



The Meeting House

Washington United Methodist Church

December 2019

Inside This Issue

- Pastor's Message 1
- The Backpack Program/
Care Center Giving Tree/
Missions Committee update 2
- Meeting House email/
Address Change reminder/
Vacation and Snowbirds/
Meaning behind the Advent
Candles/Reminder 3
- Calendar/Weather Delays/
Financials 4
- Birthdays/Anniversaries 5

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Mon. - Fri.: 8:30-4:00pm

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washunitedmc

George Bullard once analyzed the church by using the life-cycle framework. He breaks up the cycle into 10 stages from birth to death (George Bullard, *The Life Cycle and Stages of Congregational Development*). According to his analysis, we could possibly say we are in the very last phase of life, somewhere between retirement and old age. The main character of the very last phase is that structures, not vision and passion, control the church ministries. Unfortunately, this is true. We are losing our passion and getting older. One of the common solutions to get on a thriving path again is to draw in younger families. We need younger families with children who have a great passion for ministry. However, if we don't do anything but complain, we will miss the opportunity to move toward a thriving path. We need to get the momentum started (Bob Farr, *Renovate or Die*).

In our stewardship campaign last month, I mentioned one thing we need to focus while we work on ministries and missions, is to seek Jesus together in this church and to invest ourselves. We need to be making disciples of Jesus Christ because this is something that Jesus entrusted to us. When we make disciples, we are building the church (Mike Breen, *Building a Discipling Culture*). When we can see people around us in our church who are growing in Christ, we are building the church.

This is the reason that we want to develop our small group ministry, helping the congregation to grow in Christ is one of our main ministry goals for 2020. I hope we can start the momentum toward a thriving path again by focusing on this. In order to help the congregation get momentum going, Ad. Council would like to hire a gifted person as ministry staff who will take charge of youth and small groups. I know many of you are wondering how we can get the money to hire a new paid staff person with our financial deficit. Finance committee consulted with the endowment committee and will find the money from the foundation, as Mike Moore and Bob Helsing shared on Nov. 24 at the worship service.

I believe this is what we need to do to get on a thriving path again. A new staff person can help us work together in an efficient way. We need people like you who have passion and are willing to help and pray for ministries.

God's Blessing and Loving Care to All
Kwang



Yune and I appreciate your heart of care and encouragement, in particular, what you showed in pastor appreciation month. I hope we continue to love and encourage one another in the grace of God. Thank you.

The Church office will be closed on December 24th and 25th and December 31 and January 1.

Merry Christmas





Updates from Missions and Outreach

The Backpack Program

The Backpack program is up and running at both Lincoln and Stewart schools. Food is delivered to the Middle school and the High school where food pantries are being stocked and backpacks for the elementary schools are filled and then transported to the schools for distribution to the students. For as long as we are able, we will be supplementing the backpacks with food we are purchasing at Fareway and HyVee. One store makes weekly deliveries for Lincoln and one store takes food for Stewart backpacks. The pantries at the high school and middle school are also providing food for middle school and high school students. The school pantries, like the HACAP office, get food from Hiawatha but we are supplementing the program at the schools. Sometime in the future we might be supplementing the supplies for the middle and high school as well. Grocery orders and deliveries will probably change on a regular basis because the kind and number of items they can get from Hiawatha changes. The schools are very grateful for our help. If you wish to give money to this program, write "backpack program" on your check or envelope. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, contact Dianne Gray at 653- 4816.

Care Center Giving Tree

It will soon be Advent and we will again be asking the care centers for names of residents who do not have relatives that will be providing them with Christmas gifts. We will be putting up the giving tree again and covering it with tags. The tags will contain a name (or sometimes just a gender) and some gift ideas. Please follow all of the directions on the tags that you take—especially the instruction about cutting off the bottom part, writing your name on it, and leaving it in a basket that will be left near the tree. We need to know who has each tag to be certain that a tag is not lost, and to be able to call if we can't locate the gift at the church. You may leave the wrapped and tagged gifts in the church office or next to the tree in back of the sanctuary. Thank you. If you have questions, contact Dianne Gray at 653-4816.

