary**
17 9:30 & 11:00 am **Third Sunday of Advent: Morning worship**
also **Sunday School & Children's Church**
9:45 am - **Choir Practice - Room 7**
10:45 am – **Bible Study – Lowe Chapel**
18 1:00 pm – Lunch Bunch – Settle Hall
19 6:00 pm – Mission & Ministry Meeting – Bowman Library
20 10:00 am – Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
4:30 pm – Intercessors – Sanctuary



And the Word
became flesh and
dwelt among us ...

John 1:14, ESV

- 21 6:00 pm – Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 3:00 pm – Thumbs Up – Lowe Chapel or Rooms 6 & 9
- 7:00 pm – Digital Photo Discovery – Courtyard Room 6
- 7:00 pm – Longest Night Service of Light – Sanctuary
- 22 4:30 pm – Food Pantry – Settle Hall & Room 1

- 23 5:30 pm – Advent IV celebrated at CONVERGE – Settle Hall
- 24 9:30 & 11:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent: Morning worship
also Sunday School & Children’s Church
- 9:45 am - Choir Practice - Room 7
- 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 11:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- 4:30 pm – NO Food Pantry (Friday – December 22nd)
- 27 10:00 am – NO Morning Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 4:30 pm – NO Intercessors – Sanctuary
- 6:00 pm – NO Evening Bible Study – Bowman Library
- 28 3:00 pm – NO Thumbs Up – Settle Hall
- 7:00 pm – Praise Band Practice – Sanctuary

- 30 5:30 pm – CONVERGE - Settle Hall
- 31 9:30 & 11:00 am First Sunday of Christmas Morning worship
also Sunday School & Children’s Church
- 11:00 pm – WatchNight Service – Sanctuary

OCTOBER’S COUNTED BLESSINGS

DATE	ATTENDANCE	SALTY SERVICE	TITHES & OFFERINGS
10/01	156	50	4,753
10/08	137	60	4,979
10/15	144	44	4,491
10/22	152	59	4,183
10/29	128	36	4,884

