

Sun and moon, praise God!
All of you bright stars, praise God!

– Psalm 148:3



First United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 31, 2017 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

Our Statement of Faith: Jesus, Our Rock of Salvation, Our Life Springs Eternal

Faith Theme 2017

**HEALTHY THINGS GROW>GROWING THINGS CHANGE>CHANGE IS A CHALLENGE>
CHALLENGE FORCES US TO TRUST GOD—>TRUSTING GOD MAKES US HEALTHY>
HEALTHY THINGS GROW!**

Prelude

Sue Milligan

Welcome and Announcements

Please register your presence with us this morning, then pass the book to the person sitting next to you. Before the offertory, tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate. Thank You!

Acolyte: Nicholas Griffin

Greeter: Nicholas Griffin

***Congregational Hymn Selections (5)**

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 95

Passing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer – Silent Prayer—Congregational Prayer

Prayer Response

***Congregational Hymn of Preparation**

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”
Verses 1 & 3

UMH 128

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40 (p. 833)

Marj Schaefer

The Word of God for the People of God: The People Respond **“Thanks Be to God!”**

Morning Message

“New Beginnings”

Rev. Jimmy Chrisawn

***Closing Hymn**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

UMH 664

***Parting Blessing: Leaving to Serve**

Postlude

Sue Milligan

Prayer Requests: Gail Webb; Don Hofeldt; Margo Clark; Penny Hardin's husband, Jim; Carol Ransdell; Larry & Sylvia Fanelli; Ruby Macy; Madge Venetta's granddaughter, Arianna; Alma O'Hare; Josh Patterson; John Morrison; Larry Finnell; Margaret Bettolo; Mindy Sheckler's niece; Pat & Jack Norris; Patty Beatty; Patrice Noel; Debbie Sparby; Dennis Doncaster's sister, Sister Diana; Cathy Georgis' brother-in-law, Todd Ludeman; Anne Dunaway; Pastor Jim, and his uncle, Marshall, sister, Judy, and aunt, Mona; Rusty Dickson; Bill McGarvey; Tom McCutcheon; Mallory Rosetti Gardner; June Wittman; Fred & Isaac Wittman; Rhonda Wheeler; Renee Bustos' father, Bill Cogswell; Deanne Autry; Gene Lane; Keelan Schupman; Jackie Hansen; Karie Chrisawn's mother.

Prayer Request:

By:

Recommended for Devotional Readings:

Jan 7th – Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Jan 14th – 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

A note from the Pastor:

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus our Christ!

It is so hard to believe that it is the last day of 2017. Where did this year go?

Just a brief reminder of the appreciation luncheon for Sue following the worship service today. Please plan to stay and fellowship.

Well what are your thoughts and plans for the New Year?

I like to spend some time in prayer and meditation with God reflecting back a bit just to see where God has been at work. I find there are things to regret/repent and so many things over which to rejoice and give thanks to God.

I then turn my prayers and meditations to seeking God's will for the New Year. I spend a good bit of time here as I seek both personal direction and pastoral direction. One of the most spiritually demanding aspects of my faith journey is leading and caring for a congregation's spiritual wellbeing. Seeking to follow God's will and plan not just for my life but for my calling as a pastor.

No doubt some of you may face some of the same things in your faith journey. So how do we end the old and begin the new? Here are some things I have found work pretty well:

- *Repent of the wrongs and move on! God forgives when we repent, so don't let Satan or others keep digging it up and causing doubts.*
- *See the good of the past year and Rejoice! Spend more time in seeing the good than you did in looking at the bad.*
- *For the New Year seek to focus more on the positive blessings in your life and less on the negative! Satan and the world around us want us to focus on all the negative, but we can choose to see the good just as easy as we can choose to see the bad! God will actually help you see the good and we will be able to rejoice more as we continue to follow as He leads!*

(*) Please Stand as you are able. **TFWS** is the smaller paperback and the **UMH** is the hardback song book.

Share the Message! The Pastor's Message is recorded on CD's every Sunday. They are available free of Charge and can be found in the Narthex, and at the website: www.rockspringsumc.org. You are welcome to take one.

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307.362.5334

Church email address: rsfumc@hotmail.com
Website: www.rockspringsumc.org

Pastor Jim Cell Phone 307.389.1853 jchrisawn@gmail.com

Minister: All Who Worship Here

Pastor: Rev. Jimmy R. Chrisawn

Minister of Music: Sue Milligan

Christian Education: Karie Chrisawn

Lay Leader: Kathy Ellis

Nursery Attendant(s): Nicole France & Lauren Mayer

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Church office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Please call office to ensure someone is here.

Remember donated items for the Boys & Girls Club are appreciated by UMW; see Mary Lou Jessen, Penni Harden, or Marj Schaefer.

General Information/Opportunities/Upcoming

Sunday School for Adults

9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

Children's Church

During Service (Following the Children's Time)

Pastor's Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m. till Noon. Other times by appointment, however, the Pastor is always available. Please call or text him. Please call before making a special trip.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you would like the Pastor to visit with your family, or someone else, please let him or the office know so it can be arranged.

By The Numbers

Attendance Last Sunday

47 Adults 6 Children

Weekly Budget

\$ 3,390.00

Generous Giving Last Sunday

\$ 1,660.00

LIFE GROUP/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Keep these dates on your calendar

Thursday, Jan 4, noon

Thursday, Jan 11, 7:15 a.m.

Thursday, Jan 11, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 11, to follow

United Methodist Women

Prayer at the flagpole, RS High School

Finance Meeting

Administrative Board Meeting

Coffee Hour Clean Up

Volunteer Needed

Cover Text: Psalm 148:3

Cover Image: Thinkstock

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Readings for the First Sunday After Christmas (New Year's Eve), December 31, 2017:
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

L12175

Word Alive!
LIFE in USA