



Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

Publisher: Witness Team

Volume No. X

Issue No. 12

December 2021

Editor's Comments:

Please use my e-mail address to submit stories, events, happenings, or other information that you would like in the newsletter. If you do not have a computer, please give it to me in person or mail it to me. The deadline for all news items to be submitted is the 20th of each month. That will give me time to have it compiled and printed for distribution on the last Sunday of the month.

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A Word from Our Pastor:



The thoughts for this devotion are from Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 2:22-38

December is a wonderful time of the year. We start celebrating Advent the last Sunday in November and continue through Christmas Eve. Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation for celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. We have an Advent Wreath, Advent Candles and Advent Readings in our church services each Sunday. We also think about the second Advent or coming of Christ during this time. It is a time of soul searching and preparing ourselves for His Second coming to make sure we are ready for Him to come.

There were those who were anticipating Christ's first coming. Simeon was a just and devout man who was looking for the Consolation (Messiah) of Israel. There was also a godly woman named Anna who also was serving God with prayers and fasting daily. They had been looking for and preparing for the first coming of Christ and were ready

when He came. They rejoiced to see Jesus when he came the first time. They were filled with awe and wonder. Imagine what it will be like for us to see Jesus when he comes the second time. We need to follow their example of devotion to God, preparing our hearts and lives for Jesus' Second Coming.

It is also a time of worship for us as Christians. We marvel at the wonder of Christmas. God sent His only begotten Son to die that we might not perish but have everlasting life. God did this for everyone, and no one is excluded.

We think of giving and receiving gifts at Christmas and the greatest gift ever given was Jesus Christ and the salvation He bought with His own life. We have received that gift from God and through His grace and faith in Christ. And so, we are to share that gift with others by telling them about Jesus and what He has done for us.

Jesus came to preach good tidings to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives etc. During the Advent and Christmas season let us not think of ourselves but let us think about the poor, the brokenhearted and the captive and let us do what we can to alleviate their pain and suffering. Christ has called us to do this, and He gives us the power to do it! Remember the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

May all of you have a most wonderful and safe Advent and Christmas season!

- Pastor Dan

From the Nurture Team:

"While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around."

"Get Ready". John the Baptist Shouts!!!!

Events planned for Advent:

November 28 - First Sunday in Advent – As we light the Advent Candle Wreath, think of the

changes coming into the world. Isaiah 9:2, 6.

December 5 – Second Sunday in Advent – Stir up our hearts. Luke 2:28-32.

Holy Communion, 11am

December 12 – Third Sunday in Advent – Good news of great Joy. Luke 2:8-20

December 19 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – The power of God. Help us to be ready to celebrate. Luke 2:1,3-5

Following worship, we will have a fellowship meal for all.

December 24 - Christmas Eve, 6pm, We will have Holy Communion, music, candlelight, readings, and prayers. Luke 2:11-14

Thanks to all who participate in gracing the sanctuary with the beautiful Poinsettias.

Our Choir has resumed bringing a message in song each Sunday. We have a new choir member – Dorene Fortney to add to our group. Misty is working up some specials during the Advent season.

Sunday School will resume on December 5 for Ron and Gloria's adult classes, and Pat Wilson will lead the Elementary and Jr. High ages.

We need a volunteer in 2022 to help prepare Holy Communion with loaf bread and juice in the small cups. Please discuss this position with Pastor Dan or myself.

A reminder that it's important to keep in touch with our home-bound. If you know of someone at home or hospital, who would like a visit, the church bulletin, Pastor Dan's Sunday Sermons, or a phone call. Please let Glenda Conley or Gay Walfield know.

Wishing all a Very Merry Christmas and a blessed and safe 2022.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him a manger, because there was guest room available for them. Luke 2:6-7

It is almost Christmas. Christmas is a time for giving and sharing. Our mission for December is donations to the Christmas fund for the children and youth that make their home at Epworth. We will start now taking your donations to help these young people have a blessed Christmas.

