



The Spire

December
2020

Several years ago, the church staff and I were having a coffee break in the office. It was a couple of weeks before Christmas, and we were sharing all the plans we had for all the get togethers with various members of our respective families. It was exhausting just hearing all the crisscrossing of the state we were all going to be doing.

Finally, I said (half-jokingly), “You know, I don’t think Jesus meant to cause this much trouble by being born.”

It’s true that even those of us in the Church can get so caught up in all the “stuff” of Christmas that we lose track of just what it is we’re supposed to be celebrating. We collapse on New Year’s Day and sigh, “Never again. Next year will be different.” But often it isn’t.

Except this year it is. This year we’re doing Christmas virtually. Most of us are doing our family and friends Christmases virtually too, or at least we should.

With the global pandemic still raging and our country and state and county at the highest levels of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths since the pandemic began, medical officials are pleading with us to stay home and stay away from crowds and large gatherings.

I have to say I hate this pandemic as much as anyone. Nothing is good about it except its ending—which is still a few months away depending on the distribution of the much-anticipated vaccines.

But maybe there’s just the tiniest bit of silver in this dark and ominous cloud. Maybe without all the partying and running around and feasting and fretting we can actually slow down this year and reflect on just what it is we’re celebrating—or rather who it is we’re celebrating.

Retired United Methodist pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that “Christmas Is Not Your Birthday.” He encourages us to ask the question, “What would Jesus want for his birthday?”

The answer is: Jesus wants you. Jesus wants your time, your talents, and your treasure all used in service to others.

Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the embodiment of the one the prophet Isaiah called Emmanuel—which means God with us.

God is with us always and forever—even during a pandemic.

This year provides with time and space to reflect on what that means and to begin to make changes to our lives so we can live and share that realization with others through-

IT CAME!

Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?

'It came without ribbons! It came without tags!

It came without packages, boxes or bags!'

And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.

What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Merry Christmas!



January Scripture Readings

- January 1—The Holy Name of Jesus—Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21***
- January 2—Telemachus—1 John 2:22-29; Psalm 98:1-5; John 1:19-28**
- January 3—2nd Sunday after Christmas—Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18**
- January 4—John Seybert—1 John 3:7-10; Psalm 98:1-2, 8-10; John 1:35-42**
- January 5—12th Day of Christmas—Hebrews 11:32-12:2; Psalm 100; John 1:43-51**
- January 6—Epiphany of the Lord—Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12**
- January 7—1 John 3:18-4:6; Psalm 2; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25**
- January 8—Richard Watson—1 John 4:7-12; Psalm 72:1-8; Mark 6:30-44**
- January 9—1 John 4:11-19; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-13; Mark 6:45-52**
- January 10—Baptism of the Lord—Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 4:1-11**
- January 11—Hebrews 1:1-6; Psalm 97; Mark 1:14-20**
- January 12—Aelred of Hexham—Hebrews 2:5-12; Psalm 8; Mark 1:21-28***
- January 13—Hilary of Poitiers—Hebrews 2:14-18; Psalm 105:1-15; Mark 1:29-39***
- January 14—Hebrews 3:1-14; Psalm 95:6-11; Mark 1:40-45**
- January 15—Ita—Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Psalm 78:3-8; Mark 2:1-12**
- January 16—Hiram Rhoades Revels—Hebrews 4:12-16; Psalm 19:7-14; Mark 2:13-17**
- January 17—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany—1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51**
- January 18—The Confession of Peter—Acts 4:8-13; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19***
- January 19—John Ernest Rattenbury—Hebrews 6:10-20; Psalm 111; Mark 2:23-28**
- January 20—Founders of Anglican Franciscan Communities—Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Psalm 110; Mark 3:1-6**
- January 21—Agnes of Rome—Hebrews 7:23-8:7; Psalm 40:6b-11, 16b-17; Mark 3:7-12**
- January 22—Hebrews 8:6-13; Psalm 85:7-13; Mark 3:13-19**
- January 23—Sarah Ann Dickey—Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Psalm 47; John 8:51-59**
- January 24—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany—Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20**
- January 25—The Conversion of Paul—Acts 26:9-21; Psalm 67; Galatians 1:11-24; Matthew 10:16-22***
- January 26—Timothy and Titus—Hebrews 10:1-10; Psalm 40:1-11; Mark 3:31-35***
- January 27—John Chrysostom—Hebrews 10:11-18; Psalm 110:1-4; Mark 4:1-20***
- January 28—Thomas Aquinas—Hebrews 10:19-25; Psalm 24:1-6; Mark 4:21-25***
- January 29—Canaire—Hebrews 10:32-39; Psalm 37:1-7, 24-25, 41-42; Mark 4:26-34**
- January 30—Charles—Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Psalm 89:19-29; Mark 4:35-41**
- January 31—4th Sunday after the Epiphany—Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28**

From our families to yours,
Merry Christmas!

