

The Current Newsletter

CLEARWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2017



Church Conference

This year our church Conference will meet on Dec 3rd at 2:-00 p.m. at the Derby Woodlawn UMC. Please let the office know if you may possibly attend so that we can prepare adequate materials including name tags. Tom Whitaker has offered to be chauffer for the afternoon, so also let us know if you need a ride. Thank you!

All Church Brunch

December 10th the UMW ladies will serve an all church brunch following the morning service. Those wishing to attend Sunday School will go through the line first so they can get to class on time and everyone else may stay and socialize. Charlotte Dawson

Kids of the Kingdom

We have a delightful group of children this year. Twenty one kindergarten through fifth graders come to the church every Wednesday after school to participate in art, cooking, games, mission, music, and science, or listen to stories and videos. We have a snack and opening lesson then move through 4 stations each week. We are currently experiencing the wonder of the advent season and Christmas. In January we will begin learning about acceptance of others differences as we study the story of Peter and Cornelius. Kendal will be leading the confirmation class so we are in need of someone to lead the story telling station for three weeks. Please let Penny Walker know if you are willing to do this. Penny Walker

Operation Christmas Child

We did it! On Tuesday, Nov. 14th we delivered 227 shoeboxes to the collection site in Derby. (217 from the packing party and 10 from the Nazarene church) A big thank you to Gary & Sherilyn Ward for helping us set up tables on Friday evening and to Sherilyn Ward and Reba Gross for helping Howard and I set out all the supplies on the tables on Saturday. Another thank you to the 44 people who gathered on Sunday afternoon to pack the shoeboxes and load them into our van. The youth group was a big part of that help. It is always amazing how quickly the work goes with good help. With the help of Judy Frye, Charles & Gayla Rinehart, Barbara Emberson and Mason, Zoey & Presley Skiles we got everything packed up and cleared out in record time. Thanks also to everyone that purchased items for the shoeboxes in order to bless the children of the world.

Happy Birthday ...

12/01 Valeri Blackburn
12/02 Mariah Petersen
12/05 Donald Watt
12/06 Averi Shipman
12/09 Sydney Shipman
12/11 Joselyn Carpenter
12/14 Taylor McMillen
12/15 Joyce Utt
12/15 Justin McMillen
12/20 Ardena Matlack
12/22 Carla Butterfield
12/23 Eric Shipman
12/23 Aiden Shipman
12/28 Angela Brown
12/28 Matt Freeman
12/29 Addison Brown
12/30 Zoey Skiles
12/31 Altman, Nella

Happy Anniversary ...

12/30/1960 Jack & Carol Bates
12/30/1974 Gary & Pat Tripp

December Calendar

3 2:00 p.m. Conference **10** 10:30 a.m. ALL Church Brunch, 5-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper, 7-8:00 p.m. Youth Caroling **17** Cookie Walk **21** Blue Christmas Service **24** 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service **31** 8-1:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pancake Feed, 6:00 p.m Pitch Party, FLC

Financial Recap - Ending 10/31/2017

General Fund Budget for 2017	\$239,731.
Carry-over from 2016.....	\$14,994.
Revenue received January – October.....	\$178,823.
Expenditures – January – October.....	(\$183,230.)
Balance 10/31/2017.....	\$10,587.

November general fund receipts for the 1st three Sundays are: \$10,590.

We have six Sundays left to raise approximately \$30,000. This is very workable.

We have paid \$17,426 to Mission & Ministries with \$5,862 remaining to be paid. This amount is included in our budget.

While we are enjoying the Christmas season, let us remember the reason for the season and the gift God has given us through the birth of Jesus, Our Savior. Your financial gifts to the Clearwater United Methodist Church help to fulfill our mission to bring Disciples to Christ. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your treasurer for the past 16 years.

Nancy Richardson

Poinsettia Dedications

This year we will continue the tradition of giving to Ember Hope. Please drop your donation amount of your choice in the offering plate along with the dedication form of how and to whom to make the dedication. Thank you!

Good Shepherd Preschool & Kids' Corner Child Care

We had our Halloween parties, and had a lot of fun playing different games and eating the treats that our students brought. We went to the nursing homes, and they enjoyed seeing all of our costumes and hearing our songs.

We also celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast with our families this last month. We made and ate the pumpkin pies that the classes made. We also prepared a whole traditional meal in our transitional class for our families to enjoy.

We are preparing and looking forward to our Christmas program on Thursday, December 14th! In Kids' Corner, we have increased our enrollment. We have started utilizing the gym more for structured activities at different tables to keep the group sizes smaller. The students enjoyed making a harvest chex mix as well as having a Halloween party of their own. They also carried out a number of fall crafts with leaf rubbing and pumpkin page coloring.

We are going to put up a teacher "wish list" tree this year. If you are looking for presents to get for our hard-working teachers, ornaments will be filled out with items that they would like to have for their programs. Please take an ornament if you would like to give them a gift. It can be turned in to them or it can be anonymous. We appreciate your support and hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

God Squad

The God Squad has been very busy since kicking off the new school year in September. Our focus has been on "service to others" and we have had a great time doing it! Raking leaves, picking up trash at the park and around town, making desserts for the Clearwater community Thanksgiving dinner and delivering Thanksgiving meals to the homebound.

We will be very busy between now and the end of 2017. Donut decorating and gift exchange December 3rd and our Annual soup supper and caroling on December 10th.

The youth will also be fundraising for our Church Camp scholarship fund. We will be selling Rada cutlery, wrapping gifts, and continue to do the Pizza Hut fundraiser the 3rd Sunday of every month. We would like to take this opportunity say "Thank you" for your continued support of our youth and their activities! We are very blessed!

Mitten Tree

Once again, the Mitten tree is ready to accept your donations of warm accessories for all ages. Please drop them off anytime you. Thank you!

Erin Bettles