

- “Prayer Time” by our snow-bird, Dorothy Steinke
- December calendar, birthday calendar and Worship assignments
- Boy Scout Meal after Cantata

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# First News

Volume 18, Issue 12

December 2018

## A Note from Pastor Toni

Friends,

A couple of weeks ago, the sweetest thing happened. Scott and I had just arrived at our oldest son's home. Matt opened the front door, and one year old Ella caught a glimpse of me and began running full force with her arms open to me, calling, "Grandma!" It melted my heart. I caught her in my arms, raised her up into the air, and promptly missed the one step up into their house. Down I went, somehow twisting and landing half way into their kitchen, still holding Ella up in the air, eyes wide, unharmed, but surprised by her sudden adventure. I was surprised, too!

I laid there for a couple of minutes trying to decide if everything was

where it was supposed to be as Matt took Ella and worried over me. I was on my right side; my hip and my knee hurt, but it seemed that



all was well. I thought, okay, this is how I'll break a hip someday. Then I made a mental note: just enjoy the moment, and don't move too quickly into the next one.

The Fall season started late and ended quickly. But, it was incredibly beautiful for at least a few days before the leaves came down and

then the snow followed shortly thereafter. But I remembered: I enjoyed the moment, and did my best not to move too quickly into the next one.

Now it's Advent, the time we prepare for the coming of Jesus—for Christmas. Those preparations take all kinds of shapes and forms. In our culture, it's so often a mad rush of shopping, baking, decorating and getting ready for guests and other activities. But, of course it's more than that—it's preparing our hearts and minds for Christ's coming. It's remembering that he came once as a babe in Bethlehem, and he's coming again, gathering each of us into his arms as a new age begins. (I

*(Continued on page 2)*

## A Note from Pastor Toni continued

*(Continued from page 1)*



*“We are so blessed. God is so good. May we savor each moment we’ve been given in this wondrous season, and let’s not move too quickly into the next one. It’ll come in good time.”*

wonder if that moment will be as delightful as the one I had with Ella, minus the falling part! Jesus will surely be more graceful as he receives me into his arms!

I want to enjoy each moment that comes. I want to enjoy my family—our children and grandchildren at the age they are now, because when we’re all together, it’s wild and wooly and wonderful, all at the same

time. I want to enjoy worship—the wonderful hymns that we only sing at this time of year that are so deep and full of meaning...the scriptures that hold mystery and promise...the people who surround me (you!) who are friends and partners in this life and venture in ministry. It’s all so precious! And I want to enjoy some quiet moments, too, with trees and candles and lights and decorations that bring back so many good memories...of precious peo-

ple and moments when I’ve been lifted up and carried and have experienced love.

We are so blessed. God is so good. May we savor each moment we’ve been given in this wondrous season, and let’s not move too quickly into the next one. It’ll come in good time.

Grace and peace and blessings,

*Toni*

## December Boy Scout Meal

The December Boy Scout meal will take place on Sunday, December 16th after the 2nd Service and Cantata. The menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, tossed salad,

rolls and dessert.

This is the annual free-will-donation fundraiser for the troop to sponsor a family for Christmas. Please plan to attend!



## Mothers' Club by Robin Cupka

Mothers' Club will celebrate Christmas on Monday, December 10th. We will meet at La D'Zert at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP Pam Michel or Robin Cupka by December 2nd. Cost is \$15.00 per person.



## Social Concerns by Mary Kaufman

We are continuing to support Heminger House, Link to Hope, Neighborhood Center, Bread of Life and our church's Community Meal. For December, please select a child from the Christmas Clothesline for whom you will buy the cloth-

ing listed on the paper doll. The Neighborhood Center needs **bread and cold cereal**. They also welcome your donation of new and used winter coats for all ages as well as other clothing. They also have families who need toys for

their children for Christmas. Call the Center at 936-3388 to find out how to "adopt" a family. Thanks for your continuing support as you are showing God's love to those who don't have the advantages we have.



## Thank You! From Leah Smith

First United Methodist Church Family:

I wanted to reach out and express my gratitude for the care package I recently received from you all. Knowing that I have my church family supporting me throughout my college

endeavor means so much for me. I am forever thankful for your support. I cannot wait to visit and share all that I have learned and experienced when I am back in town. Again, thank you!

