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# ***December 2018***

## **Advent: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace**

Advent derives from a Latin word “adventus” which means “coming.” The season proclaims the coming of Christ, whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again. Who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings; historically, the season was marked by fasts for preparation. Jeremiah preached in the streets about the “righteous Branch,” which would “sprout from David’s line” (Jeremiah 31:15). The Israelites had been waiting centuries for a powerful liberator, redeemer, and healer. They anticipated—they prepared for—a great sign from God.

God’s plan is to establish His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. God wants the knowledge of God to cover the earth as the water covers the sea. Just like us, the first-century disciples asked this question when would the kingdom appear? Christ, when will you come with your glory? Through the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, which focus on the progressive revelation of Israel’s Messiah, the Israelites looked forward to the arrival of Messiah. It was usual that every pregnant Israelite woman would wonder whether or not the child in her womb was a son, and if a son, if he might be the Messiah.

While we read the gospel narratives of the Messiah's birth, we cannot really fathom the depth of joy experienced by those godly few who had yearned for the Messiah's arrival. In many instances, Israel's hope, love, joy and peace seemed to be dashed on the rocks of reality. It is only as we can appreciate the rising and falling hopes of God's people that we can more fully grasp the greatness of the event of Christ's birth. It is hoped that gaining a greater grasp of the anticipation of Messiah's coming will enhance our celebration of Christmas this year.

Lets slowdown and meditate about the real meaning of Christmas and let’s not get lost with the shopping and the commercialization. The following weeks before Christmas are a time to prepare our hearts and our lives as we wait for the coming of Jesus. Advent is also the beginning of the liturgical year and it may be a time for new beginning for us as Christians. In antiquity, the purple dye was very expensive and it comes to signify wealth, power and royalty.

Ultimately the true meaning of Christmas is the child of Christmas is God. The incarnation refers to the manifestation of the second person of the Godhead in human flesh as the promised Messiah. Undiminished deity united with human beings through humility. It is through this we have the culmination of our communion with God. God become flesh and dwell among humanity and this help us to look beyond ourselves and into the divinity that has come down from heaven in the person of Jesus. Not that alone, but can we embrace the uncertainty that comes from total surrender? The ultimate miracle of Christianity is not the crucifixion or resurrection but Christ’s birth in the human form. All the rest of the demonstration of miracles and wonders are resulted from the incarnation.

Wishing all the members of the Rivers Edge UMC and the wider Spring Bay community a season of great anticipation and blessings from heaven. May your world be filled with warmth and good cheer through out this New Year. May this season bring you abundance of joy and happiness in your life, family and community.

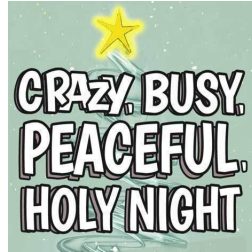
**Wishing you a wonderful Advent and Christmas to you., Pr. Binu Peniel**



Come join us for Bible Study at **9:15 a.m.** on **Sunday** mornings. Pastor Binu is leading an Alpha bible study. The Alpha course is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. It is described by its organizers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life".



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **December 7**. We will have our **King's Closet** upstairs at the Annex. We have clothes, other small items or produce for local people to take and use, if they need it. Bring items all month. It comes in free and goes out free, no charge. Anything left over will be taken to Good Will or South Side Missions.



Christmastime is often extremely crazy and busy with so many things to do. It is easy to lose focus on the Prince of Peace that was born in Bethlehem that holy night. Today, our Christmas is not usually quiet, calm or silent. Join us **December 9** during the 10:30 service as we read how the story unfolded, and we see that first Christmas was crazy and busy too! Thankfully, Jesus came to bring peace and hope to the chaos in our world.



We are having our next American Red Cross Blood Drive on **December 21**, 2:00-6:00 p.m. with a free T-shirt giveaway, etc. I have a sheet available to SIGN UP. We would really like to have a lot of donations. The RED CROSS has a very serious shortage of blood and plasma products. They are looking for help as a blood shortage continues. As always thank you for your past donations. **Submitted by: Joe Helms**



You, your friends and family are invited to our Christmas Eve service on **December 24 @ 7:00 p.m.!** We're going to celebrate the great love God has for everyone when He gave us His only Son, Jesus Christ. The service will include singing Christmas carols, a Christmas message and candle lighting.

**The Illinois Great Rivers Conference  
of The United Methodist Church**  
r e c o g n i z e s

**RiversEdge UMC**

**For Faithfully Supporting Connectional  
Giving Through the Payment of 100%  
of Your Apportionments for the Year  
2017**

*Frank J. Beard*  
Resident Bishop

*Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce*  
District Superintendent

*Mike Pickell, Chair*  
Conference Council on Finance & Administration

Our church was recognized during our annual Charge Conference for paying 100% of our apportionments. Apportionments finance the structure of our denomination and enable our church to reach people all over the world.



John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. You may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church or call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. When he gets a truck load, he takes them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Church account.



