



Tidings



Emory United Methodist Church
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December 2014-January 2015



"Celebrating Christmas Appropriately"

I am sometimes amused at how upset some Christians get over the secularization of Christmas. I have heard complaints about stores, and Santa Claus, and office parties which pretend to celebrate Christmas while almost totally ignoring the religious aspect of it. The irony of this is that what we Christians celebrate as the birth of the Savior of the World was originally a pagan feast to commemorate the passing of the shortest day of the year and the lengthening of daylight hours. Fittingly, Christians adopted this day as their own, not to honor the return of the sun but to welcome the Light of the World. I just can't get very worked up over "the world" taking back what was once its holiday anyway.

However, I confess to being somewhat baffled over Christians who complain about this phenomenon and then buy into it rather wholeheartedly themselves through holiday busyness and purchasing expensive gifts. The question I ask myself is this: How ought we as followers of Jesus best celebrate this day?

It seems to me that the Bible offers a couple of pretty good clues here. First, there

is the example of the shepherds who went out of their way to worship the Christ child. Then there were the angels who praised God loudly, and certainly singing carols seems appropriate. Finally, there are the Magi who brought gifts, and this too seems like a good thing as long as it is not done too lavishly. Unfortunately, people do tend to go a bit overboard here.

But as I grow older and watch more and more Christmases go by, I find myself identifying most closely with Mary, the mother of the Christ child. The Bible tells us that she celebrated that first Christmas thusly... "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) Ah, yes. There are things to be treasured -- memories, loved ones, God's gifts. I encourage you this Christmas to make a time and a place to "ponder them in your heart." Now that would be celebrating Christmas appropriately.

Pastor Dwight



Please help our six adopted families enjoy Christmas by taking some tags off the Christmas package in the back of the sanctuary. We need these gifts wrapped and returned no later than Sunday, December 14th. Don't forget to attach the "Post-It" to the top of the package so that we know which family the gift should be given.



Our devotion to prayer is one of the greatest ministries we have at Emory. Please remember these requests for prayer in your daily devotions. If you know of anyone who needs prayer, or have names to update on our prayer list, please contact the Church Office or Kay Martin.

Amy (relative of Bonnie Johnson), Joyce Applefeld, Bill Ball, Bill Beauchamp, Bob Beverly, Mike Bitzel, Charlotte Bond, Ruth Buckingham, Jeff Cole, Sherry Cole (daughter of Laurie Harper), Ruth Crisler, Jeff Davis (Son of Chuck Davis), Ruby and Melvin Fair, Jack Gerrell (friend of Bob Bradford), Shirley Gordon, Janice Hidey (Sister of Rev. Barry Hidey), Wanda Horn, Anne Hakes (Sister of Chuck Davis), Margaret Landreth (Patty Kelly's Mother), Virginia Mann and her son Mike, Helen Moore, Janice Raver, Shannon Raucci (friend of Leda Yeager), Sarah Robrecht, Sarah (friend of Greg Evans), Jeff and Betty Ware (nephew and sister-in-law of Barbara Grogg), Bill Williams (brother of Linda Fair), and Jim Woolley.

Christmas Eve. The larger fifth one is white. It is the Christ candle and is lit on December 24th as we celebrate at last the arrival of "the Light of the World." Now we proclaim that we have received the wonderful gifts of Christmas -- Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love. Since we have prepared our hearts for weeks, we can now incorporate these gifts into our very beings, and share them with those whose lives we touch, for we are now bearers of peace, hope, joy, and love as disciples of the Christ.

Our Advent Candle Lighters this year are as follows:
 November 30 -- Ken Fowble and Max
 December 7 -- Jennifer, Tony, Laurel, and Riley Wennell
 December 14 -- Connie Hamm and grandchildren
 December 21 -- Beth, Riley, Caroline, and Casey Zentz
 December 24 -- Taylor and Adam Sheely



We will not be having a December luncheon, but please join us for our monthly luncheon at Noon on Tuesday, January 27th at Fratelli's in Hampstead. Call Jane Alban to make your reservation.



Advent

The first indication that we are beginning to think about Christmas is the appearance of the Advent wreath four Sundays before Christmas. It initiates our countdown to Christmas as a visible reminder that we are in a time of great anticipation -- waiting for God to break into our lives in a real and powerful way. Our task is to prepare our hearts so that we can respond appropriately to God's call on us to serve and to love as he has done.

The wreath contains five candles, four of them are colored and are lit one each Sunday leading up to

- 12/1 Ryder Wineke
- 12/9 Bill Ball
- 12/9 Rob Lyons
- 12/10 Chuck Hayes
- 12/11 Sam Evans
- 12/15 Laurie Fertitta
- 12/21 Cliff Moore
- 12/22 Heather Bitzel
- 12/27 Kendall Sperber
- 12/29 Jessica Wire
- 12/30 Erma Kipe
- 12/30 Robin Freeman
- 12/31 Nora Wells Thomas
- 12/31 Leslie Hall

- 1/2 Shirley Gordon
- 1/6 Sarah Martin
- 1/23 Loren Blake
- 1/27 Ken Fowble
- 1/28 Riley Zentz
- 1/30 Donna Lyons
- 1/31 Doug Myers
- 1/31 Sandy Hampt
- 1/31 Tony Candeloro

Special December Events at Emory

Wednesday, December 3 – 5:45 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesday dinner (last one until January), followed by the Manchester Valley High School Chorus led by Bev Mauck at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Monday, December 8 – 6:00 p.m.

UMW Christmas Party at home of Dee Patten

Everyone is asked to bring a \$15.00 gift for our gift exchange. A sign up sheet for food will be passed around at church and if anyone does not want to make something, a monetary donation to help defray the cost of the paper goods will be appreciated.

Sunday, December 14 – following worship

Christmas Luncheon in Emory Hall with a special visitor for the children!

Sunday, December 21 – 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Eve – December 24

7:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve Service


11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

(The UMW still has candy, nuts, and crafts for sale. Contact Donna Rucker!)

December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			5:45-Wonderful Wednesday 7:00-MVHS Chorus	7:00-Boy Scouts		7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00-Worship & Children's SS	6:00-UMW Christmas Party			7:00-Boy Scouts		7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00-Worship & Children's SS 11:15-Christmas Luncheon				7:00-Boy Scouts		7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00-Worship & Children's SS 12:30-Christmas Caroling			7:00-Family Christmas Eve Service 11:00- Candlelight Service			7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
28	29	30	31			
10:00-Worship & Children's SS						
<i>Emory UMC</i>						

January 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3 7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
4 10:00-Worship & Children's SS	5	6	7	8 7:00-Boy Scouts	9	10 7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
11 10:00-Worship & Children's SS	12	13 7:00-Trustees	14 5:45-Wonderful Wednesday 6:30-Bible Study 7:30-Choir	15 7:00-Boy Scouts	16	17 7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
18 10:00- Worship & Children's SS	19	20 7:00-Finance	21 5:45-Wonderful Wednesday 6:30-Bible Study 7:30-Choir	22 7:00-Boy Scouts	23	24 7:00-AA and Al-anon Mtg Emory Hall
25 10:00-Worship & Children's SS	26	27 7:00-Church Council	28 5:45-Wonderful Wednesday 6:30-Bible Study 7:30-Choir	29 7:00-Boy Scouts	30	31
EMORY UMC						