

ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • DECEMBER 2020

The Herald

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

A night sky with a bright yellow starburst in the center, surrounded by smaller stars and a blue gradient. Silhouettes of trees are visible at the bottom and left sides.

Waiting and Watching

**What gift of new life does God have
for us if we view our lives with
anticipation and expectation?**

From the Pastor's Desk

Well, here we are...just this past week, I remarked to someone that we thought COVID would be over by Easter, and that we'd only be apart for 3-4 weeks. How wrong we were about that prediction! These ensuing months have caused us to feel a myriad of emotions - anger, frustration, depression, loneliness, to name a few. As much as we have wanted things to go back to pre-COVID, God has - and is - using this time to refine us. We've had to question whether we live in scarcity or abundance. We've wondered if we can embrace a schedule and calendar that actually has "white space" on it. We've been pushed to determine if the church is centered around people or a building.

And now, here we are. For some of us, Thanksgiving looked - well, unusual. Christmas promises to not be the same as it used to be. And here we are...in Advent. These days prepare us for the coming of Christ. These days invite God to refine us - to filter out the impurities of our lives - and, as the carol says, "let every heart prepare him room."

I would venture to say that, as hard as these last eight months has been, the church has never needed Advent more than it does in 2020. People of faith really need this time for reflection, for prayer, for recognizing what is truly important in our lives (and to realize that our lives of faith are not separate from every other aspect of our lives). Imagine what would happen if we released bitterness from our hearts, or anger, or pain, or sorrow - and we let Jesus Christ take their place? That, my friends, is what incarnation means - God coming down and taking up residence in our hearts.

So, watch and wait with me. Pray with me. Use Kay Albin's wonderful poetry as a starting place, alongside the daily Scripture readings in our Advent devotional. Invite God to refine you through them. Gather with us online (or in person) for worship, for Sunday school, or even for some wonderful live-streamed music from our sanctuary (like the LTC music faculty recital on December 9 at 7:00 pm!); for our Kids' Club families - assemble your Lego Advent wreath kits and light your candles with us each Sunday morning for worship. Watching and waiting gives us the opportunity to get ready for the greatest gift of all - Jesus Christ. He is our hope and our peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Pastor Jay

NOW

- Kirbie Ackman

With all the ups and downs that 2020 has brought it is vital to make sure that each one of our students has a Merry Christmas. In keeping with the theme of the year, we are making a few slight changes to how we are doing our Christmas Bags.

Instead of having a tree at the church full of string bags to fill, we will be collecting items to put into the bags. I will have lists available on our Facebook page, to be picked up outside the church office and at Hello Gorgeous. We would ask that you pick up 1 -2 items, stay under \$10 and then deliver them to either FUMC (Monday or Thursday) or Hello Gorgeous (Monday - Friday). The stylists at Hello Gorgeous please ask that you wear a mask when you enter the salon, we want to keep everyone safe and healthy this Christmas Season!

We absolutely understand that with changes comes frustrations but we want to do everything that we can to ensure our students have a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas this year!

I will be looking for elves to help us stuff the Christmas bags, please use this link to sign up: <https://signup.com/go/utsVkuz>.

We have will three baggings in December, every Thursday at 4:00pm. Please sign up for those using this link: <https://signup.com/go/QFTppWB>.

Christmas Eve Worship Sign Ups

Spoken word services with Children's moment, sermon, lighting of candles and communion. There will be no singing, wear a mask and practice social distancing. These services are tentatively planned to meet but are subject to change based upon mitigation tiers. Please sign up below to join us.

5:00 pm - <https://forms.gle/ZoJ4RCCLdT92u5rf8>

9:00 pm - <https://forms.gle/8APCC8AyEX8oonRe6>

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to order one or more Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one, please return the completed form to the church office by December 21st. The price of the poinsettia is \$15.00. They will be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service December 24th.

Please indicate how many you'd like to order and if it is their memory or in honor of.

United Methodist Student Day

Gifts to the United Methodist Student Day offering help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do. Please return the enclosed envelope to the church office to make your donation.

2020 Offering

Please have your offering into the office by Wednesday, Dec 30 if you would like them to be counted towards your 2020 giving. Otherwise, they will be put towards 2021.

Marion Medical Mission

- Robert Quick

Well, God did it again! FUMC Outreach has continued to support Marion Medical Mission's work in Africa. This year, God took our gift and found an anonymous donor willing to match, doubling the impact. Together with other Christians, over 3000 wells have been installed, dedicated to God's glory, and providing 450,000 with access to naturally filtered water. Below are pictures of the two wells in Tanzania that we played a part in creating. With 2020 being such a dark time, we have to remember to look to God's light. When you look at the pictures below, see God's love in the faces of every person, our brothers and sisters.



Life-giving water flows for this village.

Care News from Stephen Ministry

Marcia Schmidlin

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

- Romans 12:12.

