



## Christmas Eve

There will be one Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 9:00pm. Walk-In Communion and quiet meditation will be available in the sanctuary from 4pm-8pm.

## March to the Manger



This year's March to the Manger, one of two annual offerings taken for our missionaries, will take place on December 15th/16th. We are invited to step forward to offer monetary

gifts of support for folks who bear the message of Christ in missionary service throughout the world. Our March to the Manger offerings will be divided equally among:

- **the Tankersleys serving in Columbia,**
- **the Smallwoods serving in Appalachia,**
- **the Warfields serving in Senegal, and**
- **Margaret Farnsworth serving in Kenya.**

All are encouraged to prayerfully prepare for this opportunity to enter into the timeless story and connect with God's healing work in the world.

## Poinsettias

The Worship Committee recently added poinsettias to their Hanging of the Greens decorations. Due to this, we will not have fresh poinsettias in the Sanctuary during Advent. Please check the bulletin in the next few weeks for information on a memorial/honorarium bulletin for the Advent Season.



## Sunday School Christmas Celebration

On Sunday December 23rd, from 10 to 10:45 am, everyone is invited to attend (and even participate in!) our second annual Sunday School Christmas Celebration!

There will be music, skits, and more all in Celebration of Jesus' birthday! Sunday school classes of all ages are encouraged to participate. Individual acts are also welcome. If you would like to be a part please contact the office. The Celebration will be held in the Sanctuary and there are plenty of pews, so invite your friends and family!



## Family Christmas Experience

In lieu of a Wednesday Night Christmas Pageant, we are hosting a Family Keepsake Christmas. Due to space constraints, we will hold the event on two different nights: December 12th and 19th. Festivities start at 6:00 and should be over no later than 7:15 or 7:30. We have invited all of our Growing in God and Sunday School families to attend this exciting, memory making evening. Families will take a break from the busy-ness of the season and sit around a table together and hear the story from Mary, Joseph, and the Angel and have conversation and sing carols together.

In order to make this a memorable night, we **YOUR** help! Please contact the office or check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to see where you can plug in to help!

Pastor—John Tennyson  
Church Phone 217-784-5452  
Church Email [gcumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gcumc@sbcglobal.net)

Saturday • 5:30pm—Casual Worship  
Sunday • 8:45am—Traditional Worship  
Sunday • 11:00am—Contemporary Worship  
Sunday School—10:00am

**Worship**

## Pastor's Annual Report

Gibson City United Methodist Church celebrates that we continue to be a mission priority church, with intentional mission events and projects seeking to help meet needs locally, within the conference, and around the world. These mission priorities include but are not limited to:

- (1) Supporting 2 local food pantries with volunteers and supplies; one of the food pantries supply food regionally and within the local schools regularly twice a month, and the other provides food and other necessary items for emergency situations;
- (2) we support the Midwest Mission Distribution Center with volunteers and supplies; we help provide financial support for 4 missionaries, three of which are internationally based;
- (3) GCUMC collects monthly “mission sock” offerings for local, conference, national, and international needs and ministries;
- (4) we continue a 20+ year commitment to organize and fund a Youth and Adult Mission Trip, which travelled this summer to Chattanooga, TN for home repairs and bring encouragement to those in low income neighborhoods;
- (5) we celebrate participating and helping to organize a community outreach weekend, which has grown and now includes 6 other churches and several civic organizations providing such needed services as home repair, collection of items for food pantries and veterans, singing in the nursing homes and at Villas of Hollybrook, helping at the local food pantry, bagging groceries, delivering cookies to police, fire department, businesses and senior residents, praying for the community, and washing windows;
- (6) GCUMC collects a Mother’s Day offering to support Cunningham Children’s Home and Homes of Hope (a local ministry to women) and a Father’s Day offering for local home repair projects; and
- (7) we celebrate that GCUMC hosted an ERT District Training event.

Gibson City United Methodist Church also celebrates that we are able to provide 3 distinct Worship Services including a relaxed “Saturday Night Live” 5:30 service, a hymn and choir Sunday morning worship service at 8:45 am, and a praise music Sunday worship service at 11:00 am. Our congregation also celebrates that one way we are able to reach beyond our walls is through supporting our radio broadcast of the 8:45 Sunday service on the local radio station. This broadcast is also available on the station’s internet and can be listened to anywhere around the world. Each week’s sermon is also posted on our webpage; and scriptures, themes and service information is posted in advance on our Facebook page. Our worship also extends into monthly Communion Services at 2 local Nursing Homes and the assisted living Villas of Hollybrook.