-Tim, Ben & Donna



We are wanting to make stockings for our shut ins, if you would like to deliver the stockings to our shut ins, please contact the church office.



"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
Gal 5:22-23

Thank you!

Thanks for all the cards, prayers and meals while recovering from my recent surgery. Improvements are slowly happening. Continued prayers are appreciated.

Gayla Kempf



We are unable to have the gift wrapping fundraiser so we are selling the supplies we had purchased at discounted prices. Avoid the store and come to the FLC between 8-3 during the week and get your wrapping paper and supplies with most priced .50 - \$1.00.



Contributions

Please have monetary contributions for 2020 to the church by December 30th. You can donate online via the church website or you can mail checks to the church. For 2020, most taxpayers that don't itemize are allowed up to \$300 deduction for contributions. In addition, if you are having a distribution from your IRA sent directly to the church, please be sure your name is on the check so we can acknowledge your donation. Donation receipts will be available from Cheryl Blythe near the end of January.

The 2021 annual budget will be included in the January Spire.



Family Order Form

Centenary United Methodist Church

Clothing & Accessories	%	QTY	Total
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$
American Eagle Outfit \$25.00	10%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$
Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$
DSW \$25.00	8%		\$
Express \$25.00	10%		\$
Gap \$25.00	14%		\$
Gap \$100.00	14%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
Journeys Kidz \$25.00	10%		\$
Marshalls / TJ Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
Marshalls / TJ Maxx \$100.00	7%		\$
Maurices \$20.00	7%		\$
Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Old Navy \$100.00	14%		\$
Ross Dress for Less \$25.00	8%		\$
Shoe Carnival \$25.00	5%		\$
Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$
Dining - Casual	%	QTY	Total
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$
Azzip \$10.00	10%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants \$10.00	10%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants \$25.00	10%		\$
Bonefish Grill \$25.00	8%		\$
Bonefish Grill \$50.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings \$25.00	8%		\$
Cheddars ® \$10.00	8%		\$
Cheddars ® \$25.00	8%		\$
Cheddars ® \$100.00	8%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$50.00	11%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$
Denny's \$10.00	7%		\$
Golden Corral \$25.00	9%		\$
Gracie's Chinese \$10.00	10%		\$
Hacienda \$20.00	10%		\$
Logan's Roadhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$100.00	8%		\$
Los Bravos Mexican \$20.00	10%		\$
Los Tres Caminos Mexican \$20	10%		\$
Merry-Go-Round \$10.00	10%		\$
O'Charley's \$25.00	13%		\$
Old Chicago \$25.00	6%		\$
Olive Garden ® \$25.00	8%		\$
Olive Garden ® \$100.00	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$50.00	8%		\$

Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$100.00	8%		\$
TGI Fridays® \$25.00	9%		\$
Dining - On The Go	%	QTY	Total
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$25.00	10%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$
Culver's \$10	10%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$
Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$
Domino's \$25.00	8%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$
GD Ritzys \$10.00	15%		\$
Fazoli's \$25.00	9%		\$
Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts \$10.00	8%		\$
Little Caesar's Pizza \$20.00	8%		\$
Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	9%		\$
Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Spuds-N-Stuff \$20.00	10%		\$
Starbucks \$10.00	7%		\$
Starbucks \$25.00	7%		\$
Steak 'n Shake \$10.00	8%		\$
SUBWAY \$10.00	6%		\$
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Taco Bell \$25.00	5%		\$
Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$
Zaxby's \$25.00	30%		\$
Health & Beauty	%	QTY	Total
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$
CVS Pharmacy 100.00	6%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$
Sephora \$25.00	5%		\$
ULTA \$25.00	4%		\$
Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Walgreens \$100.00	5%		\$
Home Décor	%	QTY	Total
Bed Bath & Beyond \$100.00	7%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$
Pier 1 Imports \$25.00	9%		\$

December Birthdays

3 - Brendon Crow
 4- Melissa Latham
 5 - Alyxandria Viera
 6 - Brenda Murray
 8 - Miriam Seibert
 12 - Kristi Taylor
 12 - Ann Vieira
 14 -Kenny Murray
 15- Ryan Grossman
 15 - Brock Falconer
 15—Terri Stocker
 17 - Holly Billingsley
 17 - Randy Bowden
 17 - Ruth Hopkins
 17 - Melissa Vieira

