

THE HERALD

Listening to God's Heart from the heart of the city.



In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's easy to get caught up in all of the chaos. This month, make sure to take time to wait in the stillness. Look inside for examples and for ways to spread the Christmas spirit.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It's the most wonderful time of the year, right? Now you're probably humming the tune, hearing Amy Grant or another artist singing it. The stores have already been playing it, and numerous "holiday" channels are now available for your listening pleasure. Hallmark movies have been playing for quite some time, easily sucking you in the plot lines.

Visualize your schedule for a moment. As you look at your calendar (virtual or paper), think about what's filling it. Sporting events, concerts of children and grandchildren, events around town, holiday gatherings, beyond what is normally on the schedule. December can have a hectic, if not frenetic pace to it. We're running around, fulfilling Christmas wish lists, standing in long lines (although Amazon has certainly helped in that regard), heating the kitchen making cookies, and developing the next appetizer for the work holiday party.

In the midst of this frenetic pace, our Savior will be born. The times are no different now than they were then - it's just that census-taking and taxation have now been replaced with parties and bling. I want to invite you, this month, to take a moment of stillness each day. Stop what you're doing; don't think about what the day holds. Instead, take the time to breathe in the Spirit, and invite Jesus to come into your midst. We sing the text in carols, like "be born in us today," but sometimes, our schedule barely can accommodate the reason for this season. Pause, give thanks, and praise God. Savor the Savior of the world in the calmness of early morning or the evening light.

The carol continues, "O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel."
May it be so!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay



STUDENT MISSION TRIP COOKIE WALK

The student ministry will be doing a cookie walk as a fundraiser for next summer's mission trip. Join us on Sunday, December 9, after worship in the narthex. We'll have plates, bags, and lots of cookies to choose from (suggested minimum donation is \$5 per dozen). If you'd like to sign up to donate 3 dozen cookies, please do so at the welcome center, and have your cookies there by the time worship begins on December 9. Thanks for supporting the students as they reach out in mission.

NOW CHRISTMAS BAGS

We're not collecting a "Just One" item in December; rather, we're doing Christmas bags for our NOW students. Visit the tree in the education wing entrance and pick up a bag for a student. Fill it with some of the items on the attached list (please limit your purchases to \$15 so that we can be equitable to all students), and return it to the church by Monday, December 17. Thanks so much for sharing some light and hope this season!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us on December 18th and 20th to go Christmas caroling to various nursing homes in Crawford County. Signup sheets will be available at the Welcome Center in the narthex. Please give us an idea of how many songbooks we'll need, and if you are a licensed to drive the church bus, we'll need a driver to volunteer. Let's spread some Christmas spirit and maybe show a little love of Christ while we're at it.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE COOKBOOK

Calling all cooks! The Outreach Committee is still working on compiling your most beloved recipes to put into a Robinson First UMC Cookbook. We could use any type of recipes, but particularly need submissions of side dishes, appetizers, and entrees! If you have a recipe you would like to share, please get submit it to Kirbie in the office, Daniel Boatman, or Shannon Goebel ASAP. We would like to have all recipes submitted by the end of 2018 so that we can send off the book to be published. All proceeds from the book sales will go towards supporting our church's various outreach missions. Help us make sure that we do not miss out on any of your favorite Methodist meals! Thank you so much for your help!

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

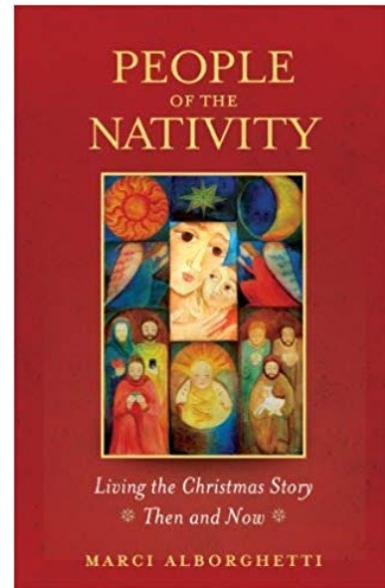
There will be a gathering for young adults at the parsonage (804 North Scott Drive) on Wednesday, December 12, beginning at 6:30 pm. Please bring a snack or beverage to share, and join in a time of fellowship!



