

THE BROADCASTER

December 20, 2023

Pastor's Piece

What's your family tradition for exchanging Christmas gifts? My family usually exchanges one or two "big" gifts on Christmas. On Christmas morning we sit down around the Christmas tree and take turns opening gifts. We give each other enough time to open the gifts and to say, "thank you." I think my wife is the best gift-giver. I think she knows exactly what each family member needs or wants to have. This Christmas she already purchased the one that I need and it's now sitting under the Christmas tree. I look forward to opening it on Christmas morning. My family is always happy with her gift because she gives us what we like.

Who is the best gift-giver in your family? I think to be a good gift-giver you need to know what other people need or want. But sometimes we give gifts "in reverse." I mean we give gifts that we want to have and not what they want to have.

There is a story in the gospel of Matthew 2 about a group of people who bring gifts to a newborn King. These people are called the 'Magi' or 'Wise Men' who set out a long journey when they saw the star rising in East. When they finally met the newborn king, they presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These are the perfect gifts for the newborn king because they emphasized the importance of Jesus as the King and Messiah. Gold symbolizes the royalty of a king, frankincense symbolizes the worship of God, and myrrh symbolizes the death of Jesus.

Do you think these are good gifts for the newborn king? Not too long ago I read a funny cartoon and it's about the wiser women. After the three wise men left, the three wiser women arrived. These women brought gifts that were somewhat different from the wise men. The first woman brought fresh diapers. And the second lady offered casseroles for the week, and the last woman brought lots of formula. These women I think are wiser and realistic. What do you all think? Both wise men and wise women offered the perfect gifts for the newborn King.

In the season of Christmas, we receive the best gift from God and that gift is none other than Jesus Christ. Indeed, Jesus was, is, and will be the best gift ever for the humanity. Friends what kind of gift are you going to give to Jesus? Have you prepared yet? If you haven't, let me give you a suggestion. How about we give him our hearts? As we celebrate this Christmas, I invite you to accept the gift of God and return to him with our hearts. Merry Christmas!!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ji



OUR PRAYERS FOR

Those Within the Church

Donna Conway, Dale Guthrie, Amber Mounday, Mary Jane Stauffer, Tammy Taylor

Our Leaders

Law Enforcement Officers in our community and in the nation, the persecuted Christians around the world.
God's Guidance and Strength for President Biden, Our Troops and their Families

Our Military

- | | |
|---|---|
| † Michael Barbett – Darryl & Val Wall's son-in-law | † Erik Nott & family – Doug & Gay Vannaman's son-in-law |
| † CPL Cody Blair – Judy Lann's grandson | † MSGT Leah Oakleaf – Walt & Janet Southards' granddaughter |
| † Dennis Burns Jr (DJ) – Dennis Burns Sr & Lisa Soetebier's son | † SGT Steven Pearce – Walt & Janet Southards' nephew |
| † Kristopher Dewitt – Mary Stout's grandson | † Erik Ralsten |
| † Chance Greenhoff – Army | † CPL Bethany Reeves McDoniel |
| † James Harris (MP) – Bill & Joy Page's grandson | † AIC Bradley Southards – Walt & Janet Southards' grandson |
| † Austin Kroeger | † Joey Thiessen |
| † CPL Jay McDoniel | |

New Sermon Series

On **Sunday, January 14** we will begin a new sermon series called "OIKOS." "Oikos" is Greek word for "house" or "household" or "family," but Oikos is more than a family and more than a household. It is the description for the church in the New Testament, the household of faith. For five weeks we are going to discover what God has in mind when He talks about family and when He talks about household as He looks at church community. Join us each weekend as we explore together on this term Oikos.

Thank You To...

Thank you to our church family for the calls, cards, prayers, and visits! Ron is home and doing well. We appreciate all of you!

Ron & Jeanette Stanley

Upcoming Study

The Progressive Class will begin a new streaming study on **Monday, January 8**, *A New Family* by Rachel Held Evans. Through her writing and speaking, Rachel Held Evans work opened a space for people to become involved with the evolution of their faith by example. She strived to be grace-full while admitting her imperfection. Her advocacy was for the heart of God which is for the people of God. All people, a diverse bunch of clumsy-yet-beautiful people of different races, cultures, beliefs, faiths, genders, and sexual orientations just doing our best to be human. She was a person who reached for the outsider and brought their voice and perspective into the fold. She inspired change and sometimes provoked resistance. But as she says in this series, her hope was to start more conversations than end them. The Progressive Class meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.



