



# DECEMBER

LAMPLIGHTER



“So, with many other  
exhortations, he proclaimed the  
good news to the people.”  
– Luke 3:18

The season of Advent is the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, a staff director at United Methodist Discipleship writes:

*“The word Advent comes from the Latin verb *advenire*, which means “to come toward, to draw near, to approach.” During Advent, we remember and celebrate God’s drawing near to us in Jesus Christ, but primarily in the promise of his second coming to bring the promise of the kingdom of God and the renewal of all things to culmination.”*

I think that too often we are passive during this season of Advent and simply wait for Christmas to arrive, or worse we allow other activities, the busy-ness of this time of year, to dictate what we do or do not do. In the quote listed above, you will note that there are several verbs (actions words) attached to this description of the season, both for what God is doing and what we should be doing.

On our journey through this season, we encounter John the Baptizer. Cousin to Jesus and a prophet,

John emerged from the wilderness to “Prepare the way of the Lord” (Luke 3:4). He proclaimed the coming Messiah, called those who would listen to repent, and baptized the ones who listened. In Luke 3:10, we read, “And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’” Tax collectors and soldiers who were baptized asked the same question, and John gave them moral and ethical instructions about how to live more compassionately with others. He told them to be generous, be fair, and do not take advantage of anyone. Not bad instructions. In fact, ones that would be good for all of us to live by. But is it enough? Is the purpose of this season to simply be and do good? Again, this is a good aspiration, but maybe there is something more. Just maybe in this season of advent we can do something with a deeper, longer lasting impact.

Luke 3:18 (printed at the top of the page), points to the fact that John did not stop with just encouraging the people to ‘be good’ or ‘do good.’ He proceeded to speak good news to the people. Eugene Peterson, translator and author of the Message, renders this passage as follows:

*“There was a lot more of this—words that gave strength to the people, words that put heart in them. The Message!”*

The good news that John spoke gave strength to the people and put heart in them! Friends, we do not have to look far to see people in situations and circumstances where some good news would be very welcome. As we move through this season of Advent, maybe we need to be more intentional and ‘do’ something. Maybe, like John, we need to pray for opportunities to speak good news to those who need it. I cannot tell you what words may be needed for any given situation, but I am confident that God, through the Holy Spirit, will guide you. The words often associated with Advent are Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love, and I suspect that the good news you will offer to those who need it will likely be associated with one or more of these words. It may be as simple as saying, “I love you” (and meaning it) to someone who is lonely. It could be saying, “I know your spouse passed away recently, tell me how you’re doing.” Spoken or written words of encouragement, a compliment, or an expression of joy can be a mighty thing. May we participate in preparing the way of the Lord by doing something, like speaking the message of good news into the lives of the people around us.

IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom

### **Spice Up Their Christmas!**

In December, I will be collecting donations of spices for the Indiana Women's Prison Christmas bags. The women loved the spices last year, which they used to cook in the microwave ovens in their dorms. Plastic or paper containers, only, NO glass. Suggestions are: cinnamon, garlic powder, onion powder or flakes, Italian seasoning, taco seasoning, lemon pepper, chili seasoning. There will be a box in the church office. You can get spices for \$1 a bottle at Dollar Tree and on the bottom shelf of the spices area at Walmart. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Ann Cashner

### **Henderson Settlement Needs You!**

We just returned from a wonderful week at the settlement. If you would like to come on the next mission trip, mark your calendar for May 19-25. The cost is approximately \$250 per person, which includes room and meals. The settlement is only a 4 1/2 hour drive from Richmond. There is something to do for everyone! We need carpenters, construction workers, quilters, gardeners, and people to sort and hang up clothing in the thrift shop. Please consider joining us for a short term mission trip. Contact Ann or Randy Cashner at 765-962-8458

### **Creative Hands**

Creative Hands will meet on December 13th for fellowship, fun, food, and to wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS

### **Disciple's Hand is Disbanding**

Disciple's Hand began in 2011 under the leadership of Rev. Philip Dorrell and was organized and grown under the guidance of Bob Hall. There were 25 men in 5 teams helping our "care receivers" with small household and yard tasks. Over the years our work crews dwindled due to age and relocation of CUMC members to the point there were only 6 men left, some of whom were unable to regularly commit to a monthly ministry time. With sadness, the ministry of Disciple's Hand is no longer able to function in the manner in which it began. We thank Bob Hall for his wisdom and efforts over the years and we thank the many care receivers, for they have given us more than we expected as we met at their homes to help them. Current care receivers can contact their former leaders if they need assistance with small tasks at their homes.



Neighborhood Christmas Lite  
Friday, December 14th at 5:00pm

All are welcome to join us for a showing of "The Story of Christmas," pizza, and a craft.