LIBRARY

The Church Library is happy to offer *People of the Nativity* by Marci Alborghetti, to supplement the upcoming Characters of Christmas sermon series. Amazon.com reviewer ARG describes it this way: Marci Alborghetti takes the Christmas story and gives a depth of humanity to the familiar cast in effort to connect modern readers to the real message of Christmas. Much like the Red Tent or any other historical fiction that takes glimpses and known facts to make deeper stories from real people to help us form connections with our past, this book breathes new depth into the shepherd and Anna and Joseph. We know what happened - an angel came to Mary and she said yes, but what did her parents say to this unwed mother? How did they feel about the shame and possible stoning death of their daughter? More importantly, what can we learn from this today. Each chapter is a glimpse at the Christmas story from the perspective of different people in the story as they struggle with the situation of Jesus's birth. At the end, there is a prayer that helps the reader connect those emotions with modern struggles as well as an act that we can do to help prepare for Christmas and questions to ask yourself to further discuss the story. This would be a great book to read during advent as a family activity. It combines a flair for historical fiction and a deepening of faith seamlessly.

It will be at the welcome center for express checkout. Take it, read it, return it to the library desk when finished.



THANK YOU!

The upper elementary Sunday School class would like to thank those who baked delicious goodies for us and for all who generously purchased everything we had to sell. Because of your support our class raised \$571 to help make our church greener! Recycling bins are now in place in most rooms of the Education Wing and we will empty them every other week. Additionally, we will begin purchasing LED bulbs to replace the existing ones in the fixtures of the Education Wing starting with the entry area and high traffic rooms first. We will update you as we go along. Thank you once again for demonstrating what an awesome congregation we have!

- The Upper Elementary Class



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/5 Joy Anderson, Sherri Murrell
12/7 Tyler Devonshire
12/9 Kate Imhoff, Sandra Hale
12/11 Stacie McMillan, Wesley Parker
12/12 Nancy Brigham
12/15 Jim Wallace
12/16 Grant Oxford, Katie Odom,
Mary Etta Whitmer, Andrew Hays
12/18 Julia Albin
12/19 Bonnie Wright
12/23 Jean Decker, Nita Bradbury
12/24 Ken Mattsey
12/25 Susan inboden, Karen Marchand
12/26 Suzanne Wallace
12/28 Kay Albin, Nancy McCracken,
Kristy Veenstra
12/30 Kirtina Carter, Elliott Veenstra
12/31 Rita Diel, Joyce Maurer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/18 Jon & Joy Anderson
12/22 Don & Alice Taylor,
Tom & Pam Cooper
12/23 Dave & Sharon Freeland
Amy & Mark DeDoming
12/28 Mike & Mary Jane Parker

PRAYER REQUESTS

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello;
Carol Wolf; Carl and Helen Blanton;
Michael Brady; Patty Steele; Cathy
Thomas; Judson Richardson; Jennifer
Newlin; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang;
Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John
Larrabee; Nicole Young; Bev Turkal;
Evan Prah; Ray Dotson; Bev
Arrington Campbell; Margie Moore
McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay
Young; John Poland; Joan Fulling;
Nancy Young; Tim Roth; Fred White;
Kip Davis; Vonnetta Shipman; Rodney
Denoux; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell;
Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Bill
Hubbard; Brenda Wolfe; Ashley
Griffith; Claudette Mejean; Ava
Seaney; Demmie Long; Jaycie
Hoagland; Emma Bodine; Charles
Hough; Tonja Bradford; Charley
Clark; Sheltyn James Henry; Coleen
Roach; Charlotte Crofton; Layton Roy;
Victims of hurricane Michael;
LeaVone Johnson; Susan Rodgers;
Norris Adams; Rhea Adams family;
Shirley Stephens Family; Shirley
Wakefield

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal
2 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Evening Worship	3	4 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	5 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm FUMC Foundation Meeting	6 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	7	8
9 8:00 am Praise Kids Rehearse 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Youth Mission Trip Cookie Walk 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship	10	11 11:00 am MATS 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	12 Office Closed - Leadership Training 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:30 pm Young Adult Gathering 7:30 pm FCA Meeting	13 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	14	15
16 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Evening Worship	17	18 11:00 am MATS 4:00 pm Christmas Caroling 6:00 pm Jesus and the Gospels	19 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm Staff Christmas Party	20 9:30 am Jesus and the Gospels 4:00 pm Christmas Caroling 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:30 pm Glory Handbell Choir	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	24 7:00 pm Candlelight Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Day	26	27 6:00 pm Couples Small Group 6:00 pm Jail Ministry	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Evening Worship	31 OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Eve					

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Director of Christian Education: Nina Davis

nineah3@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator: Brennan Seth Tracy

brennansethtracy@gmail.com

Music Director: Antje Pippin

antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark De Doming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Tiffany Beard