

The **FIRST** United Methodist News

YEAR 24 VOLUME 12

DECEMBER, 2016

SERVING GOD 123 YEARS

Sunday School
 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
 10:30 A.M.

Drive Through Living Christmas Story, Dec. 4; 6 to 8 p.m.
 If you need a ride, call 918-647-2217 by 11:30 a.m. Friday.



**Christmas
 Eve
 Candlelight
 Services**
 5:30 and 11 p.m.
 (See details, pg. 3)

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE

What do John the Baptist and Winnie the Pooh have in common? They both have the same middle name. I know. It's a groaner. But, you know what? The John the Baptist story has been a bit of a groaner to me at times in my life. I want to get to the good stuff and John the Baptist is totally inappropriate for the way we celebrate Christmas. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus as the Gospels of Matthew and Luke report that holy night many years ago. Mary, Joseph, angels, manger, shepherds, wise men; a child is born unto us. Glory to God in the highest! That is what Christmas is all about. Jesus is the reason for the season. So, we honor sweet, little Jesus boy, get warm fuzzies, and hug our family members. So, what does John the Baptist have to do with Christmas?

For the Gospel of Mark, everything. Instead of Bethlehem and choirs of angels, he begins the story of Jesus' coming with a prophet blaring and baptizing in the wilderness of Judea. In so doing, he adds a new figure to the good news about the incarnation and coming of the Christ. It is John the Baptist.

"John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins." (Mark 1:4-5)

John the Baptizer is shouting out in our midst, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Confess your sins! Receive forgiveness!" So, wait for Christmas, as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I call us to listen to John's words.

Prepare the way of the Lord; in your heart, in your homes, and at your work . . . And I don't just mean with decorations. Offer forgiveness to family and coworkers and others who don't deserve it. Commit to finding ways this Christmas season to really bless others with non-material things.

Christ is being born for you, and he died for you. And he wants to have a deeper relationship with you. And this Christmas season together you and I will walk that journey towards a deeper experience of Christ. Jesus is ready. Are you?

On the Journey with you,
 Pastor Jim

REV. JIM PERKIN



Membership Care Committee

The Membership Care Committee will be collecting your signed Christmas cards the first three Sundays in December (through Dec. 18). You may use your own cards or take cards from the basket in the Narthex. If you take two packets of cards, you should have enough to send a card to everyone. Recipients would really appreciate your taking time to add a personal note.

The Membership Care Committee will meet at 12 noon on the Dec. 19th to distribute the cards from the congregation and deliver them before Christmas.

We will deliver the cards to the following persons:

Pat Branson	Sharon Mikkelson
Ed Brody	Bessie Moreland
Ruth Ann DeCamp	Jean Potts
Marvin & Janet DeSpain	Joe Renfro
Mary Folsom	Robert & Louise Reynolds
Janet Fox	Betty Ridenhour
Jo Gee	David Roberts
Susan Hammond	Bobbie Rowland
Sam Harris	Jim Shore
Virginia Kidd	Virginia Stanley
Dana Lee	Paul Stottsberry
Trudie Mathies	Rita Thomas
Charles & Marilyn Meeks	Ann Young

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for October 2016

Average Attendance Figures for October: 143
 2016 Budget Requirements: \$340,000.00
 Needed through October: \$283,333.33
 Year to Date received through October: \$265,192.88
 October Receipts: \$22,305.85
 October Expenditures: \$27,876.84
New Building Fund Figures:
 Deposits: \$2,128,943.20; Expenditures: \$2,580,121.03

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

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Carol Baker, Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Bishop	Rev. Jimmy Nunn
District Superintendent	Larry Bauman
Senior Pastor	Rev. Jim Perkin
Director of Youth Ministries	Melanie Wheat
Director of Music Ministries	Mary Lynn Perkin
Director of Children's Ministries	Suzanne Klutts
Administrative Assistant	Melissa Ward
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Bill King
Facility Manager	Phil Smith

District web page: www.gbqm-umc.org/mc-dist/

• DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR •

• SUNDAY •

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Pastor's Bible Study, 4 p.m.

UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

• MONDAY •

Christian Preschool Monday – Thursday

8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Education Building

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC

Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC

• WEDNESDAY •

Jesus and Me Activities, 3:15-5:00 p.m.