Sending my gratitude,  
Leah Smith



# December Preaching Plan

**December 2**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

**Holy Communion**

**Text:** Luke 21:25-36

**Title:** Focus!

**Theme:** The coming of Jesus into the world triggered a whole series of events that will bring us to the time in which Christ comes again in final victory. We are reminded that our redemption is near.

**December 9**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Text:** Luke 3:1-6

**Title:** Prepare!

**Theme:** The birth of Jesus is anchored in history and points to the coming of God's

kingdom. John's call to repent prepares our way to join in what's ahead.

**December 16**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Cantata at 10:30**

**Text:** Zephaniah 3:14-20

**Title:** Hope!

**Theme:** Through the prophet, we read how God's anger is transformed into a song of hope. Where have we heard this song in our lives?

**December 23**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Text:** Luke 1:39-45

**Title:** Blessed!

**Theme:** Mary travels to see her relative Elizabeth and both receives and offers confirmation and encouragement.

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

**Lessons and Carols, 4:30 p.m.**

**Traditional Worship, 7:30 p.m.**

**December 30**

**1st Sunday after Christmas**

**Text:** Colossians 3:12-17

**Title:** Therefore...

**Theme:** How are our lives different with the coming of Jesus?



# Outreach Committee Invites You to Participate...



Dominos and Eucharie will be featured on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 2-4:00 PM. Contact Dean Luther for further details at 540-2196.

Bad Girls: This group will meet December 4 and December 18 (not the usual days), continuing with a study of "The Women of Christmas."

Lunch Bunch: The third Friday of the month:  
RSVP Carol Beiter

December 21: Millers Assisted Living

**HERE ARE THE RESTAURANT CHOICES FOR THE COMING FEW MONTHS:**

JANUARY 18: GRANNYS

FEBRUARY 15: CHRISTO'S

MARCH 22: LA D'ZERT

Christian Craftin' Mamas continue to meet and explore the world of creativity. Contact Michelle Faulstich 941-2737 for further details.

Blessed Bookies: The 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at Miller's Assisted Living at 5:30 PM. This group is not meeting in December.

First Sunday Brunch: We will skip December and will schedule another Breakfast for January 6, 2019!! (this will be at Symphony after 2<sup>nd</sup> service)

Knit Two...Pray Three: Will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month From 10:00 to noon in the Memorial Room.

*The Outreach Committee Invites You to Participate in the Events listed here*

## The Longest Night: Friday, December 21 at 7:00 PM

*Come to hear the healing words,  
To pray, to be still, and  
Feel God's loving presence.....  
To light a candle,  
To hear music of peace and calm.  
Refreshments to follow*





## United Methodist Men by David Hogsett

There was good attendance for the United Methodist Men's breakfast on Saturday, November 17. Many suggestions were offered and discussed about possibilities for programs, groups, work projects, service opportunities, and growth opportunities. If you would like a summary of the meeting contact Dave Hogsett at da-

vidh15503@embarqmail.com or 574-936-6927.

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men will be Saturday, December 15 at 8 am. One of the suggestions made at the November meeting was to have local work projects similar to the ones at Henderson Settlement. Dean Byers will be sharing at the December 15th meeting about some possibilities. A

short progress report will be given of all of the other suggestions and ideas from November's meeting.

The United Methodist Men is open to all men who are looking for fellowship, work, service, growth, or learning opportunities. One does not need to be a United Methodist or even a member of First Church to participate.



## December Worship Participants

DEC	8:30	10:30	10:30	10:30	10:30	Older Nursery	Acolytes
	Liturgist	Liturgist	Greeters	Ushers	Sound Tech		
2	Susie Kreighbaum	Karen Capper	Robin Cupka		Tom Pedavoli	Jane Woolfington	Logan Binkley
9	Dick Tobias	Katie Spencer	Barb Friesner	Woody Schinbeckler, Ryon Macey, Ryan Gray, Brent Kaufman, Bert Rans	James Faulstich	Deb Jung	Emma Jackson
16	Mike Kyser	Dave Hogsett	Robin Cupka		Ralph Booker	Judy Goebel	Logan Binkley
23	Pam Michel	Watch the Bulletin for assignment	Bert & Marilyn Rans		Robin Cupka	Stacey Jackson	Emma Konefsky
30	Susan Wautelet		Dean & Judie Luther		Scott Carmer	Robin Cupka	Jenny Cerrato