A limited supply of trees, wreaths, and decorations will be available.

Fellowship Hall  
Central United Methodist Church  
1425 E. Main Street, Richmond

If you are interested in helping out with the event, donating money for pizza and refreshments, and/or donating a tree, wreath, or decorations (new or used is fine), please contact Pastor Jen.

# TRIBE NEWS

*"For where two or three gather in my name, I will be with them" - Matthew 18:20*

## THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US!!

Thanks so much for all the love and support you have shown to TRIBE over the last year. We feel grateful to have 3 loving congregations cheering for us! We are especially grateful for your amazing support of our annual mystery dinner. Thank you, one more time, for helping our youth go on mission experiences.

## COMING TO TRIBE IN JANUARY

The first annual girls and guys night out will be premiered in January! Watch for details in the weekly email updates.

## VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOMED FOR SUNDAY NIGHT TRIBE!

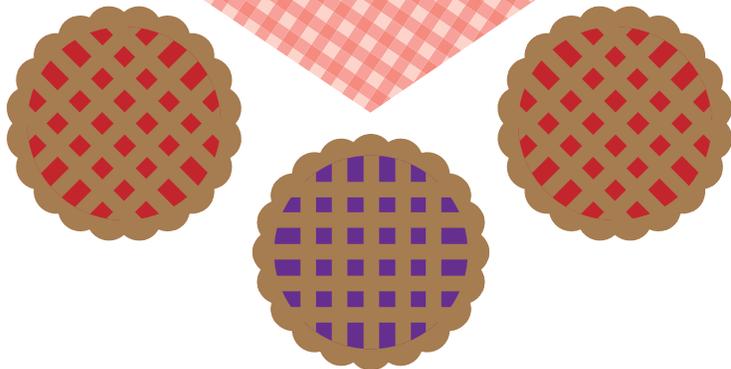
### What can I do?

1. Pray for our students
2. Donate snacks or pizza
3. Join us to lead a short small group time
4. Come and help set-up or clean up snacks or game supplies



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW  
YEAR

FOREVER  
IS AS  
*Sweet*  
AS PIE



Join the Huffs for a pie party to  
celebrate the adoption of:

*Arianna Ray*

*Elijah Dean*

*Kenzie Grace*

December 19th from 4-7pm  
2900 W. Main St.  
Richmond, IN 47374  
(Corner of Salisbury and Main)

Please no presents, just your  
presence.

#### Calendar of Events

|       |                              |         |
|-------|------------------------------|---------|
| 12/2  | UMW Christmas Luncheon       | 11:00am |
| 12/4  | Preschool Board Meeting      | 6:00pm  |
| 12/5  | Pastor's Study               | 10:00am |
| 12/8  | Bread Baking                 | 8:00am  |
| 12/10 | Monday Morning Connection    | 9:00am  |
| 12/10 | Medical Monday               | 1:00pm  |
| 12/12 | Pastor's Study               | 10:00am |
| 12/12 | Lunch Bunch                  | 11:30am |
| 12/13 | Creative Hands               | 9:00am  |
| 12/13 | Soup Kitchen                 | 9:00am  |
| 12/14 | Neighborhood Christmas Lite  | 5:00pm  |
| 12/18 | Bread Basket                 | 4:30pm  |
| 12/18 | Trustees Meeting             | 6:30pm  |
| 12/19 | Pastor's Study               | 10:00am |
| 12/20 | Friendship Circle            | 9:00am  |
| 12/21 | Longest Night Service        | 6:00pm  |
| 12/23 | Christmas Eve Family Service | 10:00am |
| 12/24 | Candlelight Service          | 9:00pm  |
| 12/26 | Pastor's Study               | 10:00am |
| 12/26 | Garden ReConnect             | 3:30pm  |
| 12/27 | Ad Council                   | 6:30pm  |

#### Greeters

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 12/2  | Dan & Shirley Hester     |
| 12/9  | Youth                    |
| 12/16 | David & Mary Jane Sheets |
| 12/23 | Pat Jarvis & Jane Ruger  |
| 12/30 | Duane & Connie Locker    |

#### Scripture Readers

|       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| 12/2  | Elaine Mollenkopf |
| 12/9  | Jan Hibner        |
| 12/16 | Pat Heiny         |
| 12/23 | TBD               |
| 12/30 | TBD               |

#### Ushers

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 12/2  | Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson                 |
| 12/9  | Rick Eyer, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson                   |
| 12/16 | Rick Eyer, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson                   |
| 12/23 | Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Philip Weimer |
| 12/30 | Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Philip Weimer |

#### Altar Guild

Ann Cashner