



The CHIMES Newsletter

First United Methodist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

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Pastors: Keith Anglemyer & Juan Garcia
December 2015

Good afternoon! This is a holiday edition of the Mid-Week Boost! It will also serve as my letter for the return of the Chimes newsletter for December. There is lots of important information below, so please take time to read it carefully.

Of course, first and foremost is the season of Advent which is upon us. If you are like most people, that means that your already busy schedule is about to get crazy! As far as the church goes, I can think of nothing better than a busy Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the tiny baby who would become King.

As of this writing, our church schedule for Advent looks like this:

November 29 - First Sunday in Advent, also Youth Sunday, where our youth will lead worship services at both 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. To give the youth the opportunity to plan and lead services from time to time, Youth Sunday will be every month when there is a 5th Sunday - the first one just happens to be the first Sunday in Advent as well!

December 6 - Happy Birthday Jesus party for our Sunday School classes!

December 13 - Church Christmas Music Program during the 11:00 a.m. service. Both congregations will meet together in the main sanctuary that day to celebrate the coming Christmas season in song. The 8:30 a.m. service will be a regular service that morning.

December 20 - Service of Las Posadas, which is a service of shelter for the Holy Family. The Hispanic Congregation will present this traditional service beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dinner in the dining room. I encourage members from both congregations to attend this moving service!

December 24 - Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service, at 7:30 p.m. Come and celebrate the arrival of the Christ child in song, word and light.

I want to remind you of the request from the staff at Garfield Elementary for unisex sweat pants for their students. As the colder weather comes upon us, the students are in need of warmer

clothing. If you would like to help, you may bring sweat pants to church with you on Sunday, or if you prefer, just drop them off at the school. Either way, I know the students and staff really appreciate our help. We are doing a good thing in the lives of these wonderful students!

Speaking of our partnership with Garfield, Pastor Juan and I attended the Bright Futures luncheon this past Monday. Bright Futures is the organization who helps with these partnerships. Each partner church and organization sat with the principal of their school. During the time, we heard of some other needs for the students and staff. We also talked about increasing the number of business partners. We also talked about how the students would like to give back to the community, so we discussed a potential program that both the school and the church can do together. I will have more information on this program later in December.

In the mail, you will soon be receiving a letter from me, detailing the Advent Stewardship Campaign. It is our hope that during the season of Advent, our giving campaign will help us reach the end of the year without a budget deficit. The Finance Committee is doing everything they can to try and keep the expenses of the church as low as possible. In fact, the budget that was passed at the Charge Conference meeting in Johnson a couple of weeks ago reflects a 10% decrease over last year! Beginning in January, we will include detailed budget information in each edition of "The Chimes" newsletter. We will also be publishing weekly giving in the church bulletin each Sunday, so we can keep track of our giving in regards to our budget needs. I hope this Advent Stewardship Campaign will be the last one we ever have to conduct, and next year, our giving is able to keep pace with our budget requirements!

The Christmas season is supposed to be one of the most joyous times of the year. Unfortunately, we sometimes seem to be so busy that we dread all of the events we must attend, not to mention buying Christmas presents and trying to make plans to visit family and friends during the holidays. We need to remember what the season is all about when we realize we have another concert to attend, or another party to prepare for, or another church function that doesn't normally happen during the rest of the year. But the Christmas season is also a season of dread for other reasons - particularly someone who may be facing a first Christmas without a loved one who may have passed away within the past year, or for someone who may be estranged from family and will be spending another Christmas alone. These problems make our hectic schedule problems seem not that important at all.

The prophecy of Isaiah 9 declares "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned." We know, of course, that the light that has dawned is the light of Jesus, born as a tiny baby to a young couple in a little stable over 2,000 years ago. But to people living in darkness this Christmas season, the light they seek may very well come from us, for as the light of Christ shines ON us, it also shines THROUGH us, illuminating the darkness that is faced by others. Please remember to be the light this Christmas season, and EVERY season. Sometimes the greatest gift you can give to someone in a dark situation is the give of hope - the hope that is ours through our faith in that tiny baby, who would become the King of all creation!

