

Faith in Action December 2016 Volume I



Faith United Methodist Church
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MISSION STATEMENT: At Faith United Methodist Church our mission is to worship God, teach the Word, and care for one another in Christian love by nurturing individuals in their spiritual journey.

- 12/02 Briggs Stubbs
- 12/03 Allie Clausen
- 12/05 Lyle Henderson
- 12/05 Dixie Obermiller
- 12/06 Carolyn Forney
- 12/06 Carter Graham
- 12/08 Mike Streeter
- 12/08 Angela Arentsen
- 12/10 Marlys Bauer
- 12/12 Holly Curtiss
- 12/12 Crystal Duester
- 12/12 Cassidy Tennant
- 12/13 Don Hendrickson
- 12/14 David Runge
- 12/18 Ed Foley
- 12/19 David Forney
- 12/19 Keegan Shultz-Ramer
- 12/21 Clarence Cafferty
- 12/21 Caleb Schoneman
- 12/22 Emily Wisch
- 12/23 Moriah Chandler
- 12/23 Bryan Royle
- 12/26 Forrest Holoubeck
- 12/28 Tyler Divan
- 12/28 Gabe Evans
- 12/29 Bret Pettit
- 12/29 Brinlee Pettit
- 12/30 Sandy Townsend
- 12/31 Esther Burgland



\$25,000 Challenge Match for Accessibility Addition

The congregation has been challenged by an anonymous gifter to match gifts and pledges for the Accessibility Addition up to \$25,000! This challenge pertains to new gifts and pledges between August 14 and December 31, 2016. **Over \$23,185** has been raised toward the challenge since August 14 from the elevator ride auction and additional gifts or pledges.

Thank you for considering a gift or pledge toward the match. Watch for the elevator display in the church to track progress toward the \$25,000!

Matching Funds



- 12/16 Phillip & Patricia Hilty
- 12/30 Marvin & Shara Bauer
- 12/30 Bob & Corinne Olmsted
- 12/31 Forrest & Tanya Holoubeck



Congratulations to Steve and Nancy Zwink, whose new grandson was born November 14. His name is Garret C. Budden and his parents are Josh and Stephanie Budden. Garret joins proud big sister Alexandra.

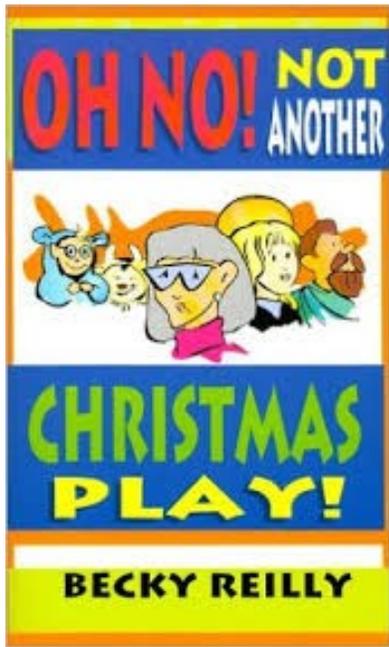


Congratulations to Hannah and Gabe Evans whose son, Kice Monroe Evans was born

November 16. He weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Kice joins older brother Karter and older sister Kollins.





Oh, No! Not Another Christmas Play!

Faith United Methodist Church
Christmas Program
Sunday, December 4, 2016
4:30 p.m.

Freewill Offering Soup Supper To Follow
(Hosted by Trustees)
Proceeds to Accessibility Addition



Welcome, Mollie!

Faith UMC welcomes Mollie George, who will assume responsibilities as Director of Christian Education on December 15. (Faith bids farewell to Lauryn Gustafson, who will be concentrating on her studies as she prepares for student teaching.)

Mollie was raised in Lexington and attended Concordia University in Seward, finishing her bachelor's degree in lab science at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She then received a master's degree in gerontology from Concordia University.