January BIRTHDAYS

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|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Evan Reffner | 3 Jim Waller | 3 Kyla Burdick |
| 4 Pat Stone | 4 Pruitt Hubenett | 5 Bev Winter |
| 5 Bythia Tennyson | 6 Shirley Bauguess | 6 Caleb Newfer |
| 8 Sue Livengood | 8 Collin Sears | 9 Emily Reamey |
| 9 Matt Stamm | 9 Margaret Williams | 9 Camden Tormey |
| 10 Brian Botts | 10 Brock Scriven | 11 Mary Jane Stauffer |
| 11 Jeanette Stanley | 11 Savannah Koch | 12 Samantha Anderson |
| 13 Janet Southards | 14 Kaden Lampe | 18 LeAnn Barnes |
| 18 Stacy Barbour | 18 Abby Anderson | 19 Todd McKown |
| 20 Olivia Dunn | 20 Caden McGinn | 21 Ron Stanley |
| 21 Lavona Hobson | 23 Jesse Ingle | 23 Jacob Ditty |
| 23 Riley Ditty | 24 Jack Wilson | 24 Jack Lampe |
| 25 Val Wall | 25 Jacque Dundas | 26 Jill Seidl |
| 27 Jerri Hoffine | 27 Adam Ingle | 28 Denise Newfer |
| 29 Jodi Kirkland | 29 Deb Phelps | 29 Aveyana Ramos |
| 31 Greg Jaquis | | |



January ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 20 Ed & Linda McCormick | 21 Noble & Marsha Callaway |
| 22 David & Sharon Weishaar | 27 Rick & Christy Southards |
| 29 Eddy & Becki Leatherman | |

january



WEEKLY:

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
Traditional Worship 9:00a	Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC		JOY Group 9:30a FS		Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC
Sunday School 10:00a	Progressive Class 7:00p FS		Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC		
Contemporary Worship 11:00a			Chancel Choir 5:00p SAN		
			WOW ZONE! 6:00p WCC/Basement		
			UMYF 6:00p FH/14B/15B		

SPECIAL:

New Year's Day Church Office Closed Monday, January 1	Eat, Pray, Quilt...Whatever Friday, January 12 11:00 a.m. / WCC	Lunch & Learn Thursday, January 18
Leadership Orientation Saturday, January 20 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. WCC		Book Club Wednesday, January 24 6:00 p.m. / CR

SCOUTING GROUPS:

Adventure Crew First Mondays 6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 40021 First & Third Mondays 6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 40316 First & Third Mondays 6:00 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop 40870 Mondays 6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 494 Mondays 7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pack 494 Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

fumcvc's GOINGS ON...

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will have one blended worship service at 9:00 a.m. that morning. No Sunday School that day.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. We will have abbreviated hours (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) Tuesday, December 26 through Thursday, December 28.

Sunday, December 31 we will have one traditional worship service at 9:00 a.m. Sunday school will follow. No Sunday School that day.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Roody will move into his apartment after the first of the year. To get him started, the New Life Sunday school class has helped him create a registry of needed items at Target. If you are interested in purchasing a gift for Roody, please contact the office for the registry link.

Eat, Pray, Quilt...Whatever will meet **Friday, January 12** at 11:00 a.m. in the WCC. Please bring a craft to work on and a salad to share.

Leadership Orientation for those on Church Council, the Fellowship and Missions Team, Finance Committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and Trustees will meet **Saturday, January 20** at 9:00 a.m. in the WCC.

Book Club will not meet in December. January's Book Club selection is *The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy* by Timothy Keller. The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known but most misunderstood parables in the Bible. In *The Prodigal Prophet*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller reveals the hidden depths within the book of Jonah. Keller makes the case that Jonah was one of the worst prophets in the entire Bible. And yet there are unmistakably clear connections between Jonah, the prodigal son, and Jesus. Keller provides an answer to the extraordinary conclusion of this biblical parable—and shares the powerful Christian message at the heart of Jonah's story. We will meet **Wednesday, January 24** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The church has a limited number of books available for \$11.

Ways to Give

December's giving for Open Door and the Valley Center Food Pantry is pancake mix and syrup. **Donations can be brought to the middle foyer and put in the storage cabinet on the south wall.**

Welcome to
Joe & Debbie
Holdaway!