**First United Methodist Church**  
 400 N. Michigan St.  
 Plymouth, IN 46563

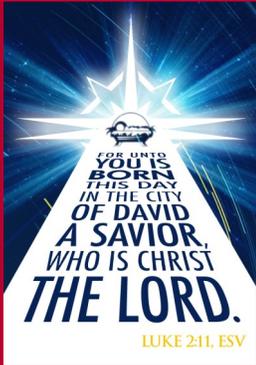


# December 2018

*Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others*

Phone: 574 936-2943  
 Email: [office@plymouthfirstumc.org](mailto:office@plymouthfirstumc.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday Service Times:</b> 8:30 & 10:30 am, The Well: 5 pm						
2 <b>Bringing in Christmas</b> 	3 6 pm WOW in Narthex 6:30 pm Marshall/Starke	4 <b>DEADLINE FOR ORDERING POINTS SETTIAS</b> 10am Knit 2, Pray 3 11 am Women of Christmas	5 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 	10 6:30 Trustees 6:30 Social Concerns 6:30 Mother's Club @ La D'Zert	11	12 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice	13	14	15 8:00 am Methodist Men's Breakfast
16 10:30 am <b>Cantata</b> Boy Scout Meal 	17	18 6 pm Finance 11 am Women of Christmas	19 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice	20 2-4 Game Day 7 pm Boy Scouts Roundtable	21 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Miller's 7 pm Longest Night "A Service of Healing & Reflection"	22
23 	24 4:30 pm Family Service-Lessons & Carols 7:30 pm Candlelight Worship Service	25 	26 5-7 Community Meal	27	28	29
30	31 Boy Scout Lock-in	January 1, 2019 				



*“What better reason to sing than this: the Savior is born to live, die and rise again...”*



## Prayer Time by Dorothy Steinke

What better reason to sing than this: the Savior is born to live, die, and rise again to fix what sin had broken.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people." Luke 2:10

Winter has come early to western Kentucky. I am writing this on the fifteenth of November. We had snow last night that covered the ground. Fortunately, the roads were dry and I was able to take my walk this am. The temperature was 32, right at freezing. Due to the snow there was a hushed quietness; like waiting for the angels to start singing "hallelujah, the savior has been born."

### Mission Witness

Every October we meet with the children of the refugee and immigrant support services, seeking to build relationships and learning their struggles, hopes and

dreams, and their Christmas wishes. When I suggested that the Children receive Christmas gifts at a local congregation, the outpouring of generosity was incredible. One woman summed it up "every child deserves three things - a dental checkup, glasses if they need them, and Christmas."

*Denise K. Walling,*  
Deaconess-Home Missioner,  
Jonesville United Methodist Church,  
Clifton Park, N.J.

I have two books that I keep in Murray. I re-read them every Christmas. "Come Let Us Adore Him" is a daily Advent devotional, written by Max Lucado. "Because of Christmas, Love is born, Hope is here." In the last chapter of "Because of Bethlehem", Max states that Hollywood would want to change the story: the CDC would have fits over the sanitation problems; public relation firms would move the birth to a big city with more pizzazz. God had other

plans. We don't even have an exact date for His birth. There were no spotlights, just candle light, no crowns, just cows chewing their cud. The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us.

*My heart, your manger  
Like the stable in  
which you lay,  
my heart is simple,  
frail as hay.  
But if you would within  
me stay,  
Make my heart your  
manger, I pray.  
Make my world your  
Bethlehem,  
center pieced with  
heaven's Son.  
Make this night a  
shepherd's sky,  
quicken bright with  
holy dawn.  
Rush the air with  
cherub wings.  
Brush this earth. Let  
angels sing.  
A glimpse of your  
face. A taste of your  
Grace.  
Be born in this place. I  
pray. Amen*

# Advent 2018

Please order your poinsettias (\$12.00) by December 3.