Sr. High Small Group (Nikki Perry's) 5 p.m.

Bell Choir 5:30 p.m.

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

• THURSDAY •

(No Senior Café through December)

Pastor's Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

- 4 Drive Through Living Christmas Story, 6-8 p.m.
- 7 JAM Children's Christmas Musical "Camel Lot", 5:15; Dinner following
- 8 Boy Scout Roundtable, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 Handbell Choir play during morning worship
- 17 Neighborhood Breakfast, 8-10 a.m.
- 18 Choir's Christmas Cantata during worship
- 19 Membership Care, 12 noon
Finance Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 24 Candlelight Service, 5:30 and 11 p.m.
- 25 No Sunday School; Coffee and Donut Fellowship during that hour. Usual worship at 10:30 a.m.
Oaks Nursing Home Service, 2 p.m.
- 23-26 Office closed (Also closed Jan. 2)

WORSHIP GREETERS

- 4 Bill and Linda Lancaster
- 11 D.J. James and Liz Perry
- 18 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 25 Volunteer needed



WELCOME TABLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers needed for all December Sundays

ACOLYTES

- 4 Burke Perry and Brady Perry
- 11 Brock Call and Ryker Holt
- 18 Maggie Wheat and Kendy Traywick
- 25 Nathan Murray and Waylon Murray



LITURGIST

Pat Shelton

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

- 4 Kim Hardaway
- 11 Mary Lynn Perkin
- 18 Jim Perkin
- 25 Suzanne Klutts



News of Youth

By Melanie Wheat

UMYF (CHAOS) meets Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. and is for all youth 6th – 12th.

DECEMBER

- 4 We are working the Living Nativity. We will meet at 2 p.m. that day to shop for the children who have incarcerated parents. We will wrap those gifts between shifts.
- 11 We will take our annual shopping trip to Rogers, Ark. We will leave at 12:30 and return around 7 p.m.
- 18 We will have our annual progressive dinner. We will meet at 5 p.m. and travel to the Shores for appetizers, then to the Klutts' home for the main course and will end the night at the Perkins' home for dessert. Remember to bring a \$5-\$10 gift for Dirty Santa. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with this project. It is greatly appreciated.
- 25 No youth meeting.

• Children's Ministry •

By Suzanne Klutts

Our first semester of JAM is coming to a close and has been a great success. During September and October the children learned about God's creation, Moses, Jesus' baptism, Jesus calming the sea and breakfast on the beach.

The last several weeks our focus has been on the Christmas program, "Camel Lot." The children will present this musical on Dec. 7 at 5:15. "Camel Lot" is an energetic, fun play that tells the story of Christ's birth. I encourage our church family to come and support the JAM kids as they perform this play. You will truly be blessed as you watch the kids present the true meaning of Christmas. We also invite you to stay for dinner which will follow the performance.



Christmas Eve Services

There will be two Christmas Eve services so that you can choose the one that best fits your family's Christmas schedule.

5:30 p.m. will be a traditional family service.

11 p.m. will be acoustic carols and the nativity story.

Both include candlelight and communion.

Missions Report

By Judy Peerson and Terri Martin

December is the month that is traditionally thought of as the month of giving. Perchance this is so because the spirit of Christmas is in the air and each of us has a more giving heart. At this time of year maybe each of us reflect on the greatest gift ever sent to mankind, and the supreme sacrifice that was made for all of us in the name of love. Perhaps for some December is the month of giving, but not so for our church family. Through your donations, gifts and time our church spreads the love of Jesus Christ and the spirit of that great gift of love each and every day to many families in local and distant communities. Our church has delivered many blessings throughout the year and December will extend these blessings in the name and love of Christ.

This month our church will give Christmas gifts to children in LeFlore County of incarcerated parents. These gifts are wrapped and signed with a personal message from the parent. Each gift package will include a Bible from the church and all can be picked up on December 17th.

Our church will also sponsor \$2,000.00 for gifts for the LeFlore County Youth Service Angel Tree. They have a great need this year.

