

Giving Tree 2018

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Giving Tree Ministry. This year 46 families with a total of 109 children were helped. Besides the gifts purchased for the children, County Market gift certificates were distributed to parents. Many also received hats, gloves and scarves. These families enjoyed a merrier Christmas because of your generosity.

March to the Manger Update



A total of \$5,704.35 was collected through our March to the Manger offering. Thank you for your generosity!

Valentine Boxes and Envelopes



Valentine's Day is next month and once again we are inviting you to share in giving to our special friends a gift of love. Please notify the office if you would like to have someone added to the Valentine's List. Also, parents of youth in college, please update their addresses with the

church office to ensure that they get their Valentines as well.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesday Night Fellowship resumes on January 16th for youth and adults.

The schedule is as follows:

Fellowship Dinner	5:30pm-6:30pm
Growing in God (PreK-5th Grade)	6:30pm-7:30pm
Middle School Youth Group	6:30pm-7:30pm
High School Youth Group	6:30pm-7:30pm
Sanctuary Choir	7:30pm-8:30pm

Thank you to everyone behind the scenes who help make Wednesday night a great night of fun and fellowship!

Renewing Our First Love—Pastor John

Life is a long journey. There are many distractions. In the hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* the author Robert Robinson prays "let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee". We all tend to wander.

Let us re-focus: Jesus doesn't live in some distant time or place. Jesus lives here and now in our daily lives.

As Wilber Wilberforce keenly observes, "It makes no sense to take the name of Christian and not cling to Christ. Jesus. Jesus is not some magic charm to wear like a piece of jewelry we think will give us good luck. He is the Lord. His name is to be written on our hearts in such a powerful way that it creates within us a profound experience of His peace and a heart that is filled with His praise."

Therein lies the good news. We can recapture our first love. Our hearts can be re-energized by Divine Love.

On many occasions, John Wesley urged that an opportunity be provided for Methodists to make, or renew, their "covenant" with God. Wesley wrote in his journal:

"I mentioned to the congregation another means of increasing serious religion which had been frequently practiced by our forefathers, namely, the joining in a covenant to serve God with all our heart and with all our soul".

Wesley's first formal covenant service was held in 1755 at the French Church in a very poor area of east London. Today, Methodists around the world partake in covenant services to renew their love for God.

Let us begin this new year by committing ourselves to be in church every weekend in January in order to renew our covenant before God; to discover or regain the unspeakable joy of one's first love in Christ Jesus.

As Robinson's lyrics remind us: "Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love".

PRAYERS, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday!

Kristen Hood	2	Jessica Titus	10	Joe Wier	23
Sue Shields	2	Lynn Anliker	11	Terry Overman	24
Brad Baird	3	Bill Dueringer	12	Lauren Nagle	25
Lori Clinton	3	Marinell Jones	12	Jeff Grider	26
Roger Reum	3	Alice Jones	14	Mary Holsten	27
Kaitlynn Kietzman	5	Denise Kearfott	16	Carol Hari	29
Keegan Frashier	5	Kelly Borton	17	Spencer Hazen	30
Matt Brown	6	Jo Gramley	17	Bev Jensen	31
Danielle Brown	7	Evelyn Kelley	17		
Drew Endsley	9	Staci Lindelof	17		
		Tammy Craig	18		
		Janece McCullough	18		
		Drew Hildebrand	18		
		John Tennyson	19		
		Logan Snyder	19		
		Jackie Freehill	21		



Happy Birthday!

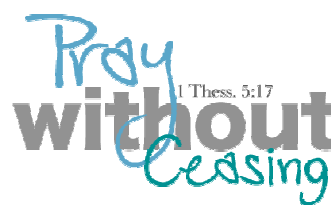


Mission Socks

Our mission sock / loose change offering for January will be collected the weekend of the 19th/20th. Please check future bulletins for information on where this offering will go.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

	Day	Years
Merle & Alice Jones	11	19



Offering & Attendance

2018 Offering for Budget	\$281,473.86
2018 Budget	\$321,412.00

Weekend	Sat 5:30	Sun 8:45	Sun 11:00
Nov 24th & 25th	13	108	23
December 1st & 2nd	17	90	26
December 8th & 9th	25	112	28
December 15th & 16th	19	112	31
December 22nd & 23rd	18	129	25

Nursing Home Residents Health Concerns

Manor

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

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

Annex

Mary Rosebraugh
Doug Hager
Marie Schneck

Servicemen and women

SSG Colton Young
AB Cody McCoy
PFC Glenn

Paxton Health Care

Bill Dueringer

JANUARY

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>Wednesday Night Fellowship 5:30 pm—Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm—Growing in God (PreK-5th Grade) 6:30 pm—MS/HS Youth Groups 7:30 pm—Sanctuary Choir 8:30 pm—Jake’s Boys</p>		1	2 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP 1:00 PM Connection Team Meeting		4	5 Communion 5:30 pm Saturday Night Light Worship
<p>6 Communion 7:00 am Men’s Breakfast 8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>7 9:00 am Prayers</p>	8 NO WESLEYANA CIRCLE MEETING 12:00 PM Lion’s Club	9 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP 7:00 PM Pie Night / Manor	10	11	12 5:30 pm Saturday Night Light Worship
<p>13 8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>14 9:00 am Prayers 7:00 PM Covenant Council</p>	15 Newsletter Articles Due 12:00 PM Lion’s Club	16 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP	17	18	19 Mission Socks 5:30 pm Saturday Night Light Worship
<p>20 Mission Socks 8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Prayers</p>	22 12:00 PM Lion’s Club	23 9:00 AM Newsletter Prep	24	25	26 5:30 pm Saturday Night Light Worship
<p>27 8:45 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>28 9:00 am Prayers</p>	29 10:00 am Communion/ Holly Brook 12:00 PM Lion’s Club	30	31		



JANUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

	Liturgist	Greeters (West, South, North)	Acolytes	Sound Room (8:45)	Projector (8:45)	Projector (11:00)
Jan 6	Kathy Eagleson	Jeremy Grider Joyce Bennett	Grace Steidinger	Lonnie Engel	Dani Eckerty	Phillip Littell
Jan 13	Tom Borton	Connie Tennyson / Kathy Eagleson Jeff & Judy Eckhoff Mike & Janet Utterback	Addison Farmer & Zoe Wier	Steve Hawthorne	Quinley Family	Kearfott Family
Jan 20	Kent Bielfeldt	Connie Tennyson / Kathy Eagleson Jeff & Judy Eckhoff Mike & Janet Utterback	Maci Lindelof & Maysen Frashier	Jon Clark	Connor Engel	Katie Steidinger
Jan 27	Amy Hood	Bill & Joan Pool Merle & Krista McCallister Don & Donna Douglas	Maddox Lindelof & Demi McCullough	Lonnie Engel	Zander Wier	Phillip Littell
Head Usher for January is Greg Pool						

OUR STAFF

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

Church Custodian—Jeremy Rotramel Nursery Attendants—Melissa Jamison
 Organist—Beverly Nagle Susan Schultz, Volunteer
 Choir Director—Ruth Davis



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 Gibson City, IL 60936

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