



The Faith Circuit Rider

December 2019 Vol. 13 Number 12
From the Pastor



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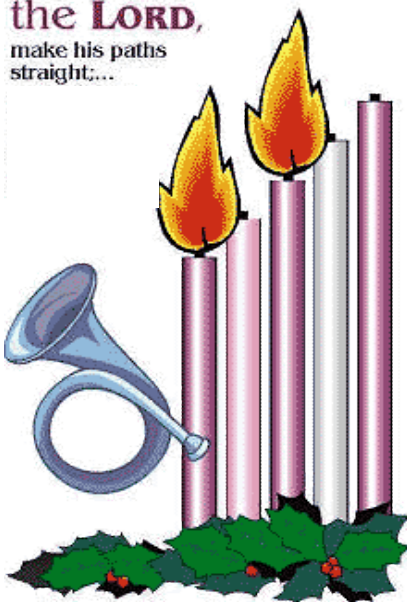
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Scripture Thought:

Prepare the way of
the **LORD**,
make his paths
straight...



Matthew 3:3b

Christmas is coming! It is less than a month away. Thanksgiving is barely over and we are now into Advent. The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word “*Adventus*”, which means “coming”. Each year we celebrate Jesus’ “coming” in the past, present and future.

We have created sacred space in the sanctuary. There are symbols of the season everywhere. On the doors and windows are the circular evergreen wreaths which symbolize everlasting life. There are candles and white lights on the trees which remind us of the light of Christ. Our trees are decorated with many symbols of the Trinity, God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The colors of white and gold symbolize purity and majesty.

This year we are going on a journey through Advent of Peace, Hope, Joy, Trust and Love. Like little children, most of us get antsy for our trip to end. And we echo their impatient words, “Are we there yet?” But perhaps as we look forward to what is to come, we can find new ways to fulfill God’s will in the present.

We will end our Advent journey with a special service on Christmas Eve at 4PM. I hope to see you all there.

*Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Sharon*

Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight. Matthew 3:3b

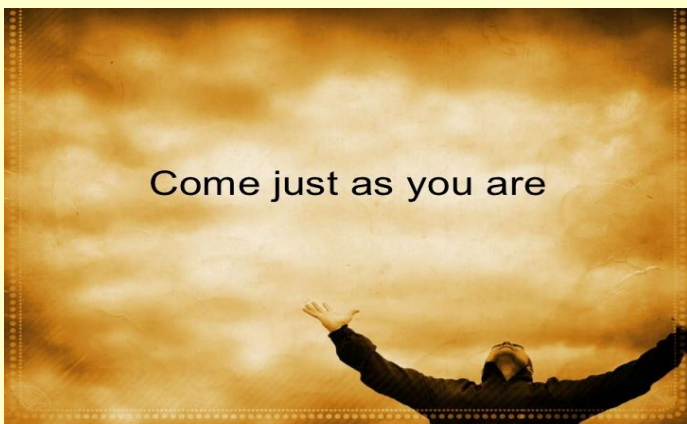
From the Lay Leader
December 2019
"Christmas Countdown"

If you've been watching television for the last month, you've heard the breaking news that because Thanksgiving is so late this year, there are fewer shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas! So, I got in gear and drug out the holiday decorations to get ahead of the curve. Since we have fewer days, I decided we would have fewer decorations. Who knows, maybe less is more!

As I carefully placed the pearl white nativity set on the shelf of the entertainment center, I thought of the song – "Come Just as You Are". I thought about Mary and Joseph. They must have been exhausted from their trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This trip could have taken anywhere from four to seven days. They were out in the elements the entire time. Their provisions may have been minimal and you know she must have been very uncomfortable walking and riding a donkey so close to her delivery date. After all this, they arrived at their destination and there was no room for them at the inn. Being forced to retire to the stable, they were probably greeted by a chorus of dirty, smelly livestock. I'm guessing this is not what Mary had in mind for the birth of the child who would save his people. And then the group of low life shepherds showed up. You know that group of social and religious outcasts. A lower class of individuals representing the poor and humble. Now you see where I'm going with this? God does the extraordinary with the ordinary!