Mollie loves to travel and do mission work. As a student, missions took her to Africa and Russia.

She also enjoys being a student, reading, and attending movies.

Mollie is an animal lover and has two cats (although her mother currently has custody of them).

Most recently, Mollie was employed at Country House Memory Care Residence. She loves children and the elderly—and her goal is combine those interests through intergenerational programming at Faith.

Mollie's boyfriend, Mike, lives in Tennessee.

Welcome, Mollie!

Christmas and New Year's Worship Services



Christmas Eve Service Saturday, December 24, 2016 4:00 p.m.

We will have ONE Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24.

Christmas Day Service Sunday, December 25, 2016 8:30 a.m.

We will have ONE service on Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25). We will gather and light the Christ Candle, grab a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, bundle up, and walk around the neighborhood near



Faith singing Christmas carols. (Those of us who don't like cold weather will stay indoors and listen to Christmas music.)

After arriving back at the church, we will share cinnamon rolls and more coffee/hot chocolate. After a Christmas morning benediction, all will receive a Christmas ornament to be hung where we can see it for the Twelve Days of Christmas leading to Epiphany.



New Year's Day Services Sunday, January 1, 2017 First Service 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Communion 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Second Service 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

We will have TWO services on New Year's Day (Sunday, January 1).

First service will be from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Communion will be served from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Second service will be from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Both services will be abbreviated and will focus on resolutions or promises – the promise God gave us in sending the Christ Child and the promises we make back to God.

You are welcome to come to ANY part of the morning; come and go as you please; or stay for the whole thing.



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Shared by Patty McQueen: Last Thursday (November 17) was the last time Young Adult Bible Study met at our house (yes, it's as chaotic as it looks - but a blast for me because I like to play Grammie and teach the wee ones bad habits).

Young Adult Bible Study has outgrown our living room and is moving to the church overflow room where they will meet on Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

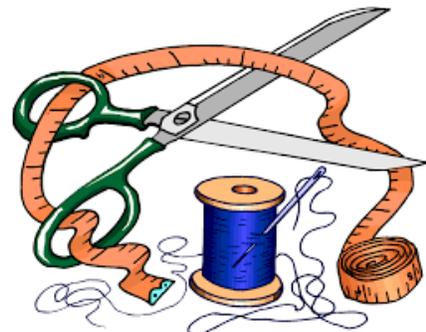
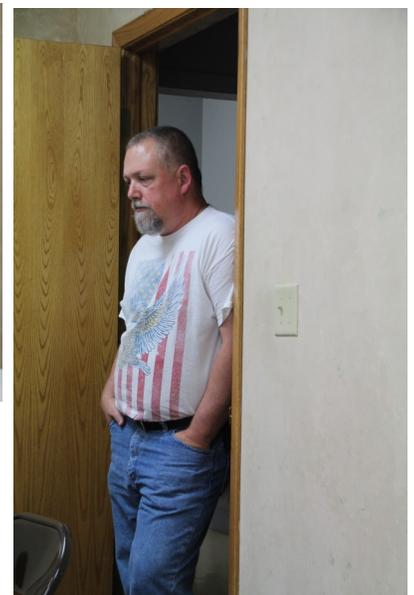
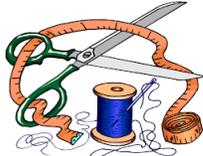


Six Bell Choirs! Four Kearney Churches! December 4 Community Christmas Bell Celebration! Sunday, December 4, 2016 7:00 p.m. Merryman Performing Arts Center

Mark your calendars! The annual Community Christmas Bell Celebration will be held at the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney. Bell choirs from four Kearney churches will participate: First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Lutheran, and Holy Cross Lutheran. The program includes selections rung by the mass bell choir, by individual church adult and youth bell choirs, and various small ensembles and solos. Following the concert, please join us for refreshments and fellowship.