Season's Greeting, and may God bless you and your families this Christmas season and beyond!
Pastor Keith

Dear Church Family:

It's hard to believe that the season of Advent is already upon us. As thoughts of Christmas approach, we realize that the reason for the season is the gift of the tiny child who would become the promised Messiah, our Savior, Jesus. It is in the spirit of that one gift that we are thankful for our blessings, and for the ability to give back from those blessings during this Advent and Christmas season.

I would ask that as you consider the gifts you offer this season, one of those gifts would be to the Advent Stewardship Campaign at First United Methodist Church in Liberal. The Finance Committee of the church has worked hard to be fiscally responsible with the money entrusted to them. Even with this hard work, we are facing a budget shortfall as we move into 2016.

Our Advent Stewardship Campaign aims to resolve the shortfall, and allow us to move into the new year without a deficit looming over us. Our goal for the campaign is to raise \$75,000 during the season of Advent. This will allow us to meet our budgetary requirements, and start 2016 on solid financial ground.

Our church is alive - we have felt the Holy Spirit moving through us in 2015, and with renewed energy, we have begun to extend our reach into the world as we work to Know Christ, and to Make Christ Known! Your gift to the Advent Stewardship Campaign will help us continue serving God through the work we are doing in our own mission field locally, as well as around the world.

To make a special gift to the Advent Stewardship Campaign, please mark your check with "Advent" in the memo line, and place it in the offering plate. You may also bring your gift to the church office, or send it to us by mail.

Please consider what you can do to help the church during this Advent season. Help us continue as we reach out to minister to the people of Liberal and beyond. Help us spread the word of Christ during this season as we celebrate his birth, the greatest gift of all!

God's Blessings - Pastor Keith

From Pastor Juan

The Las Posadas (“shelter” or “lodging”) tradition is an idea inspired by a remembrance of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It represents the pilgrimage of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, their search for a place to stay and the rejections they faced.

The journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, on foot or by donkey, would have been long and difficult for a woman close to giving birth. Finding no place in the inn, because it was filled with others who had arced first, they had to stay in the stable. The holy moment arrived, and the Son of God had for his crib a feed box used by the livestock. What a light this shines on the sympathy of God for the hard luck of the poor and God’s disdain for human splendor and riches!

So the Las Posadas remembers Joseph and Mary, when they could find no place to stay when they asked for shelter, “posada”, and reminds us of the story in the second chapter of Luke.

The celebration consists of two groups who join in a traditional answer-and-response song. One group is outside the church asking in song for lodging. The other group, inside, answers with reasons they can’t come in. After several attempts, the group inside finally recognizes Joseph and Mary, open the doors and invite them in , offering them the best they have. Treats such as coffee, hot chocolate, and tamales are traditional.

It’s also a tradition to have a piñata or two for the children. The paper Mache piñatas decorated with brightly colored paper represents sin and evil as deceptive attractions that try to tempt us into sin. The children attempt to hit the piñata while blindfolded, represents faith in what we cannot see. The stick they use is the power of God that helps us to destroy evil and deceit in the world. The piñata is hung up with a rope that is pulled to make it move, this movement represents our fight against invisible spiritual enemies. And breaking the piñata is our triumph over temptation and evil, as the children are showered with candy and toys representing the blessings of God. Celebrating Las Posadas is a sign of the harmony between our people and a reflection of the voice, traditions, and faith of the people of Hispanic culture.

Blessings from above

Pastor Juan Garcia



Las Posadas

Will be Sunday, December 20th, 6:00 p.m.
Everybody is welcome!



Candle Light Service

Wednesday, Dec 24, 7:00 p.m.





The poinsettias will be on the alter the first Sunday in December. We will be purchasing Poinsettias again this year as part of our Advent decorations for the sanctuary. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia or make a donation please note this on the memo line of your check or call the church office. The cost is \$25 this year. They can be picked up after the first Sunday in January. Thank you.