## Sunday, December 2 – BRINGING IN CHRISTMAS

- 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services including "Dance for Him" (10:30 only); lighting of the Christmas Tree; Communion; lighting 1<sup>st</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath
- Immediately following the Second Service - a Carry-In Meal of Finger Foods in the Fellowship Hall (Paper products, toothpicks, and beverages provided) followed by -
- Children's Program in the Sanctuary.
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well - in the Fellowship Hall*



## Sunday, December 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service including lighting 2<sup>nd</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service including "Dance for Him", Special Music by Hugh Smith on the cello; lighting 2<sup>nd</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well - in the Fellowship Hall*

## Sunday, December 16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent



- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service Rev. Toni Carmer preaching; lighting 3<sup>rd</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath
- 10:30 a.m. **CANTATA** by the Chancel Choir; "Dance for Him"; lighting 3<sup>rd</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well - in the Fellowship Hall*

## Friday, Dec. 21 – LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

A Service of Reflection and Healing  
7:00 p.m. - in the Sanctuary



## Sunday, Dec. 23 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service including lighting 4<sup>th</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service including "Dance for Him"; Ladies Trio singing "Do You Hear What I Hear"; lighting 4<sup>th</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath
- 5:00 p.m. *The Well - in the Fellowship Hall*



## Monday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. Family Service of Lessons and Carols  
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

# Kitchen Remodeling

The driving force for the Kitchen Remodeling is Health and Safety!

On October 31, while trying to heat soup in 2 roasters and make coffee, a fuse blew and Jeff Mills had to be called after hours to come remedy the problem.

On November 17, the United Methodist Men met for a breakfast meeting, followed by Mother's Club making "Meals for Methodists". Before all the dishes were washed up, the drain piping for the 2-bay sink had completely disconnected from the sink. (See photo.) Prior to this, it has been necessary to leave a wash-tub under the left side where leaking routinely occurs.

The 3 major problems that were originally identified:

1. At the seams, the flooring is cracking, curling, and chipping away. The seams are located in traffic paths and in front of the ranges. This has become a tripping hazard as well as being unsanitary. Bacteria and mop water get in the cracks and under the flooring and there is no way to keep this from happening. Jeff Mills has repeatedly made temporary repairs but the cracking, curling, and chipping continues to worsen.
2. The 2 electric water heaters that serve the entire building produce very little hot water. In order to have enough hot water for washing dishes or other cleaning tasks, it is necessary to heat water on the stoves.  
  
Lime from hard water has built up in the heaters and in the piping. Traditional electric water heaters do not replace hot water as rapidly as gas water heaters. And they keep water hot 24 hours a day, whether or not water is being used, increasing the electric bill
3. The electric system is unreliable and out-dated. The style of fuses/breakers in the existing box are not even manufactured anymore and are not available for purchase. The receptacle strips were never designed to carry the voltage necessary when using several heating appliances at the same time, such as roasters, crock-pots, or coffee makers.

*Stay Tuned for More Information!*

**If at any time you would like to make a contribution towards the remodeling, a fund has already been set up. Just mark your envelope or check made out to Plymouth FUMC: "Kitchen Remodel".**





# December Birthdays



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Eugene Chipman
2 Cameron Capper Donald Delap Rena Trappe	3	4 Carole Ralston	5	6 Robert Heiden Sr.	7	8
9	10 Barb Friesner Bruce Myers	11 Kay Finlay Marjorie Kreighbaum Marilyn Rans	12 Patti Bates Karen Capper	13	14 Brynn Rans	15
16 David Cochern Cindy Flagg	17 David Hogsett Bill Reynolds	18 Alicia Dennie Stacey Jackson	19 Greg Hildebrand	20 Don Harding Mary E. Karstedt	21	22
23	24	25	26 Bob Beiter	27 Nancy Newton	28 Alex Jagers Alex Morris	29 Ruth Crutchfield
30 Linda Langfeldt	31 Deb Grievank					

# GREETINGS FROM THE WELL

by Cindy Flagg



*“The only way we could cope and get through this year is with GOD’s help and all the answers to prayer.”*



Here it is... DECEMBER...How did that happen??

This year has flown by and while I know I should write something really interesting and insightful about Christmas, all that is still on my mind is Thanksgiving!!

Our family has SO MUCH to be thankful for this year. And as I sat at the meal table with my family on Thanksgiving Day, I couldn’t help but be overwhelmed by GOD’s goodness and grace to the Flagg family in 2018.