We need to mail our donations by December 12th so the people at Epworth will have time to shop.

Just put your donation in a regular offering envelope and make a note that it is for the Epworth Christmas fund. Thank you for your support and letting these young people know that we care about them.

We will not do the Mailbox Christmas cards this year. It would be appreciated if you sent a card to our Homebound.

Irish Christmas Blessing

God grant you lightness in
your step,

A smile on every face
you meet,

Loved ones gathered at
your hearth,

And at your door good
friends to greet.

A holy hymn upon
your lips.

A window candle burning
bright,

Any may the Good Lord
bless our heart
And come to dwell there
Christmas night.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

Susie is doing an amazing job with the church newsletter. Updates to the church directory are on the library table for members to pick up and add to their church directory. Gay and Glenda continue their ministry by keeping in touch with our homebound and members by keeping in touch, mailing out church newsletter and other correspondence to them.

Angela and Jane are hosting the first fellowship meal since COVID. This will take place December 19th right after church. This will be our Christmas get together so bring your appetite and enjoy the fellowship.

News from Asbury Hills:

Ashbury Hills has been serving all people for Christian birth, growth and renewal by offering summer camps and retreats groups experience for all ages since 1961.

Upcoming events coming up are:

Hands and Feet Service Weekend, February 25-27, 2022.

Open House April 3, 2022
1-5 pm

Let's do a road trip please let me know if interested.

My favorite Christmas carol that holds a special place in my heart is Silent Night. My grandmother would harmonize with me which is probably why I love to harmonize with others. The song I have chosen to share is

In The Bleak Mid of Winter which is based on a poem "A Christmas Carol" written by English poet Christina Rossetti published in 1872. In 1906 the proem was set to music composed by Gustav Holst under the title:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan;

Earth stood hard as iron,
water like stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on
snow,

In the bleak mid-winter
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot
hold Him nor earth sustain,

Heaven and earth shall flee
away when He comes to
reign

In the bleak mid-winter, a
stable-place sufficed

The Lord God Almighty-
Jesus Christ

Enough for Him, whom
Cherubim worship night
and day.

A breastful of milk and a
manger of hay;

Enough for Him, whom
Angels fall down before,

The ox, ass and camel
which adore.

Angels and Archangels
may have gathered there,

Cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;

But only His mother in her
maiden bliss

Worshipped the Beloved
with a kiss

What can I give Him, poor
as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I
would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man I
would do my part,

Yet what I can I give Him, I
give my heart

Merry Christmas from the
Witness Team:

Jane, Susie, Gay, Glenda,
and David.

- Jane Barton

Changes in COVID Protocols 11/9/2021:

The following changes
were made to Latimer's
COVID protocols at the
Administrative Council
Meetings on November 9,
2021. The protocols were
voted on separately and
each one passed
unanimously.

- The congregation will be allowed to sing all verses of the hymns, The Gloria Patria, Doxology and any other responses. The congregation will be able to say out loud the Profession of Faith, Lord's Prayer and any responsive readings.

- The choir will be allowed to return to the choir loft for singing. This was not voted on by the Council. The decision will be left up to the choir as they feel comfortable.

- Traditional Communion will return. Small groups will come down to the altar. Rev. Dan and a helper will wear gloves. Dan will first serve the bread. There will not be any intinction. The "wine" will be served in cups from the round serving tray. There will be prepackaged elements available for those who would like them.

- There will be no fellowship time during the service except when a visitor is present so that you can personally welcome them.

- Sunday School will return on the 1st Sunday in December.

• There will be a catered Fellowship Meal on December 19th after Sunday Worship. Tentatively regular Fellowship Meals will return every fifth Sunday.

- Gloria Eaves

Church Council:

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 11th at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary.