Finally, we celebrate many opportunities for Christian education and growth. This includes:

- (1) Sunday School classes for all ages;
- (2) our Wednesday Night Children and Youth Education which has an enrollment of about 60 kids, many of whom are from the community at large. Prior to the classes beginning we offer a community Wednesday Night Supper, provided by various groups and individuals in our church on a rotating basis;
- (3) there are also several short-term studies for adults throughout the year.

We continue to emphasize that Jesus’ great commission must be prime focus, and provides the Church’s primary opportunity for ministry: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Church can no longer expect to grow simply by people walking through our doors. Every member must intentionally (1) be building relationships outside the church doors, (2) be involved missionally in the community, and (3) extend invitations to non-church acquaintances to join us at non-worship events, such events in which they might be more inclined to attend such as: our Wednesday night meals, special music events, invitation to short term classes, and invitation to mission and service opportunities.

*~Pastor John*

# PRAYERS, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES

*Happy Birthday!*

Harold Underwood	1	Rick Young	7
Marci Fisher	1	Jamie Young	7
Marsha Riddle	2	Heather Murphy	8
Colleen Woodcock	2	James Collison	9
Ellen Maxey	4	Bill Romshek	9
Gabriel Wurmnest	4	Todd Baillie	10
Sarah McCall	6	Ronald Baird	11
Nathan Young	6	Phoenix Kruse	11
		Kami Knerr	12
		Carolyn Ryan	13
		Adam Hood	13
		Christina Moody	14
		Karla Hunter	15
		Kenleigh Friday	16
		Danielle Christensen	18

Sharon Pool	19	Robert Hill	31
Kyle Freehill	19	Logan Ward	31
Brenda Main	20		
Rachel Quinley	20		
Kyle Bielfeldt	20		
Lynne Titus	22		
Ruth Fisher	23		
Kenneth Hendricks	23		
Debbie McCullough	24		
Tom McCall	25		
Wrigley Maxey	27		
Pauline Beesley	28		
Derek Kietzman	30		
Kenny Hawthorne	30		
Chelsey Lange	30		



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

	Day	Years
Kenny & Candice Hawthorne	1	11
Ben & Jodi Kaeding	1	
Kip & Judy Rutledge	2	29
Jack & Marlene Royal	6	60
Micheal & Judy Morano	14	
Tom & Kelly Borton	23	33
Roger & Brenda Main	26	48
Tom & Kathy Bennett	27	38

### 2019 Altar Flowers

In the coming weeks, new sign-up sheets will be out in the Narthex for 2019 Altar Flowers. As with the last two years, please pay the office \$30 the week you provide flowers. Arrangements in 2019 will be provided by County Market.



## Offering & Attendance

Jan—Oct 2018 Offering for Budget	\$237,523.99
Jan—Oct 2018 Operating Expenses	\$267,844.43

Weekend	Sat 5:30	Sun 8:45	Sun 11:00	Sunday School
Oct 27th & 28th	15	91	22	
Nov 3rd & 4th	16	110	36	67
Nov 10th & 11th	12	100	19	51
Nov 17th & 18th	12	121	33	74

### Nursing Home Residents

#### Manor

Ruth Fisher  
Judy Peters  
Carol Hari  
Bob Hill  
Jane Hill  
Phil Lutz

#### Annex

Mary Rosebraugh  
Doug Hager  
Marie Schneck

#### Paxton Health Care

Bill Dueringer

### Health Concerns

Delmar Bedel  
Edith Christensen  
Nancy Davis  
Gabe Fairchild  
Ruth Fisher  
Bob Hill  
Phil Lutz  
Wilma Reiners

### Servicemen and women

SSG Colton Young  
AB Cody McCoy  
PFC Glenn



## Christmas Office Hours

The office will close at noon on December 24th and will not reopen until Monday, December 31st. If you have a non-urgent need, please call and leave a voicemail or email the office and your question will be answered within the day. If you have an urgent need, please contact Pastor John at 217-249-5453.

## Wesleyana Circle

The Wesleyana Circle will be at Holly Brook on December 11th at 1:30pm.



The annual Messiah performance sponsored by Gibson Area Music Foundation will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 2 at the Gibson City Bible Church.

Refreshments served after the performance.



## You are Invited!

The Worship Committee invites everyone to the annual Hanging of the Greens on Tuesday, November 27th at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall at church.



## Giving Tree 2018

We are again sponsoring a Giving Tree for needy children in our area. Each tag represents a child and will have their sizes and list some needs and wants. Tags will be available by Sunday, December 2nd on the tree in the Narthex.

