

Reaping and Sowing: A Newsletter of Ashley and Kilbourne

Filled With Thanksgiving

From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. Jeremiah 30:19

In November, often our thoughts are turned to thanksgiving. Too often though we mean Thanksgiving with turkey and pies, football and full-contact shopping. Yet we all have much to be thankful for and we need to give voice to this.

I realize this Thanksgiving, I have so many to give thanks to and so much to give thanks for. I am thankful to all those who generously gave my family presents or gave to the joint present from both congregations for our new baby. I am thankful to Jan Walker and Ruth Milstead for throwing us a baby 'sprinkle' and for not making me play the games! I am thankful for all the cards and prayers that have been sent in the recent weeks.

I am thankful for the amazing leaders at both Ashley and Kilbourne churches. We have so many members who serve as volunteers in so many positions that without them, the churches could not run or at least not as well. I am thankful for so many leaders who give their time and love to the congregations and to the community. I cannot even begin to name all the people who serve so generously.

I am thankful for the musicians at both churches. I am thankful the ministries both have that try to meet the needs of members and the community.

I am thankful to all who made my maternity leave possible. I am especially thankful for Preston Watkins and his steady leadership at the helm.

I am thankful to have two healthy daughters and a husband who teaches them daily lessons in life and love. I am thankful to have safety and security.

Most of all, though, I am thankful for God and God's presence in our lives. I am thankful that God does not abandon us or turn away from us even when we deserve it. I am thankful that God loves me when I act unlovable. I am thankful that even when things go wrong, I am assured of God's presence and compassion. I am thankful that God chooses to love us and to offer us grace and salvation. I am thankful.

I invite all of you to make this a month of thanksgiving. Keep in front of you each day all that you have to be thankful for. In a culture that teaches jealousy, anger, and selfishness, let us embrace thankfulness instead. And at the heart of the thankfulness, let us focus our whole beings on all that we have to thank God for this month and every moment of our lives.

Pastor Beth

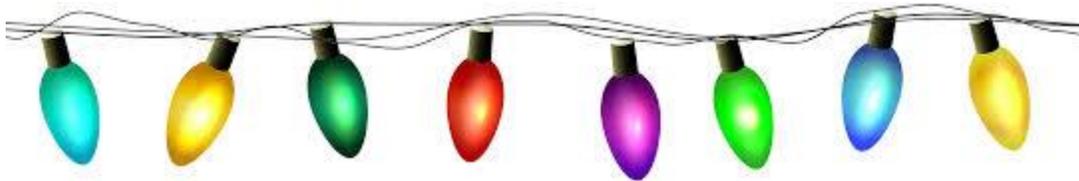


Christmas in Ashley

Christmas in Ashley is December 1 from 5:45-9:00PM. The planning is well under way and this is going to be another great year! The parade steps off at 5:45 from near White Lily heads towards Ashley UMC. In addition to the usual activities including 3 houses open for tour, Christmas village, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, this year will include a craft show! Regardless of the weather it is sure to be a fun holiday activity.

The church will be open and warm throughout the evening as countless community members partake in this great event. Donations of cookies will help us feed the masses as they come through for a visit.

Make sure to mark your calendar and also tell your friends. Want to join in the parade? Be across from White Lily chapel by 5:30PM.



Kilbourne Craft Show

Come out to the Kilbourne Craft Show to find the perfect gift for someone or for yourself! From 9AM-2PM on Saturday Dec 1 come for the shopping and deals. Many items from homemade quilts and aprons to jams and fudge to jewelry for anyone. It's a perfect place to get plenty of shopping done while supporting members of your community. Santa will be joining us from 9:30-11AM!

There is still vendor space available. Contact the church office or speak to Jean Hightower for a registration form.

Script Program

The Script program enables you to buy gift cards to popular stores and restaurants with a portion being donated to the church. Both Kilbourne and Ashley have script programs. Whether you are planning to spend the gift card yourself or give it as a gift consider buying the card from this program.

At Ashley see Beth Bennington; As Kilbourne see Ruth Milstead

Advent Bible Study



This year we are doing Advent study a little different! We invite all to attend- this is meant for ALL ages and will be spiritual and fun.



We will meet on Sunday evenings starting at 4:00PM. We will watch a Christmas movie and then gather for a light meal and faithful discussion based on the film and scripture. Fun activities sure to make everyone laugh will also be included. This is a great way for us to prepare for the coming of Christ this year!

Please plan to attend. This is also an excellent ministry to invite family and friends. Whether they are looking for a church family or if they already have one, this ministry seeks to help all of us meet Jesus deeper.

The study will be held at Kilbourne starting at 4PM weekly. Come for all three or just one!

Dec 2	Elf
Dec 9	Muppets Christmas Carol
Dec 16	Miracle on 34 th Street

A Note on Your Health

I hope by now ALL of you have obtained your flu vaccine. If not, there's still time. Between the months of October and May each year influenza spreads thru out the United States. It is highly contagious and is spread by coughing, sneezing and close contact. Anyone can get the flu.

Symptoms vary by age and can include fever/chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, runny nose, and even pneumonia. It is more dangerous for infants, young children and those over 65, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions or weakened immune systems. Every year thousands of people die from influenza and many more are hospitalized.

The vaccine can help you from getting the flu, make the flu less severe if you do get it and keep you from spreading flu to our family and other people. The flu shot CANNOT cause you go get the flu. It takes two weeks to develop protection and it will last throughout the flu season. Some people should not get the vaccine: if you have any severe, life-threatening allergies, if you've ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome or if you're not feeling well. A reaction is possible and may include soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, hoarseness, sore, red or itchy eyes, cough, fever, aches, or itching. These usually subside in 1-2 days. Most people have no reaction at all. I didn't. So, step right up and get the shot.

From: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ann Sanderson, RN

Christmas Caroling

We are hoping to spread Christmas cheer this year through the sharing of music. We will be gathering at Sarah Moore community on Dec 9 at 1:30PM to sing for residents and then spend time in community.

All are encouraged to join with us. Not a great singer? It doesn't matter! Christmas carols are about joy not perfection. We also need cookies to share with the residents. Please put this on your calendar!



Parsonage Parties

Join with us for a time of food and fellowship! Felix and Pastor Beth invite all of you to their home to share joy and also to thank you for being part of their family and community. Soups and laughter are on the menu.

Sign ups will be going around church in future weeks. Options are Thursday Dec 6th at 5PM, Wednesday Dec 5th at noon or Saturday Dec 8th starting at 11AM. All are encouraged to bring a wrapped present costing no more than \$5 for a game (it's a little different than last year!).

Social Media Help

We are looking for members of both congregations to help with our Facebook pages and other social media as well. Qualifications are that you must have a computer, a basic idea of social media and want to share information about your church with the community.

Please contact Pastor Beth if you are interested.

Save the Dates

Nov 25	Kilbourne Hanging of the Greens	11:45AM
Dec 16	Kilbourne Children's Play	10:45AM
Dec 17	Longest Night Service at Ashley	7:00PM
Dec 23	Kilbourne Choir Cantata	10:45AM
Dec 24	Kilbourne Christmas Eve Service	5:00PM
	Ashley Christmas Eve Service	7:00PM
Dec 30	Moravian Love Feast	10:00AM
	Joint service at Kilbourne (bring a dish to share)	
Dec2-25	Kilbourne Collection for Clean Water	

Next newsletter will be dispersed by Nov 28th. Any submission should be emailed to Pastor Beth by November 19th at the latest.