Missions Committee

The mission committee has been busy the last two months thanks to everyone that donated items. We helped box up 97 boxes of food for HACAP in October. We took 23 kits to Ingathering on November 2nd, including 11 Hygiene kits, 10 school kits and 2 layette kits. The quilting group also sent 4 of their beautiful quilts for the auction. All of these items and money from actions were shipped to Jamaica to help where they are really needed. Also, we made up 5 kits for the homeless and delivered to Choices. We also delivered hygiene products to the new homeless center in town, and High Schools. We are helping the schools to fill backpacks with food each week. If you would like to donate to any of these missions, you can bring items to the church or give money and we will shop for needed items. Items still needed for Homeless kits are: bath towels, toilet paper and hair brushes.



Get the monthly **Meeting House** via email instead of regular mail, it's faster and saves the church money on postage. Just call or email the church office and the change will be made for you. If you are receiving both email and regular mail copies, call the office to stop the regular mail issue.



Please advise the church office if you move, change or drop a landline or cell#, have a new email address or change your name. Do not hesitate to call or email to make sure the office has your correct information.

Vacationers and Snow birds!! - please let the office know what your departure and return dates are. The database can be programmed so that you will automatically continue to receive the Meeting House and any other mailings, without interruption, at your winter and/or summer locations. If you choose not to receive any mailings while you are away, please let the office know so that mailings can be stopped until you return.



Meanings behind the Advent Wreath Candles

Have you ever wondered why one of the advent candles is pink? I was puzzled about this for many years and the only answer anyone could give me was that pink is the color for joy. Last year I decided to find more information which I set aside until recently.

The tradition of Advent was not established by churches until long after traditions of Lent had been in practice. Lent is 7 weeks long and the color purple is used to signify royalty, repentance, and suffering. Lent is to be a time of reflection and fasting. But because there is also reason for hope and joy, the third week of lent was designated as a break in the fasting and pink roses were used to signify joy.

When the season of Advent was added to church calendars, it was decided to make the season a sort of mini lent and to keep the color pink as the color for the third Sunday of the Advent season as well.

It can be confusing to know which candle to light first, second, third, or fourth because they are in a circle or wreath. But the candles should be lit in the same order each Sunday as follows:

First Sunday—Candle of **Hope**—color purple

Second Sunday—light 2 purple—second candle is the candle of **peace**

Third Sunday—light the previous 2 purple ones and then the pink candle of **Joy**

Fourth Sunday—light the first 2 purple, the pink, and lastly the purple candle of **Love**

Often there is a 5th, white candle, in the center of the wreath. This is the Christ candle. It is usually left unlit until Christmas Eve.

Submitted by Dianne Gray

Sunday Bulletin Announcements - Due in the church office no later than the preceding Wednesday afternoon.

Meeting House Articles - Due in the church office no later than the 15th of the month (for the following month), regardless of what day the 15th falls on.

All announcements and articles are subject to Pastor approval.

Church Office hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm 319-653-5446

Pastor Kwang: 319-541-2631 (Friday is Pastor's day off) kwang.song@iaumc.net

Financial Secretary: Tim Johnson 12:00pm - 4:00pm officewashumc@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Melody J S Merritt 8:30am - 12:30pm office@washingtonumc.com





**GROWING
HOPE**
G L O B A L L Y

REMINDER: DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR DONATIONS

GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY (fka FRB – Foods Resource Bank) as of Nov. 2018

With harvest nearing completion, this is a reminder about our Growing Project and your donations and contributions. **Growing Hope Globally (GHG)** is an ecumenical Christian answer to world hunger. Money raised is sent to third world countries to help them become self-sufficient by producing their own food. This is done by buying tools, seed, fertilizer, etc. and giving it to third world farmers under **Growing Hope Globally** supervision. One Hundred percent of our donations go to the project.