And today we are invited to "Come just as you are, hear the spirit call, come just as you are, come and see, Christ the King, come and live forever more." And as we come to him just as we are, may Christ come to you this Christmas with the gift of love, the blessing of hope, and the promise of peace.

Susan



Treasurer's Report



November 29, 2019

"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my Prayers, my Presence, my Gifts, my Service, and my Witness."

2019 Budget \$51,739.00

Needed to date for budget	\$48,634.66
Received to date for budget	\$51,153.00
Ahead of Budget	\$ 2,518.34
Paid out to date for budget	\$36,976.28

JIF Class



John had an interesting and fun series of lessons in November. Thanks, John, for sharing your faith stories and leading us in discussion.

Sent, Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas will be our Advent Study for the five Sundays in December. Each Sunday we will hear from a different DVD presenter as they share their stories. We will hear some ideas about how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus delivering God's gift of hope to our world. Our wonderful teaching team will take turns providing leadership and discussion.

All of our church family are invited to the JIF Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Take time to join us for this special season of Advent.



I am so thankful for your continued commitment to our Missions Program. Your generosity has helped so many people in so many ways. Take time for yourself, tell family and friends you love them and be kind in all situations. Merry Christmas to you all.

Beth



SERVING MEALS TO THE HOMELESS

OPEN DOOR - 32 Commerce Street,
Waynesville, Saturday,
December 21st at 5:30PM.

Colorful Ladies of Faith

Our November meeting was well attended...it was good to be together.

There will not be a meeting in December.

May your Christmas be filled with wonder and joy.

Our next meeting will be the third Thursday morning of January...January 16th at 10:00.



Visit our website at fumcwnc.org

It is updated weekly with the entire service from the greeting, announcements, prelude, prayer and hymns to the sermon, benediction and postlude!

CONTACT information



If any changes or additions need to be made please contact me by calling 828-456-6944 or email jlf21@charter.net. Thanks, Judy

Flowers for Faith



The Flower Calendar has many openings. This is the season to share beautiful flowers from your garden. You may sign the Flower Calendar on the Bulletin Board.



Special thanks to the Elves who decorated our Church and Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Everything looks beautiful...a reminder of this special season of the year.



Kim Goodin **New Email** for Faith UMC:

kgfaithumc@gmail.com

December Servants:



Greeters: Chris Johnson

Educational Entrance: Committee of the UMM



Our church now has assistance for the hearing impaired. If you have trouble hearing the service, please pick up a hearing aid in the narthex.

Rev. Robo Calling

Please be reminded to contact **Rev. Robo (400-7947)** if you have sickness, death, or any prayer needs.

It is a privilege for your Faith family to share your burdens or prayer concerns and lift you in prayer.

December Celebrations



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5-Trudy Blaine
- 6-Hayden Setser
- 7-Virgil "Len" Davis
- 9-Doyce Rogers
- 12-Kari Setser
- 14-Christy Yarski
- 17-Scotty Setser



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20-Debbie & Kenny Mull
- 30-Doug & Terri Rogers



Faith's Mission of helping Haywood Pathways provide some food to its residents is a work in progress. With the backing of Mission Chair Beth, financial help from Faith and anonymous donors, a tower was delivered.

In early October, WNC Urban Farms assembled the aeroponic growing tower at Pathways. Because the growing season was just about gone, they offered at no charge the use of grow lights until the tower can be located outside since the tower was placed in the pantry at Pathways.

Pathways Executive Director Mandy Haithcox shared with me recently that they should be harvesting various herbs and lettuce types very soon. She said that she'd never seen plants growing in a pantry and the plants make the air seem very fresh and clean. The residents who have seen the tower think it's "cool" and are interested in watching the plants grow. Mandy thinks that when the tower can be placed outside, more of the residents will take an interest in it.

The picture below was taken the day the tower was set up. Pam Haralson is the farm person who helped assemble the tower.

