

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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The Open Door

Volume 14 No. 12

December 2017

Dear Friends,

Did you realize that our New Year as Christians begins on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent? It does. Amid the busy, buying season of the cultural Christmas, we begin anew by waiting, or at least we are invited to do so. That is what Advent is all about – waiting for the Christ Child to be born among us once again. It is about remembering our story, imagining anew how to be God's faithful people in the world and preparing for this great gift to be given to humanity again.

Waiting doesn't fit much into the cultural Christmas of doing, going and spending, I know. It is hard to wait when the entire neighborhood already has decorations up. It is hard to wait and ponder when there are gifts to be bought and cookies to be made. It is hard to wait and imagine when the pageant must be planned, the tree must be decorated and the RSVPs sent. It is hard, but it is also a great gift to

wait, to prepare, to imagine while the rest of the world rushes and bustles.

Advent is about waiting and lighting candles. Christmas is about celebrating and doing. And that is where we can reclaim something of our New Year. We will sing Christmas Carols during Christmas –

Dec 25 to
Jan 6, or
Jan 7 in our
case since
that is the
Sunday we
will celebrate
Epiphany.
You want
to say Merry
Christmas
to all those
you pass;

do it, just wait until Christmas comes on Dec 25. Then surprise everyone by greeting them with Merry Christmas for those 12 days of Christmas. Until then greet others with Happy Advent!

You see it is hard to imagine a new world when we are stuck doing what is culturally expected every year. It is hard to imagine what difference the Christ Child has on our lives when we sing Deck the Halls and Santa Baby before we sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel. I know it is hard, it will be hard, but try to find a few moments each day of Advent to ponder, to pray, to imagine the light coming into the darkness.



**Grace and Peace,
Wendy**

Opportunities Abound...

In the month of December, there are many opportunities to be and do the work of Christ in this world. Here are just a few:

Prison Ministry: As part of our ongoing ministry to inmates at Morgan County Regional Prison, we have two opportunities in early December:

Goody Bags – We are providing Christmas Treat bags to 108 inmates this year. The administration has very strict guidelines about what can go into the bags, so we have found it easiest if we ask for monetary donations and purchase exactly what they have specified. We will have the supplies ready to make up bags during the Hanging of the Greens on December 3rd. You can help by assembling bags, and also by making a donation to help with expenses.

Christmas Dinner – We also have been asked to partner with another church in providing a Christmas dinner for 200 inmates on the following day, December 4th. We are providing desserts (the richer and gooier, the better!) All desserts must be in clear containers, and they need to be at the church by noon on Monday, December 4th. (If you need help finding appropriate clear plastic containers, please contact Karen Schall, who will purchase a plastic container at one of the Food Service suppliers in Knoxville.)

Bethel Arts Ministry is helping to collect items for Mid-East Community Action Agency's Operation "Holiday Cheer" 2017

Holiday gifts (approximately 200), which will be distributed by the Office on Aging and Senior Nutrition program to seniors who receive home delivered meals and to other who are referred to the program. Some suggested items to include in the gifts are: Flashlight and batteries, Gloves and hats, Hand Sanitizer, Candy (wrapped), Kleenex, 2018 Calendars, Pens and pencils, Stationery and stamps, Night lights, Bath soap, Shampoo, Lotion, Band-Aids, Medication organizers, Hot chocolate mix, Stuffed animals, Dish Liquid, Laundry soap, Small holiday ornaments.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to the BAM room on the 2nd floor by Monday morning, December 4th. Fearless Leader Diana Davis will see to it that they are delivered to Mid-East!

Love Kitchen

Bethel volunteers will be providing a Christmas dinner for Rockwood-area residents on Saturday, December 9th. If you would like to help prepare and serve this meal, please speak with Marge Hettrick (882-6513).

The **RCHS Interact Club** members are still collecting gently used board games, cards, and puzzles under 550 pieces for the Boys and Girls Club of Roane County until December 10. You can find out more about what the recipients do by visiting the Roane United Way website, the club website (www.bgcor.org) or on Facebook. Every afternoon after school is a chance to change the lives of students of all ages and playing games is a win-win for everyone. Please bring your contribution to the church office or give to Interact Club officers Katherine Frye or Henry Coen before December 10.