It seems as though the Christmas season began weeks ago. Everyday we are bombarded with Black Friday Sales, and advertisements of families and friends getting together in large, joyful celebrations. The numerous Christmas movies feature happy and fun-filled scenes. Hopefully, many of us have experienced calendar-packed holidays in the past; however, this year is challenging. We won't celebrate in-person with our extended family, our church, and friends. We will virtually "attend" family get-togethers and church services. Therefore, this Christmas season may have us feeling sad and alone. Our Stephen Ministers are available to talk to at any time during this season. This season is special, and Stephen Ministry at FUMC understands the challenges being faced and wants to help.

Our congregation has well-trained Stephen Ministers ready to give help, hope, and healing. If you or anyone you know needs someone to talk to or you'd like more information, please contact Pastor Jay. All contacts will remain confidential.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

- Psalm 130:5

During November the Stephen Ministers met with their Care Receivers to provide Christian care. The Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers met for supervision and continuing education. Additional videos featuring our Stephen Ministers shared on the FUMC YouTube Channel and Facebook. The Stephen Ministers will meet on December 2 for supervision and on December 16 for Supervision and Continuing Education.

In his name the nations will put their hope.

- Matthew 12:21

May we all approach the new year with anticipation, expectation, and hope.

Stephen Ministry
"Christ Caring for People through People"



December Birthdays

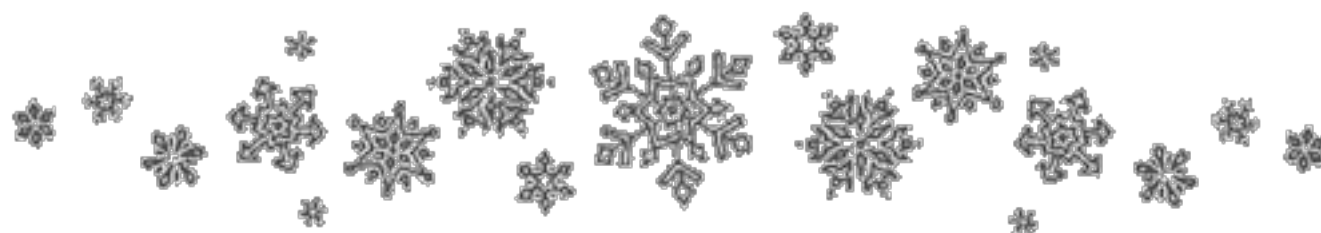
12/5 Joy Anderson, Sherri Murrell
12/7 Tyler Devonshire
12/9 Sandra Hale
12/11 Stacie McMillan
12/13 Nick Ippolito
12/15 Jim Wallace
12/16 Grant Oxford, Katie Odom,
Mary Etta Whitmer, Andrew Hays
12/18 Julia Albin
12/19 Bonnie Wright
12/23 Nita Bradbury
12/24 Ken Mattsey
12/25 Susan inboden, Karen Marchand
12/26 Suzanne Wallace
12/28 Kay Albin, Nancy McCracken,
Kristy Veenstra
12/30 Kirtina Carter, Elliott Veenstra
12/31 Rita Diel

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

Jeremy and Greg Markello; Carol Wolf; Carl Blanton; Michael Brady; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Michael Keene; John Larrabee; Nicole Young; Evan Prah; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Young; Nancy & Charlie Young; Fred White; Vonnetta Shipman; Becky Goodwin; Caius Bell; Ray & Nelda Dotson; Kim Collins; Claudette Mejean; Ava Seaney; Demmie Long; Emma Bodine; Charles Hough; Sheltyn James Henry; Norris Adams; Rick Pritchard; Laurie Vaughn; Bill Jones; Kay Bonnell; Wally Leggit; Joe Schmidlin; Cathy Frakes, Judy Eckert; Bernice Kibler; Lisa Schaefer; Shirley Wakefield; Matthew Williams; Debbie Houser; Bob Callier; Larry Potts; Patricia Hodgson; Pamela Hart; June Watson; Maria Reis; Paul Davis; Kathy Kennedy; Roger Pethel; Tina Klender; Paul Clinton; Duane Parker; Ruth Fiscus; Max & Debbie Tedford; Charlie & Janet Clark; Jan Riker; Alan & Joan Summers; Kathy & Estell Keys; Carolyn Leggett; Dustin Ikemire; Sherill Oxford; Robin Bray; Greg Faylor; Susan Rodgers; Doug & Monica Moeckel; Mary Etta Whitmer; Melinda Ashby; Elwin Falor; Dr. Sikorski; Kim Collins; Brad Smith; Floyd Brinkman; Barb Coffey; William L Damron; Family of Helen Blanton; Leah Buser; JR Manning; Kamillah Rollins



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Zoom)	3 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Adult Sunday School (Zoom)	7	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 1:00 pm - Stephen Ministry Leaders (Zoom)	14 10:00 am NOW Christmas Bagging	15	16 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	17 4:00 pm - NOW Weekend Meal Bagging	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Evening Service	21	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Eve 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve In-Person Service 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Livestream Service 9:00 pm - Christmas Eve In-Person service	25 OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Day	26
27 9:00 am - Worship (Live Stream, YouTube and Radio) 10:30 am - Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 6:00 pm - Evening Service	28	29	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Eve		



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doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodians: Amy DeDoming, Mark DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Anita Cohoon