A Very Special Birth

*Jesus knew when He came
down to earth,
That His was a very special
birth -
A birth of a child, and yet a
King,
'Twas a birth that made the
angels sing.
He grew in favor with God
and man,
And always tried to fulfill
God's plan -
A plan of which He was
well aware,
Of the rugged cross that
He must bear.*

*Jesus bore the cross that
we might see,
Just how much God cared
for you and me.
He cared so much that
He'd freely give,
His own son to die that we
might live.*

- Billie Jo Campbell
January 17, 2021

Our Homebound:

Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning
Jerry Manning

Our Prayer Concerns:

Ben Brogden, the family of Jean Broome, Hilda Bruce, Juanita Butler, Scott Campbell, Kendall Chandler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Katie Coward, Theresa Coward, Rev. Tommy Edwards, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Betty Hill, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Jackie and Jerry and Jackie Manning, Sara McDowell, Nancy Nagel, Outz Family, Brenda Parfitt, Colleen Pinson, Bobby Poore, Cy Roberts, Melissa Scott, the family of Mike Smith, Norma Timms, Frank Williams,

Frank Woods, Marvin Woodson, Carl and Ellen Yates

United Methodist Women:

At the November meeting the Latimer United Methodist Women observed the World Thank Offering program. The money collected from this service is used worldwide for the projects supported by the

UMW organization. It is not ear-marked for one particular need. During the business meeting Pat Wilson shared a letter from the District 2 school superintendent thanking Latimer for their help in the drive for school supplies last August. He mentioned many volunteer opportunities with the schools both large and small. During the holiday season the guidance counselors in each school are aware of children in need in their school and strive to provide them with Christmas presents. These counselors know exact needs to meet and acquire so monetary support is more helpful than supplying random items. The Latimer UMW felt that we would be able

to help with this project. Therefore, the main theme of the Christmas Celebration meeting will be to bring gifts of cash which will be given to Belton Middle School to help their "Christmas for Children in Need" project. This UMW Christmas meeting will be held Monday, December 6 at the church at 3:00. Pat Wilson will present a Christmas program. The traditional finger food party will NOT be held so those who attend can estimate the cost of what food they would have brought and add that amount to their gift offering.

- Regina Bullions



Jane and Dorene sang "In the Garden" on Sunday, November 7th. They did a great job!

Liturgist's Schedule:

- Dec. 5th – Ron Walfield
- Dec. 12th – Kent Millwood
- Dec. 19th – Sandy Sorrow
- Dec. 26th – Linda Millwood



United Methodist Men's Club:

The UMMC will meet on Sunday, December 19th at 9:30 AM. They will not be having breakfast since that is the day we have our Christmas meal after worship service.



Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at The Gray House in Starr for lunch at noon on Wednesday, December 8th. Please let Susie Howell know if you plan to attend by Monday, December 6th so she can give the restaurant a head count.



All Saints Day:

We observed All Saints Day on Sunday, November 7th. A candle was lit in remembrance of church members, family, and friends.

Church Directory Update:

The updates on the Church Directory are on the table in the church entryway. A big thanks goes out from the Witness Team to Kent Millwood for printing these for us.

Ushers:

- Frank Sorrow
- Max Walfield



Acolyte:

- Max Walfield
- Alana Walfield

Treasurer's Report:

As of November 22, 2021, the balance of the General account was \$35,387.13, of which \$5,222.88 is escrow. The housing allowance balance is \$1971.97. Deposits continue to be made to this account from the Martha Manry endowment.

A detailed report of both the General account and apportionments will be posted in the Team room around the first of December.

Although, we are closer, have not yet returned to "normal". Our members have continued to support the church not only spiritually and emotionally but also financially without interruption. A big thank you is due them.

- Tommy Howell



Halloween on the Square:

Members of the Witness Team participated in the Halloween on the Square event in downtown Belton. Thanks to our congregation donating bags of candy, we were able to give out lots of candy to the area children. Thanks to everyone for making this a success.