Hands of Mercy Food Collection

For the month of December our items are **Baby Supplies** (diapers, rash cream, baby wipes, lotion, shampoo, bath). These and other non-perishable food items can be brought in throughout the month and placed in the HOME collection basket in the Gathering Area. Our in-worship collection will be Sun. 12/24 at the Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 PM.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHRISTMAS JOY

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken on Sunday, December 24th during the morning worship service. This offering is used for retired church workers, and also to provide support and scholarship money for higher education.

The Open Door

Sunday, December. 3: Hanging of the Greens

Christmas Baskets &
Gifts pick-up
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Activity Centers
in Fellowship Hall
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Clean up and setup
for dinner
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Dinner
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM
Worship
6:15 PM – 7:00 PM

Birthdays for December:

- 11 Krista Kolwyck
- 12 John Walker
- 13 Orlando
Vanegas, Jr.
- 14 Bob Jones
Donna Walker
- 16 Ted Dailey
- 22 Tom Pickel, III
- 28 David
Standridge
Maria Vanegas
- 29 Jessica Choate
Jim Schall



Birthday Blessings

memorials & gifts

In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick
from
Mark and Kathy Banker
In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod
from
Mark and Kathy Banker
In memory of DH Johnson from
Dave and Nancy Braski
In memory of Dick Evans from:
Jim and Mary B. Hines
Bob and Susan Garner
Robert and Lynne Spires
Darryl and Jayne Jackson
Tom and Jane Pickel
Frank and Marilyn Harris
Terry and Charity Robbins
C.W Nestor, Jr.
Liz Singley
Gary and Dianne Griffith
Jill McMaster
Ann Marie Tugwell
Don and Una Coffman
Mark and Kathy Banker
Dan and Cathy McDowell
In memory of Bill Shadden from:
Heide Gregory
In memory of Bob Winsboro
from:
Terry and Charity Robbins
In memory of Jacob Murr from:
Tom and Jane Pickel

Hookers and Others

The *Hookers and Others* rug hooking group invites any who are interested in fiber arts to join us each Monday afternoon at 1:00 in the Sunday School room on the second floor. We began as a traditional rug hooking group but we are inviting those who enjoy cross stitch, knit, crochet, needle felt, quilting or any other fiber art to join us.

A New Look...

If you have been in the fellowship hall in the last week or two, you have seen some changes. We needed to do something about the glue coming through the joints in the tile and we decided polished concrete was the most cost-effective and best looking remedy. We still have to replace the baseboard, do some painting, and put down matching ceramic tile in the stairway area. Thanks to the committee of Ken Dungan, Karen Schall, Laura Dailey, and Julie Bunch. Thanks to Charlie for unlocking in the mornings and extra cleaning, and to Susan for checking on it being locked up and for general coordination.

A note of thanks...

Thanks so much for all the cards with loving comments and especially for all the great hugs and moral support.

Love, Celia



PRAYERS of the CHURCH

Prayer Reminders

Wellington Place, 1096 Bradford Way, 37763
Chris Badger, Room 107
Cornerstone Village, North, 2-1 Oak Street, Johnson City 37601
Tauno Maki

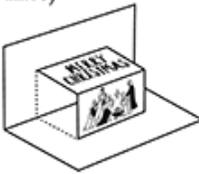
Jeff Paris;
Brenda Strickling;
Morgan McElhinney (*Daughter-In-Law of Jeanette & Mike*).

POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

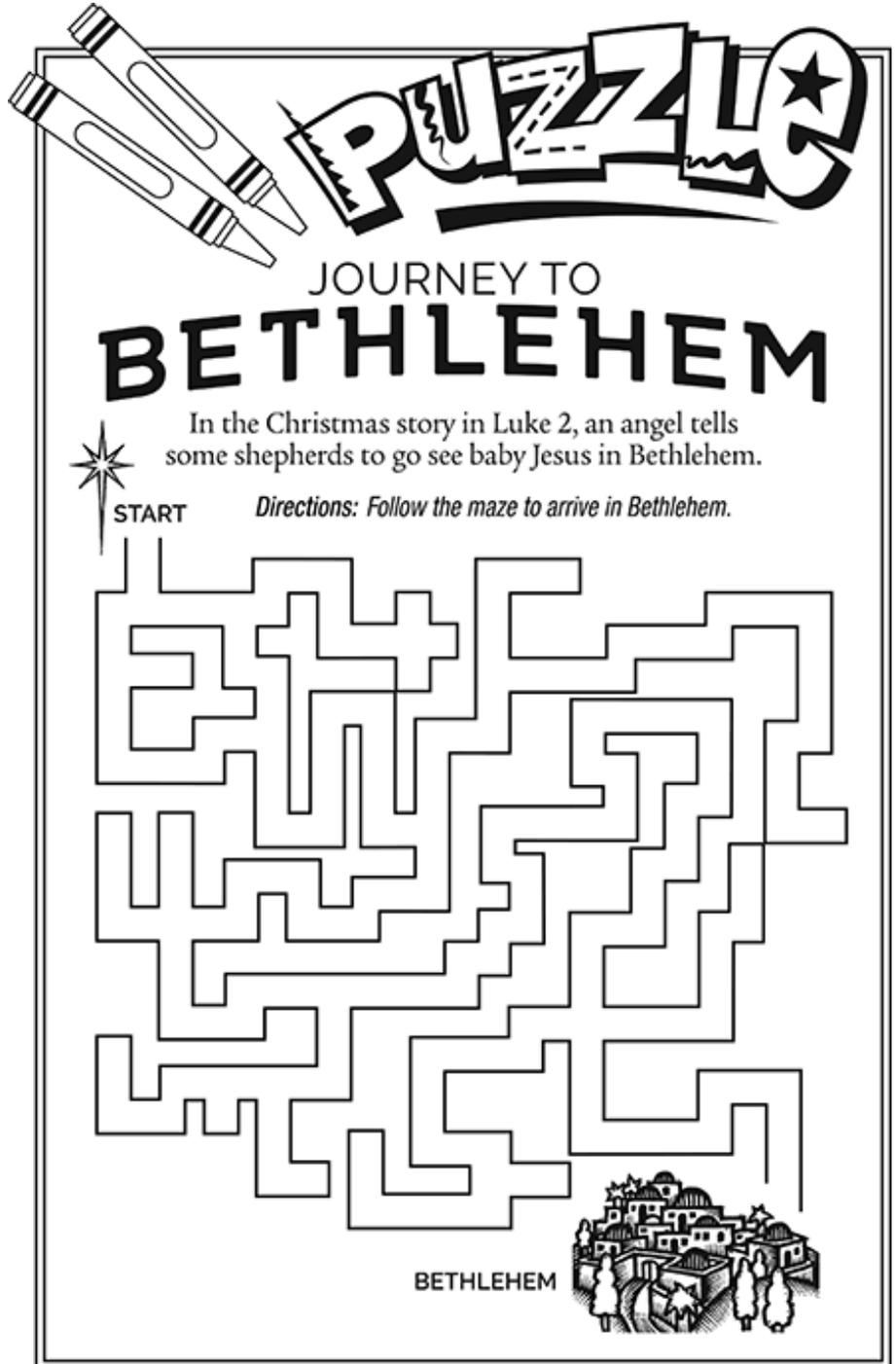
What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.



Kids' Corner

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Holidays sometimes affect regularly-scheduled meetings and events. If you're in doubt, be sure to check with the office for the latest information on re-scheduling and cancellations.</p>						
					1	2
3 1st Sunday in Advent Communion Sunday Faith Team 12:15 Basket Distribution & Hanging of the Greens 3:30 PM	4	5	6	7 Ten 10 Book Club Christmas Luncheon	8	9 Love Kitchen at First Pres., Rockwood
10 2nd Sunday in Advent	11 Finance Team 6:00 PM	12	13	14 Women's Bible Study 10:30	15	16
17 3rd Sunday in Advent Session 12:15	18	19	20 Fellowship Team 5:30 Property Team 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Christmas Pageant 7:15	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday in Advent; Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8 PM	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p>Each Week: Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club—Adults: Mon. 10-Noon & Mon 6:30-8:30 PM Taoist Tai Chi: Tues. 6-7:30 PM, Fri. 10-11:30 AM, Sat. 10-11:30 AM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM Yoga: Thursdays, 5:30 PM</p> </div>					