17- Hunter Riley
 19 -Charlie Hiatt
 20 - George Creekmur
 20 - Amanda Elpers
 21 - Erin Taylor
 22 - Kamden Freeman
 23 - Debbie Effinger
 24- Ellen Frederick
 27 -Ty Jackson
 28 - Loretta Coulson
 28 - Sherri Falconer
 29 - Brent Crow



January Birthdays

1 - Matt Rettinger
 2 -Jeanne Neely
 4 - Cheryl Lasher
 4 - Keeley Wingerter
 6 - John Clark
 6 - Greg Unfried
 6 - Hadley Bottoms
 7 - Geraldine Martin
 7 - Nancy McCutchan
 7 - Steve Schneider

12 - Roger Huebner Jr.
 14 - Jake Yocum
 17 - Judy Aldridge
 19 - Lee Crow
 20 - Kiley Huebner
 20 - Lauren Fendrich
 24 - Callie Graves
 29 - Roger Huebner Sr.
 31- Amber Ferguson



December Anniversaries

10 - Jim & Bea Woods
 11 - Buck & Joan Crowe
 17 - Jim & Nancy McCutchan
 26 - Rick & Judy Hendrix
 30 - Mark & Marsha Stocker



January Anniversaries

2 - George & Mida Creekmur
 14 - Larry & Bonnie Tindle
 19 - Wayne & Nancy Brack



A Record of Our Faithfulness


Date	Attendance	General Fund Offering
9/27	80	2280.00
10/4	72	1375.00
10/11	88	1440.00
10/18	72	
10/25	86	4519.00
11/1	83	3020.00
11/8	65	
11/15	60	1690.00
11/22	50	1215.00

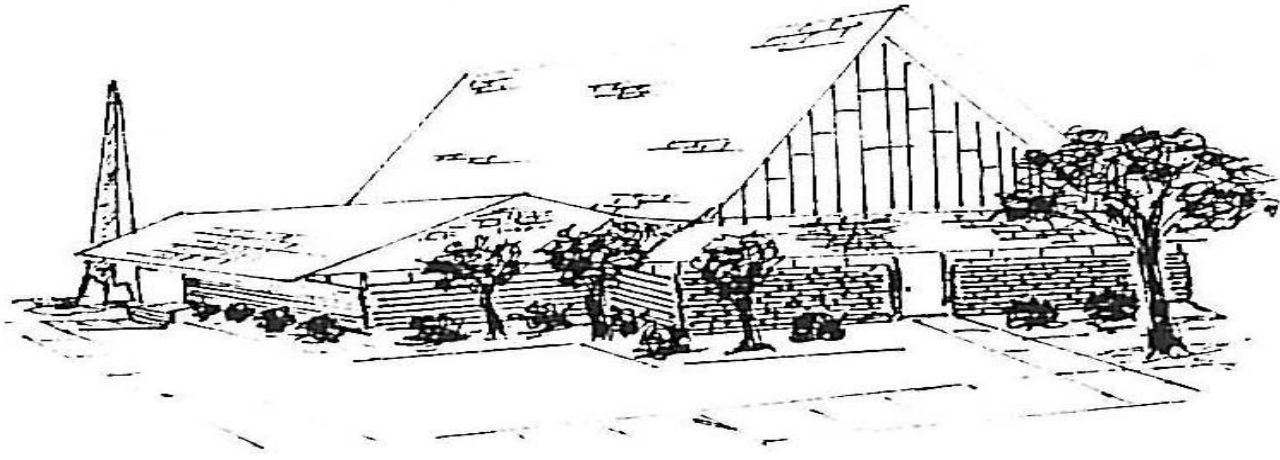
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! If you find any discrepancies in our Birthday/Anniversary listings, please call the office or email us. This would include names that are missing or misspelled, as well as wrong dates.

Attendance includes in person and virtual attendance

Prayer Concerns: Rosie Ritchie, Callie Graves, Dave Heavrin, Rosemary Rudolph, Wayne Aldridge, Debbie Young, Jackie Arman, Cris Brunson, Mary Edmondson, Jim Fleming, Joan Davis, Lee Crow, Shawn Jackson, Roger Huebner, Sr., Miriam Seibert, Ellen Frederick, Nancy McCutchan, Mary Anna Fanok

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30AM Service						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30AM Service						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30AM Service					Christmas Day	
						
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30AM Service					New Year's Day	



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation;
everything old has passed away, see,
everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5: 17

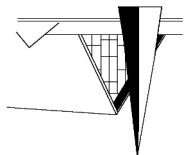
"Seeking God and God's Kingdom First"
"Seeking to Live as Disciples"

"Seeking to Be the Body of Christ, the Church"
"Seeking to Discover the Joy of God"

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The Spire
"Pointing Life in the
Right Direction"



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