We will also be gathering angels from the Oaks Nursing Home tree for gifts this year. If you would like to shop for an angel, contact the office or Judy Peerson. You can be reimbursed from the Missions fund if you wish.

Poteau Adult Education received \$200.00 for testing fees for students in need who would be getting their high school equivalency test.

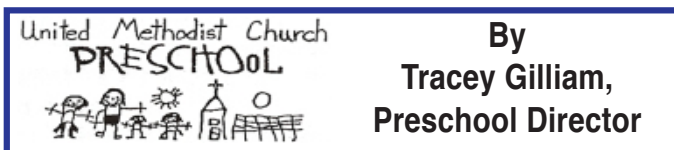
The Drive Through Living Nativity is December 4th and is a gift to the community. This is a large effort of everyone in our church and takes many hands to make this come together. This is a family affair where we all work together.

Finally, the Saturday morning breakfast will be on the 17th at the church. It is held every third Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. It is a great time to visit, have a cup of coffee and pancakes and sausage.



Welcome New Members!

We welcomed our newest members on November 13 when Tom and Debby Puckette joined our congregation. We are happy to have them in our church family.



The preschool memory verse for December is "God's Son is born for us." Students will be reviewing the letters A through J and the numbers 1 through 5. The December themes are Holiday Countdown and the Christmas Story. The shape is a star and the colors are red and green.

The children will sing at Community State Bank on the 7th and 8th at 9:15 and our Christmas celebrations will be the 14th and 15th at 10:30.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Correspondence

Dear Jim, Board of Trustees and Congregation,

On behalf of the members of Cavanal Chorale, I would like to thank you for your generosity in allowing us to use your beautiful church for our concerts. It is our gift to the community and you are part of it!

Sandra Slater, Board Secretary

Thank you for the generous donation to the Poteau Adult Learning Center. Adult learners attend our program in an effort to obtain their High School Equivalency. However when some of our students are ready they find it difficult or impossible to have the money required for their tests. Scholarships provided by your donation will help make a life-changing reality for several students.

Thank You,
Myrna Daivs

Women of Faith

Christmas greetings! This is a very busy month ahead for our church. Members are preparing for the special day, Christ's birthday.

We had a successful year with the support from many of you.

Our Fall Festival was very successful with vendors, door prizes, bake sale and the quilt drawing. The quilt was won by Tami Matos. Our luncheon was again delicious and well attended by the community.

We thank and appreciate the team of ladies who prepared and served for their time. We appreciate everyone helping to make it a success.

The money raised will be used for local missions, in which there are many.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dorothy G. James

December Birthdays

- 1 Connie Sabatucci
- 2 David Roberts, Ted Kilgore, Mike Sullivan, and Tatum Shelton
- 4 Daryl Chastain, Judy Moore, Adrianna Johnson and Sam Shore
- 6 Jaydon Bandy
- 7 John Perry
- 8 Virginia Stanley, Dale DeCamp and Shelley Johnson
- 9 Sheri Zabala
- 10 Jason Bandy
- 11 Jamison Shackelford
- 12 Jo Gee, Curtis James, and Cole Forsberg
- 13 Bryan Gilliam
- 14 David Redhage and Kip Klutts
- 15 Pegee Werline and Sharon Mikkelson
- 16 Julie Lee, Judy Peerson, and Kyle Matos
- 18 Justin Hebert and Jarot Garner
- 19 Morgan Bandy
- 23 Donna Kendrick and Bob Reynolds
- 24 Becky Fruen
- 25 Gary Brown, Jr., Seth Garner, Steven Sockey, Heather Emery, and Holly Ambriz
- 28 Jim Skelton
- 29 Jolee Barnhart and Joe Sabatucci
- 30 Jerry Thompson
- 31 Rosalind Kendrick and Ronnie Oehlschlager



December Anniversaries

- 1 Ed and Cindy Brody
- 2 Ron and Melissa Ward
- 3 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 4 Marvin and Janet DeSpain
- 13 Mike and Lindsay Murray
- 14 Fredric and Nina Ritchie
- 17 Brian and Mandy Roberts
- 18 Henry and Rozelle Hardaway
- 19 Kyle and Kimberly Hardaway
- 23 Joe and Connie Sabatucci
- 26 Joe and Martha Renfro