This is the 2nd year we are partnering with the Washington School FFA under the direction of FFA advisor, Trent Steinhart. The students are raising money and researching third world country projects and they will decide which project from the list the funds will be designated to receive the money.

If you would like to make a donation to this project, please make your tax deductible donation to the **United Methodist Church** and be sure to indicate **Growing Hope Globally (GHG)** in the lower left hand corner of your check or envelope so labeled. Donations are needed by **DECEMBER 20, 2019**, so your donation can be included in our year-end report and you can be given credit for your contribution. Remember we have all been blessed, so consider your gift to this project. This is our 15th year in helping relieve world hunger.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have questions, please contact Dave Birney (653-4713 or 461-3232) or the Church Office (653-5446).

Dave Birney

Washington Growing Project Co-Coordinator

December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 1 8am & 10am Services 10am Children's Sunday School United Methodist Student Day	2 9am Quilters	3 11:30am Staff Meeting	4 3pm-5pm Kidz Klub 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm MYLIFE 7pm Chancel Choir	5	6	7
8 8am & 10am Services 10am Children's Sunday School	9 6:30pm Worship Committee	10 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Missions/ Outreach	11 3pm-5pm Kidz Klub 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm MYLIFE 6:30pm SPRC 7pm Chancel Choir	12 11:30am WAMA 6:30pm Trustees	13 12:00pm UMW	14
15 10am Service - Christmas Program	16 9am Quilters	17 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Children's Ministry	18 3pm-5pm Kidz Klub 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm MYLIFE 7pm Chancel Choir	19 8:30am to 4pm HACAP - Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Finance	20 8:30am to 4pm HACAP - Fellowship Hall	21
22 8am & 10am Service 10am Children's Sunday School	23	24 Church office closed	25  Church office closed	26	27	28
29 All Music Sunday One Service - 10am 10am Children's Sunday School	30	31  Church office closed				

*Not every committee meets every month, your committee chair-person will advise you of scheduling.

Weather Delays/Cancellations



In case of bad weather listen to KCII before you go out to worship service or a church event. During the week keep in mind that if the schools are closed, church events are cancelled and the church office is closed.

Year-to-Date Financials Through December, 2019

General Fund	Actual Income	Actual Expenses
This month	12,976	13,292
Year to Date	222,635	240,778

December Birthdays!



4
Diana Hamilton
Debra Lueck

5
Andrew Greiner
Judy Marshall
Russell Munn
Ann Williams

6
***Robert Ross**

7
***Pat Mangold**

8
Louise Richards
Mark Thode
John Unternahrer

9
Kirk Bailey
Allen Griggs
Loren Renoux

10
Shawna Manz
***Donna Knott**
Mike Williams
Jennifer Young

12
Bill Chmelar

14
Susan English
Lyle Moen
***Marion Turnipseed**

15
Ashley Crull
Sherry Massey

16
Robert Bauer

19
Richard Magdefrau
Shirley Textor

20
Audrey Goldsmith
Veta Thode

21
Mary Binning
James Soukup

22
Ted Miller

23
Kurt Hinrichsen

24
Lori Bauer
James Davis
***Wendell Eden**
Marie Unternahrer

25
Mark Beatty
Cassandra Vazquez

26
Blake Hartzler

27
Connie Messer

28
Craig Johnson
Nancy McCreedy
Phil Speece
Jackie Wells

29
Sherry Friday

31
Emily Hotle
***Audrey Stark**

***Bold names
indicate
90+ birthdays!**



December Anniversaries!



18
Brant & Autumn Reschly

19
Michael & Lisa Carr

28
Robert Jr. & Karen Crossett

22
Fred & Nancy Stark

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Meeting House

Washington United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship
8:00 & 10:00am

Washington United Methodist Church
206 West Second Street
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