**We only put one tag per child on the tree, so you may want to buy several items for this child, such as clothing and a toy.** Also, school supplies and personal items are great to include in the box as well.

Would you like to help, but dread shopping or are unable to shop? There are other ways in which you can help!

- **Sponsors**—if you would like to sponsor a child, the request donation per tag is \$50
- **Elves**—do you LOVE shopping? Please contact the office if you would like to be an elf this year. We are in need of shoppers for the tags that are sponsored by donations. We can help you with ideas and pointers from previous years' shopping trips.
- **Wrappers**—do you LOVE to wrap gifts? Once our elves return, there are often many gifts to wrap. Please contact the office if you would be interested in helping wrap the gifts that the elves bring back.
- **Distribution Elves**—lastly, we need a few able bodies to help distribute the gifts. Distribution will be on Thursday, December 20th from 8:30am-12. This would entail helping the families out to the car with their gifts. Fresh coffee and donuts are plentiful for our Distribution Elves!


Thank you, every one, for your generosity during this difficult time of year for some families.



## With Joy And Gratitude:

I would like to thank each and every person of our church family for my Pastor's Appreciation gift. Connie and I love Gibson City. And all of you bring delight and fulfillment to me as your pastor. May we continue to joyfully seek and serve together in Christ Jesus.

~Pastor John

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Communion 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
2 Communion 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast  8:45 AM Trad. Worship  10:00 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	3 9:00 AM Prayers  7:00 PM Trustees	4 1:00 PM Communion Manor/Annex	5 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP	6	7	8 Mission Socks  5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
9 Mission Socks 8:45 AM Trad. Worship  10:00 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	10 9:00 AM Prayers  7:00 PM Covenant Council	11 1:30 PM Wesleyana Circle	12 No Fellowship Meal  6:00 PM Family Christmas Experience  7:00 PM Pie Night @ Manor	13 Newsletter Articles Due	14	15 March to the Manger  5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
16 March to the Manger 8:45 AM Trad. Worship  10:00 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	17 9:00 AM Prayers	18	19 No Fellowship Meal  6:00 PM Family Christmas Experience	20	21	22 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
23 8:45 AM Trad. Worship  10:00 AM Christmas Celebration  11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	24 Office Open 8am-12  4pm-8pm Sanctuary Communion  9:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 No Wednesday Night Fellowship  OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 5:30 PM Saturday Night Light Worship
30 8:45 AM Trad. Worship  10:00 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Contemporary Worship	31	WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP 5:30 PM—Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM—Youth Classes & MS/HS Youth Groups 7:30 PM—Sanctuary Choir 8:30 PM—Jake's Boys				



# DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Greeters (West, South, North)</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Sound Room (8:45)</b>	<b>Projector (8:45)</b>	<b>Projector (11:00)</b>
<b>Dec 2</b>	Karen Kummerow	Tom & Sandy Fairchild Dwayne & Barb Horsch Kenny & Candice Hawthorne	Bailey Grider	Steve Hawthorne	Dani Eckerty	Katie Steidinger
<b>Dec 9</b>	Phil Noellsch	Tom & Sandy Fairchild Dwayne & Barb Horsch Kenny & Candice Hawthorne	Addison Farmer	Jon Clark	Quinley Family	Kearfott Family
<b>Dec 16</b>	Marsha Riddle	Jim & Carol Steinman Dave & Laura Hazen Arsenault Family	Grace Steidinger	Lonnie Engel	Connor Engel	Phillip Littell
<b>Dec 23</b>	Kim Fisher	Jim & Carol Steinman Dave & Laura Hazen Arsenault Family	Maddox Lindelof	Steve Hawthorne	Zander Wier	Katie Steidinger
<b>Dec 30</b>	Doug Eckerty	Jeremy Grider Joyce Bennett	Maci Lindelof	Jon Clark	Erin Arsenault	Phillip Littell
<b>Head Usher</b> for December is Glenn Riddle.						

## OUR STAFF

Pastor—John Tennyson cell 217-249-5453 email: [pastorgcumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorgcumc@sbcglobal.net)  
 Children/Youth Coordinator—April Rotramel cell 217-778-6728 email: [gcumcyouth@att.net](mailto:gcumcyouth@att.net)  
 Administrative Assistant—April Rotramel office 217-784-5452 email: [gcumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gcumc@sbcglobal.net)

Church Custodian—Jeremy Rotramel  
 Organist—Beverly Nagle  
 Choir Director—Ruth Davis

Nursery Attendants—Melissa Jamison  
 Susan Schultz, Volunteer



Gibson City United Methodist Church  
 206 East 10th Street  
 Gibson City, IL 60936

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED