



The Grapevine - Update

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*"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."
(Phillips Brooks, Lewis Redner 1868)*

Dear Friends,

I love Advent and Christmas Eve services because we sing many of our favorite Christmas hymns to our hearts delight. One of my favorites is "O Little Town of Bethlehem." I can picture that night of Jesus' birth when it was pitch dark outside in the town and fields. Yet God's Light of Love and Hope shone brightly in the sky as angels announced Jesus' birth! Jesus is the Light of the World that overcomes all of the dark places. Jesus offers Hope in times of war and violence. Jesus "our Lord Emmanuel"- God is with us in our fears and worries and dark times. Jesus moves us towards God's Light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Join us in worship as we celebrate the gift of Jesus, God's everlasting Light in the world.

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

December 6th – 2nd Sunday of Advent "PEACE" / Holy Communion

"God's Path of Peace" Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 1:68-79

*Reminder: Our 1st Sunday FISH Food Pantry collection will take place today!



December 13th – 3rd Sunday of Advent "JOY" / Children's Christmas Pageant

"Christmas Joy and Salvation" Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-18



December 20th – 4th Sunday of Advent "LOVE" / Bells & Brunch

"What Child Is This?" Luke 1:39-45, 47-55

Church Office Closed for the Holidays (Becky on Vacation) December 21 - January 3



December 24th - Christmas Eve Worship

7pm - A Joyous Service with the Bell Choir

11pm - The Quiet of the Night



December 27th – 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

"Christmas Joy" Luke 2:1-20

* Reminder: Last Sunday to make a 2015 offering

UM GIVING TUESDAY: December 1st

You are invited to join with all United Methodists to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries on UMC #GivingTuesday. Every gift made online through The Advance at www.umcmmission.org/give on Dec. 1, 2015 will be matched up to \$1 million.



Global Refugee / Migration [refugee relief] - Advance #3022144

Global Health [Malaria, Ebola etc.] - Advance #3021770

US Disaster Response [Hurricane Katrina, etc.] - Advance #901670

Global AIDS Fund - Advance #982345

Donate online or send checks to: UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

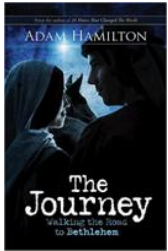
RACHEL CIRCLE



The Rachel Circle ladies invite all women to join them for a Christmas Get-together at the home of Shirley Acheson [99 W. Burdick, Oxford] on Monday, December 14th at 10am. You are asked to bring a donation for the Mitten Tree. See Nadine Lychuk (248-393-1448) if you have questions.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The children have been busy getting ready to perform a Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13th during worship. Come on out, invite a friend and enjoy their talents!



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays (10am - noon)

We follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journeys with Christ. Come join us as we study "The Journey - Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton. For questions, see Mary Garrard (810-797-5840) or Sue Rizzo (248-628-1787).

CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MISSION PROJECT UPDATE

We delivered 51 gift shoeboxes, and a check for shipping, along with a \$150 donation to the child evangelism program. Thank you for your Christmas spirit! We also thank Cindy Vincentini and Jan Smith for all their hard work and dedication to this worthwhile project.



READING FOR FUN: Wednesday, December 8th (3:30pm)

Title: "The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle" by Joanne Huist Smith
For questions, see Mary Garrard (810-797-5840).

OXFORD / ORION FISH FOOD PANTRY

For the month of December, we encourage you to donate boxed potatoes, pasta side dishes, rice side dishes, cleaning products, canned chicken, strawberry jam/jelly, chunky soups, and mandarin oranges. We always encourage monetary donations as well so that FISH is able to purchase fresh items such as dairy, meats and produce.

Remember – someone will be greeting you the FIRST Sunday of each month with a red FISH bag ready for you to fill. Thank you for all your enthusiasm and generosity in showing God's Love to our local community. If you'd like to volunteer at the FISH Food Pantry, or have questions, please contact Mary Garrard (810-797-5840) or Julie Langley (248-628-9619).

Oxford / Orion FISH



"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

THE JOY OF GIVING

Sharing our gifts, talents and resources
with God and God's Church