What an awesome way to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior! Please join us on **December 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

On Wednesday, November 16, Roene Fox, Kathy Brisbin and Kim Graham assisted Scouts with The Sewing On Of Patches. (By the way, Kathy Brisbin's machine has THIRTY-TWO buttons on it . . .)





Fear and Worry

What do you worry about on a daily basis? We often feel that we must worry to demonstrate our concern and understanding of the world. But when do we cease our worry?

Throughout the bible God tells us to not worry, and do not be afraid. Fear is always at the heart of our worry.

“Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothes? ... Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? ... Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6: 25, 27, 34 CEB

Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks.

Philippians 4:6 CEB

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don’t be troubled or afraid.”

John 14:27 CEB

He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, “Silence! Be still!” The wind settled down and there was a great calm. Jesus asked them, “Why are you frightened? Don’t you have faith yet?”

Mark 4:39-40 CEB

Yet even as he said the words, Jesus’ disciples were still worried and afraid. Jesus was physically with them yet they still worried. So how much harder is it for us today when we do not have this physical presence?

Thankfully Jesus did not leave us entirely and promised us a Comforter in the Holy Spirit to be with us. God can give us comfort through our fellow human companions in this world as the Holy Spirit moves them. Likewise, we can also serve to comfort others and the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

Has the Holy Spirit moved you to reach out to someone in distress? You may be their only experience of God during their time of worry and fear. Through these personal interactions, God can also cease the worry and fear in your heart as well.

<http://umcdevelopmentcenter.org/news/fear-and-worry>



Congratulations to Carrie and Ryan Findley, whose daughter, Hazel Ahlene Findley, was born October 27. She weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and was 21 3/4 inches long. Hazel joins older brothers Carter and Declan.

new
baby
"girl"

Christmas Program

December 3 - Christmas Program Rehearsal from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. All kids participating in the program must be at rehearsal.

December 4 - Christmas Program at 4:30 p.m. Free will soup supper following the program with proceeds going toward the Accessibility Addition.

CCF - Upcoming Events

On December 7, the youth will be caroling at local retirement homes.

On December 14, the youth will be having a "fun day" activity. Details will be sent home with the kids on December 7.

Please note that December 14 will be the last day of CCF for 2016. Programming will begin again on Wednesday, January 4.

UMYF

On December 7, the youth will be caroling at local retirement homes.

On December 14, the youth will be having a "fun day" activity.

Please note December 14 will be the last day of UMYF for 2016. Programming will begin again on Wednesday, January 4.



Confirmation

Confirmation classes will begin on January 8, 2017 during the Sunday School hour. Contact Pastor Perry if you have any questions.



Mona's Store

During the school year, Faith UMC partners with Bryant Elementary's after-school program. In October, November and December, we ask parishioners to bring items that those students may choose as gifts for family members.

Mona Ripp, a longtime Faith member, loved helping children. Mona was so passionate about this mission of sharing Christmas with neighborhood children that, after her death, we named the event "Mona's Store" in her memory.

Mona was a cook at Bryant Elementary for many, many years. Please help Mona's Store by bringing items of approximately \$5 value. We need gifts for men, women and children of all ages. Also welcome are re-gifted new or gently used items that are Christmas-gift-appropriate.

Please, no books or adult clothing.

Items may be brought any time through December 13th and placed in the overflow room shopping cart.

Thank you for supporting Mona's Store!

DECEMBER MISSION

Did you know that during the months of November and December The Salvation Army raises a majority of the funds needed to provide services to the families of our community? **This year's Christmas goal is to raise \$133,000.**

You can help by ringing a bell or sponsoring a kettle for a day. You provide a service that is priceless.



Signup sheets are available in the office. Fill it out and drop it off at The Salvation Army or call today and reserve your spot. Another way to support is a tax-deductible donation.

Thank you for your time and the blessing you have been to
The Salvation Army in years past and in years to come.

~ Major Normalene Daniels, Kearney Corps Officer

My husband and I had been happily married (most of the time) for five years but hadn't been blessed with a baby.