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

God of the ages, you have blessed us with another year.

Help us to make room for the blessings that are in store for us in the coming months.

May we be open to learn the right lessons, even if they hurt a little.


Help us to be patient so that we won't miss divine opportunities.

Show us how to be fulfilled without material possessions, so that we will not miss what it means to be a blessed people.

Enable us to be a blessing so you will recognize us as the ones who gave you bread when you were hungry, drink when you were thirsty, and clothes when you were naked.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Adaptation of a prayer by the Rev. Kevin B. Smalls

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS FOR WINTER & SPRING OF 2024

JANUARY 24 | *The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy* | by Timothy Keller | 270 pgs | \$11 | The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known but most misunderstood parables in the Bible. In *The Prodigal Prophet*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller reveals the hidden depths within the book of Jonah. Keller makes the case that Jonah was one of the worst prophets in the entire Bible. And yet there are unmistakably clear connections between Jonah, the prodigal son, and Jesus. Keller provides an answer to the extraordinary conclusion of this biblical parable—and shares the powerful Christian message at the heart of Jonah's story.

FEBRUARY 28 | *That's Why I Hate Green Beans* | By Lincee Rice | 208 pages | \$1.00 | If there is one thing Lincee Ray has learned over the years, it's that the majority of women on the planet struggle with insecurities. Our skinny jeans mock us. Our just-trying-to-help mothers are just driving us crazy. Our social media feeds taunt us with everyone else's picture-perfect lives. It's enough to send you on a gummy-bear bender while binge-watching *Friends* reruns and not showering for a week. Lincee knows. She's been there. Right there, in fact. Gummy bears and all. For every woman who's ever wondered if she's unlovable, uninteresting, or unattractive, Lincee offers her particular brand of hilarious (and hard-hitting) self-reflection. Like a true friend, she shows us that the fastest way to happiness is to embrace ourselves in all our imperfection, trust that God knew what he was doing when he made us, and maybe go buy a new tube of mascara. Walk alongside Lincee as she discovers that her identity is not found in her job, her relationship status, her bank account, or her social circle. It's found in Christ.

MARCH 27 | *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* | By Kate Clifford Larson | 336 pages | \$5.00 Joe and Rose Kennedy's strikingly beautiful daughter Rosemary was intellectually disabled, a secret fiercely guarded by her powerful and glamorous family. In *Rosemary*, Kate Clifford Larson uses newly uncovered sources to bring Rosemary Kennedy's story to light. Young Rosemary comes alive as a sweet, lively girl adored by her siblings. But Larson also reveals the often desperate and duplicitous arrangements the Kennedys made to keep her away from home as she became increasingly difficult in her early twenties, culminating in Joe's decision to have Rosemary lobotomized at age twenty-three and the family's complicity in keeping the secret. Only years later did the Kennedy siblings begin to understand what had happened to Rosemary, which inspired them to direct government attention and resources to the plight of the developmentally and mentally disabled, transforming the lives of millions.

APRIL 24 | *Forgiving My Daughter's Killer: A True Story of Loss, Faith, and Unexpected Grace* | By Kate Grosmaire, Nancy French | 256 pages | \$1.00 | Is it really possible to forgive the unthinkable? In 2010, Kate and Andy Grosmaire made national headlines when they did just that—publicly extending mercy to the man who shot their 19-year-old daughter. Recounting the tragedy, the trial, and the events that followed, Kate describes with breathtaking grace how Jesus helped them show love to an enemy. 256 pages, hardcover from Nelson.

MAY 22 | *This Outside Life: Finding God in the Heart of Nature* | By Laurie Ostby Kehler | 208 pages | \$1.00 | Has your breath ever caught at the sight of a sunset? Have you ever stopped in your tracks to listen to a birdsong? When was the last time you stood in awe of the world around you? Using stories, practical application, and reflective questions, Laurie Kehler invites you on a journey of discovery to escape the crazy and reset your spiritual compass to explore pathways of peace. Are you ready to set out on a new kind of adventure? Consider this your trail guide for uncovering God's signposts in the world and revealing his fingerprints on your life.

Everyone is welcome to join. We meet on the dates listed at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The church has books for the prices listed. You can also find books online or at the library.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND HOLY COMMUNION Worship Services SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

at 4:30 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Both services will be traditional



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