*For Shut-Ins and Those Who Moved*

Marie & Pam Lemons, 700 N. Main Street, Apt. 266, Eureka, IL 61530  
Kay Clore, 348 S. Montana, Morton, IL 61550  
Russ & Nancy Draggist, 1620 N Tremont St., Spring Bay, IL 61611  
Oliver (Junior) Garber, 1200 E Partridge, 403 B, Metamora, IL 61548  
Fran Garber, 1200 E Partridge, Apt 21, Metamora, IL 61548  
Juanita Garber, 402 Lark Lane, Metamora, IL 61548  
Donald Jacobs, M54354, BMRCC, 251 N Illinois HWY 37, IL 62846  
Buddy & Gail Reynolds, 408 W Missouri, Spring Bay, IL 61611



10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS** are still needed. If you are interested in ushering, reading scripture, greeting or being an acolyte, please sign up on the Schedule Sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

We still need one **SUNDAY SCHOOL** teacher. We are working towards having two teachers per class. Please talk with April Nauman if you'd like to help. Please help us raise the next generation of Christians.

The **PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM** is looking for singers and musicians. If you have any interest learning more, please contact Jarrod Doty at church, by email at [jdoty69@gmail.com](mailto:jdoty69@gmail.com) or by phone at 309.657.8904.

Dennis Hill still wants to work with small groups for **MUSIC SPECIALS**. There is room on the signup sheet for other specials (solos, duets, reading, etc.). If you are interested, please contact Judy at 822-8770 or 645-6625.

**NURSERY—PAID POSITION.** Need an adult to assist/oversee the nursery on Sunday mornings. See Matt Freeman or Ron Call if you are interested or know of anyone that might be or if you would like additional information.



The next choir practice will be on **December 19**. I hope we will see some new faces as we have lost a couple due to death and deteriorating health. You don't need a solo voice to join us in singing praises and providing a message in song to our congregation. I hope some will sign up for music specials also. Music is a path that the Holy Spirit can fill the listeners soul. You will receive a blessing. I will let you know when we will have the first rehearsal. I know there are several of you out there who used to be a part of our worship and choir. Oh, the memories I have of the years gone by and how I wish that we could again share in our worship experience. Hope to see you. **Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Choir Director/Worship Co-chair**



- ♦ Karen and Steve Hermacinski celebrated grandson Paxton's 2nd birthday yesterday and announced that they are expecting a new grandson.
- ♦ Matt Freeman was the recipient of the 2018 Spoon River College Alumni Association Alumni Achievement Award.
- ♦ Joe Helms reported that 6 individuals volunteered at 'Loaves & Fish' at Peoria First UMC serving 207.



Scan the QR code at the end of the newsletter with your smart phone or visit [riversedgeumc.org](http://riversedgeumc.org) where you will find the newsletters, calendars and announcements regularly. The committee wanted pictures to depict the life of our church. If you see pictures that you are in and would like them removed, please let Judy Schaer know. **Submitted by: Communications Committee**

# Current Disaster Response



**Wildfires in California**

**Hurricane Michael on the Gulf Coast -**

**Alabama – West Florida - South Georgia**

**Hurricane Florence**

**Earthquakes and Tsunami in Indonesia**

**Typhoon Mangkut**

Early in and last out are guiding words for UMCOR and our partners. Here's how you can become a part of our work.



## 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

**1. Pray for those whose lives have been impacted by this disaster.** Please also pray for Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief.

**2. Make relief kits.** Download the packing list and shipping label at [umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies](http://umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies).

**3. Give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts** at [umcor.org/donate](http://umcor.org/donate) (U.S. Disaster Response, Advance #901670; International Disaster Response, Advance #982450; Undesignated, Advance #999895).

**4. Donate requested items only.** To keep relief supplies in stock, give to Material Resources, Advance #901440 at [umcor.org/donate](http://umcor.org/donate).

**5. Please wait for an invitation to volunteer.**



The United Methodist Committee on Relief is grateful for your prayers and support.

**Text to Give:** UMCOR to 91999 • [umcor.org](http://umcor.org)

## Midwest Mission Projects & Kits That Have Been Distributed in 2018



Personal Dignity  
13,749



Student School Bag  
9,113



Food Pack  
6,021



Birthing  
4,433



Layette  
542



Desk  
360



Bikes  
382



Teacher School Bag  
42



Sewing Machines  
Electric 211  
Treadle 18

## UMCOR Kits That Have Been Distributed in 2018



Cleaning  
6,444



School  
5,990



Hygiene  
7,518

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center of the United Methodist Church provides disaster relief supplies around the world. Supplies bought through DollarDays (<https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html>) would be the best way to donate, as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations may be sent to:

MMDC, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558  
[www.midwestmissiondc.org](http://www.midwestmissiondc.org) | [office@midwestmissiondc.org](mailto:office@midwestmissiondc.org)



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Santa Express Gifts due	3 6:00 p.m. Trustees	4	5	6	7 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's closet	8
9 10:30 a.m. Youth Christmas Program	10	11 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	20	21 2-6:00 p.m. Blood Drive	22
23	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31 O.U.R. New Year's Eve (TBA)					



CELEBRATION OF APPOINTMENT

PR. BINU PENIAL



*Our Motto* "The Church That Cares"

## Our Mission

"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

## OUR VISION

"Our vision is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors through our witness, welcome and nurture ."

### WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

### NURSERY:

Sunday 8-11:45 a.m. (infant-kindergarten)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS : 9:15-10:15 a.m.

D.O.C.K. (Preschool – 5th grade)

Youth (grades 6 – 12)

Sunday Morning (All Ages)

### CHOIR PRACTICE: (7th grade-Adult)

September through May

7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

### O.U.R.: Outwardly Upwardly Righteously

(first Sunday of month)



[www.riversedgeumc.org](http://www.riversedgeumc.org)

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