Youth Group

4:30pm - Middle School Youth Group

6:00pm - Youth Fellowship Meal

6:30pm - High School Youth Group



CHOIR PRACTICE HAS STARTED

Will be from 6:30-8:00 for the next month



Food Drive for Genesis Family Health

At this time they are taking any food to try and get their stocks built back up. I encourage you to bring food items to the church, or even take them directly to the Care Center yourself.



We have received a request from Garfield Elementary School. Since the weather is cooler now, they are asking for our help to supply them with gender-neutral sweatpants for their students. I would think they could use all sizes that would fit kids from 5 to 12 years old.

If you would like to help, please take them directly to the school, or bring them to the church and we can deliver them as we get them.

Thank you so much for your help!



Support UMW When You Shop at Dillons

Just affiliate with F.U.M.C. Women with your Dillons Plus Shopper's Card or 1-2-3 Rewards Card. Anytime you shop at Dillons and scan your card, you'll support Liberal United Methodist Women. This program started Feb. 1.

- Visit www.dillons.com/communityrewards and scroll down to sign in to your account or create one.
- Click on "Enroll Now" and enter 66354 which is our number.
- Select First United Methodist Women and click "Enroll."

Share our number 66354 with others!

If you haven't signed up we have included some instructions on how to do so. If you need help you may call Ruth at the church office 620-624-8401 to set up a time.

If you'd like to have something in The CHIMES,
Deadline for October Newsletter is
December 21st



Choir Practice
CHOIR PRACTICE
Wednesdays at 6:30



Prayer Requests: To put a prayer request on the church's prayer chain, please call Daryl Hale at 624-6504 or Juneil McQueen at 624-6039

Join us live on
1270 KSCB 11:00a.m



Thanks for your support of
this fantastic ministry!

Please join the UMW ladies and make a pledge to care for God's creation as we work toward following environmentally safe practices to care for our planet.

REMEMBER!!!

Hydrogen Peroxide: disinfects and bleaches.



Find us on
Facebook

Methodist First United Church

First United Methodist Church Youth Group of Liberal, KS

For Your Information

Staff cell phone numbers:

Keith Anglemeyer 620-229-3046

Pastor Juan 620-655-4720

Ruth Romero 620-309-7321

Bethanie Popejoy 620-391-6902



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>Office Hours Mon. – Thurs. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.</p>		1	2 Spanish Service @ 6:00	3 Trustees @ 7:00	4	5 Hispanic Choir @ 6:00
6 Worship @ 8:30 Sunday School @ 10:00 All Church Music @ 11:00 M. S. Youth @ 4:30 Youth Fellowship @ 6:00 H.S. Youth @ 6:30	7	8	9 Spanish Service @ 6:00	10 Staff Parish @ 6:30	11	12 Hispanic Choir @ 6:00
13 Worship @ 8:30 Sunday School @ 10:00 English Worship @ 11:00 Spanish Worship @ 11:00 M. S. Youth @ 4:30 Youth Fellowship @ 6:00 H.S. Youth @ 6:30	14	15	16 Spanish Service @ 6:00	17	18	19 Hispanic Choir @ 6:00
20 Worship @ 8:30 Sunday School @ 10:00 English Worship @ 11:00 Spanish Worship @ 11:00 M. S. Youth @ 4:30 Las Posadas @ 6:00 Youth Fellowship @ 6:00 H.S. Youth @ 6:30	21	22	23 Spanish Service @ 6:00	24 Candle Light Service @ 7:30 -----Office	25  Closed-----	26 Hispanic Ladies @ 1:00 Hispanic Choir @ 6:00
27	28 -----Office	29 -----	30 ----- Spanish Service @ 6:00	31 Closed-----	<p>Youth Group Meeting 4:30pm Middle School 6:00pm Dinner for both groups</p>	

EVERY SUNDAY
 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship
 8:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
 9:10 a.m. Sunday school (Adults)
 10:00 a.m. Kids & Youth Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship (KSCB Radio)
 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Worship

EVERY WEDNESDAY
 6:00 p.m. Hispanic Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

EVERY SATURDAY
 12:00 noon Kids Club
 6:00 p.m. Hispanic Choirs