I decided to do some serious praying and promised God that if he would give us a child, I would be a perfect mother, love it with all my heart and raise it with His word as my guide. God answered my prayers and blessed us with a son.

The next year God blessed us with another son. The following year, He blessed us with yet another son. The year after that we were blessed with a daughter.

My husband thought we'd been blessed right into poverty. We now had four children, and the oldest was only four years old.

I learned never to ask God for anything unless I meant it. As a minister once told me, "If you pray for rain, make sure you carry an umbrella."

I began reading a few verses of the Bible to the children each day as they lay in their cribs. I was off to a good start. God had entrusted me with four children and I didn't want to disappoint Him.

I tried to be patient the day the children smashed two dozen eggs on the kitchen floor searching for baby chicks.

I tried to be understanding...when they started a hotel for homeless frogs in the spare bedroom, although it took me nearly two hours to catch all twenty-three frogs.

When my daughter poured ketchup all over herself and rolled up in a blanket to see how it felt to be a hot dog, I tried to see the humor rather than the mess..

In spite of changing over twenty-five thousand diapers, never eating a hot meal and never sleeping for more than thirty minutes at a time, I still thank God daily for my children.

While I couldn't keep my promise to be a perfect mother - I didn't even come close...I did keep my promise to raise them in the Word of God.

I knew I was missing the mark just a little when I told my daughter we were going to church to worship God, and she wanted to bring a bar of soap along to "wash up" Jesus, too.

Something was lost in the translation when I explained that God gave us everlasting life, and my son thought it was generous of God to give us his "last wife".

My proudest moment came during the children's Christmas pageant. My daughter was playing Mary, two of my sons were shepherds and my youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine.

My five-year-old shepherd had practiced his line, "We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes."

But he was nervous and said, "The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes."

My four-year-old "Mary" said, "That's not 'wrinkled clothes,' silly. That's 'dirty, rotten clothes'."

A wrestling match broke out between Mary and the shepherd and was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo and lost her left wing.

I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing Baby Jesus, and it bounced down the aisle crying, "Mama-mama."

Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up and held it tightly as the wise men arrived.

My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced, "We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur."

The congregation dissolved into laughter, and the pageant got a standing ovation.

"I've never enjoyed a Christmas program as much as this one," laughed the pastor, wiping tears from his eyes. "For the rest of my life, I'll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of gold, common sense and fur."

"My children are my pride and my joy and my greatest blessing," I said as I dug through my purse for an aspirin.

*From the book **Chicken Soup for the Soul: Christian Kids** by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hansen, edited by Amy Newmark. Copyright 2008 by Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC.*



DECEMBER 2016



SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1	2	3 8:30 W.W.
4 Second Sunday of Advent 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 11:00 Worship	5 6:00 Finance 7:00 Scouts	6 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 5:30 Trustees 6:00 Finance 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Men's Bible Study	7 12:15 W.W. 3:30 CCF/ Confirmation 6:00 UMYF 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Choir	8 5:45 W.W.	9	10 8:30 W.W.
11 Third Sunday of Advent 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 11:00 Worship	12 6:00 Christian Ed 7:00 Scouts	13 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Men's Bible Study	14 12:15 W.W. 3:30 CCF/ Confirmation 6:00 UMYF 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Choir	15 5:45 W.W. 7:00- P.F.L.A.G.	16	17 8:30 W.W.
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 11:00 Worship Mona's Store Setup	19 3:30 Mona's Store 6:00 Mona's Store 7:00 Scouts	20 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Men's Bible Study	21 First Day of Winter 12:15 W.W.	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 8:30 W.W. Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m.
25 Christmas Day ONE SERVICE 8:30 a.m.	26 Kwanzaa 7:00 Scouts	27 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Men's Bible Study	28 12:15 W.W. 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Choir	29	30	31 New Year's Eve