Many of you know that my family has been hit by some very serious medical issues during this past year. My brother and his wife both have fought for their very lives in 2018 and I do

truly believe without the prayers of my church family they would not have come through the various ailments and hospitalizations as well as they have. PLEASE don’t stop praying as they both are continuing to heal and get stronger!! But I have to say we are very thankful they are both alive and healing!!!

From January through this very day life has been overwhelming for all of us. The only way we could cope and get through this year is with GOD’s help and all the answers to prayer. I am humbled and grateful, and I simply felt I needed to say THANK YOU to all of you. I do not take you for granted!! I share with my brother and sister-in-law how much prayer

has been said on their behalf!

Now on to The Well!!! The month of December is shaping up nicely to be a rather relaxed month on Sunday evenings. December is such a busy month that we can lose sight of the true meaning of the season because we keep ourselves so busy. I’d like to invite you to The Well on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. where you will be able to come as you are and worship and fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere. There are no expectations of the hurried holiday season. We will continue in our format of a time of music, prayer and Bible teaching. We will also have some lighthearted fun

*(Continued on page 14)*

By Karen Capper

*"Praying is so, so important, and we absolutely should pray. But, after we pray, we should also take action. I believe that God wants to use us to be blessings for other people, in His name. We just have to be willing to step out in faith." (Excerpt from Doing More than Saying "I'll Pray for You")*

The above statement really spoke to me as I prepared to join the group going to Henderson Settlement. Initially, I had my doubts...would a "middle-aged" woman with no construction experience be more of a hindrance than a help? Sure, I could swing a hammer and I'd worked alongside my dad in his wood shop filling nail holes with wood putty and sanding, but siding a house...that would require real work with real tools! What was I thinking?

Not willing to admit defeat, I thought I could at least "look the part." I bought a nail apron (which I decorated with some ribbon and buttons), packed my grandfather's hammer, a tape measure, and unbeknownst to my traveling companions, I also packed six types of footwear...work boots, rain boots, tennis shoes, dress shoes, flip flops and slippers. I was ready...

Once at the worksite, all my insecurities disappeared. The Work Team embraced me wholeheartedly and were eager to explain each step of the process, from tearing off the old siding to putting on the blue foamboard and the new siding. We all found our groove and worked like a team on a mission. I know when I first heard the terms "C" channel and "J" channel my eye glazed over, but by mid-week I was speaking the lingo and had learned that tin snips have different colored handles for a reason!

What else did I learn? I learned I wasn't there to build the Taj Mahal, nor was I expected to have any special skills, just a willingness to step out in faith, God would provide the rest. And He did. God provided the right people with the right skills, safe travels, beautiful weather, WONDERFUL Team Members, a homeowner (Jackie) who was blessed by our work, and a church family that continues to support us with their faithfulness and their friendship.

Thank you for giving us all the opportunity to take action.

This work team finished siding Jackie's house near Henderson Settlement when they were there in October. Last year our team completed 2 walls, and Jackie waited an entire year to have the remainder of the work done. The team consisted of Steve and Sharon Westfall, Carol Beiter, Mike Woolfington, Brent and Mary Kaufman, and first-time missioners Karen Capper and Ralph Booker.



Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraisers. The two upcoming trips are:

**MAY 12 - 17, 2019 MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER: Contact person: Carol Beiter.**

**JULY 6 - 14, 2019 MISSION GUATEMALA: Contacts: Pastor Toni and Troy Spencer.**



## First United Methodist Church

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*Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others*

## Greetings from The Well by Cindy Flagg continued

*(Continued from page 12)*

throughout the month. If you cannot attend, as always, I'd like to ask for your prayers to cover The Well and those who attend.

### OUR DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

**Dec. 2** – Regular Service and Holy Communion with Rev. Rose Woodke

**Dec. 9** – Regular Service and refreshments

**Dec. 16** – The Praise Pup-

pets, A Flute Duet w/ Annette Ray and Deb Burman, and our regular



monthly carry-in meal

**Dec. 21** – The Longest Night – for those who find the holidays less than MERRY and BRIGHT! In

the Sanctuary @ 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 23** – Movie and Popcorn – “A Holiday to Remember” starring Randy Travis and Connie Sellecca

**Dec. 30** – Bible Trivia Night & Snacks/prizes awarded

GOD BLESS YOU ALL and REMEMBER to be THANKFUL ALWAYS!!!!

See you at The Well!!

**Cindy**