



Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER DECEMBER 2022



COMING IN DECEMBER

Tuesdays, December 6 & 20 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20 – Advent Study at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent; Imagine No Malaria

Tuesday, December 6 – Pastor’s Open House 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent/ Methodist Children’s Home Sunday; Shared Ministries Sunday

Sunday, December 18 -- Fourth Sunday of Advent /Providence Place (formerly Methodist Mission Home) Sunday

Saturday, December 24 -- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6:00 p.m.**

Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26 – Office Closed for Christmas

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day – Brunch before church provided

Friday, December 30 & Monday, January 2 – Office Closed for New Years

December Birthdays – Miran Faulks- Dec. 5, Sherron Johnson – Dec. 8

Shared Ministries Sunday & Lunch

December 11 at noon

Pastor's Open House

Fellowship Hall Tuesday, December 6th,

6:00 p.m. – 7:30. p.m.

This is a “come-and-go” affair.

Sandwiches, desserts and punch will be provided.

Methodist Children's Home

Providence Place (Methodist Mission Home)

Opportunities for special offerings

Methodist Children's Home - Sunday December 11th

Providence Place – Sunday December 18th

Poinsettias

If you wish to order a poinsettia plant in memory or honor of a loved one, please place your order on one of the forms available each Sunday or call the church office, no later than noon on December 4th. Plants will be \$16 each and may be taken home after worship service December 26th.



Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24th

6:00 p.m.

Shared Ministries

To date we have paid \$7,189.00 for Shared Ministries, “Apportionments.” This represents 86.10% of our responsibility. We have been 100% for many years. The balance we need to pay our full apportionment this year is \$1,161.00.

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Decent Saints,

When George Washington lay on his deathbed on December 14, 1799, he awoke at 10:00 p.m. and asked to be decently buried. He also insisted that his body not be

put into the vault before three days. This last request was owing to the fact that he had a fear of being buried alive. In earlier days people were buried within a few days because of the issues related to decomposition. Premature burial was a distinct possibility.

Washington had gone out in the field to work several days before in rain and snow and had developed a sore throat. The illness progressed to the point that it took his life despite the best efforts of his doctors. To some degree the illness was brought upon by his own negligence concerning self-care (he insisted upon starting dinner on time rather than changing out of wet clothing). This story suggested to me an as needed of the word decent as it applies to burial.

In Acts 8:2 we read the following “Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.” Stephen, who was a martyr for Christ had what would be considered a decent burial. It would seem that because those who buried him were devout men and lamented greatly, he was properly buried.

Because customs have changed over the centuries, cremation is now a common practice rather than burial. Some do choose to inter ashes in the ground, but many do not. Whether one is buried or cremated, most families try to have a funeral or memorial service to celebrate the life of their loved-one. Wakes, family visitations, and funeral services are ways of reaching closure for family and friends. Decent burial also referred to a grave in a cemetery or family plot with a headstone or other marker. Some poor people were buried in paupers' fields and may not have had something to mark their graves, hence the concern about a decent burial.

As we live out our lives, we try not to think about the inevitable. We live each day serving the Lord and offer ourselves as a willing sacrifice. What we do know, however, may be summed up in the following scripture from 2 Corinthians 5:1: “For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” No matter whether we die on a lonely mountain top far away from human contact or in the embrace of our family, we understand the truth put forth in 2 Corinthians. Eternity awaits us.

We hope for a “decent” burial or cremation, perhaps to help those left behind achieve closure. Our ultimate hope, however, is to be united with God in heaven rejoicing in our eternal life.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis

