

The Messenger

Lifting Up Jesus In The Heart Of Jacksonville

Children and adults praise God through program



SEE MORE PICTURES INSIDE THIS ISSUE



And just like that, it's over! Christmas will soon be a distant memory until at least October of this year. I was talking with a friend about how to keep Christmas going throughout the whole year. We agreed that the trappings of the season would grow stale and would become such a part of life that it would be taken for granted. It is good to have a special time to celebrate and it is good to put away the decorations and get back to a non-cookie diet. We can put the away the decorations and still keep Christmas alive if we remain hungry for it in our lives. One way is to make notations on your calendar for ways to spread Christmas cheer.

Okay, you don't need to call it 'Christmas cheer', you can simply call it grace. Is there room for me to share the grace of Jesus January through October.

Sure there is, if you make a decision to do so. God gives us the ability to make choices and one good choice is to take out your calendar or open your calendar on your phone and select dates that you will share grace. Now, it may not happen that you will have an opportunity to share grace on that particular day, but you will have a reminder or reminders that sharing grace is more important to remember than any meeting or appointment.

We fill our calendars with these reminders. What is the harm in reminding ourselves to be Christlike. I get it, we shouldn't need to mark 'being like Christ' on our calendars, but it may be that day you mark, is the day you need a reminder. Sometimes the simplest little things can change the course of a whole day. Imagine your phone dings you in the middle of a day in the middle of the week and you pick it up and it reads, "Be like Christ today!"

PLEASE SEE 'PASTOR' ON PAGE 11

IN MEMORY

Lura Lene Smith.....November 18, 2021

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Service8:15 am
Sunday School for all ages.....9:30 am
Fellowship Hour.....Coffee and tea available
Contemporary Service.....10:45 am

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS

Holy Communion.....Sunday, Jan. 2
Human Relations Day.....Sun., Jan. 16
Pennies For Hunger.....Sunday, Jan. 23
UMW Sunday.....Sunday, Jan. 30

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Donate Blood.....1st and 2nd Mondays, 11 - 6

COMMUNICATIONS

Messenger DeadlineThurs., Jan. 20, 9 am

LEADERSHIP

TrusteesTues., Jan. 11, 6 pm
Missions.....Wed., Jan. 12, 4:30 pm
Ad CouncilWed., Jan. 19, 6:30 pm

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Morning
Bible Study.....Jan. 4 & 18, 9:30 am
In the Fellowship Hall
Monday Night Bible Study.....Check with Diana

SMALL GROUPS

AlAnon Meeting.....Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Ladies Book Club.....Tues., Jan. 11, 6:30 pm
In the Parlor
Prayer Meeting.....Mondays 8:15 am
In the Small Chapel

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Business MeetingTues., Jan. 4 6:30 pm
Spirit Circle.....Wed., Jan. 12, 6 pm
FHS.....Wed., Jan. 12, 6:30 pm
Hope Circle.....Thurs., Jan. 13, 1:30 pm

Centenary Staff

Pastor

Mel Nielsen

Director of Outreach
and Growth

Kevin Hinkle

Secretary

Christi Kennedy

Music Director

Terri Benz

Contemporary Worship Leader

Rachel Hinkle

Parish Visitors

Jane Lair & Rhoda Walker

Custodian

Patty Adcock

Nursery Attendants

Kayleigh Dirden

How to contact us

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Centenary's Missionaries

Mark and Rebecca Smallwood

Teachers at Redbird Mission

in Kentucky

Children's Ministry News

JANUARY ACOLYTES

January 2 - Max Hrynewych

January 9 - Henry Six

January 16 - Grant Kennedy

January 23 - Otto Zang

January 30 - Garrett Kennedy

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Toddler/Pre-K classroom

Teacher: Diana Phillips

Assistant: Kayleigh Dirden

Elementary Classroom

Teachers: Rusti Cummings and Nancy Hardy

Assistants:

1st Sunday - Jack Borgman

2nd Sunday - Peggy Jordan

3rd Sunday - Ashley Westenberger

4th Sunday - Amy Stidham

Middle School

Rachael Borgman, Mary Tomlin and Linda Tribble.

High School

Pastor Mel Nielsen

Sunday School News

Due to the upcoming single services planned, there will be no Sunday school on December 26 or January 2. Upcoming lessons are as follows:

December 9, the lesson will be on the shepherds and a birthday party for Jesus at approximately 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall.

January 9, the lesson will be on the Wisemen. During the second service, children will present their Sunday school offering for 2021 to their church.

January 30 is the 5th Sunday and the children will partake in a service project. The project for this month will be to make Valentines for shut-ins.

The Education Committee would ask that you continue to pray for the children, teachers and volunteers who spend time together learning from each other about their faith in Jesus.

Sunday School enjoys Birthday Party for Jesus

On Sunday, December 20, the youth Sunday school held a birthday party for Jesus.



January Birthdays

- 1Debra Belzer
Kelly Quigg
- 2Melanie Refuerzo
Pricilla Cook
Grant Kennedy
- 3Joshua Pritchett
- 4Sharon Lippert
- 6Bradley Manker
Alaina Windon
- 7Kim Spangenberg
- 8Lindsay Stiltz
- 10Reg Tribble
Heather Gifford
- 12Luke Craddock
- 17Barney Stock
- 19Steven Woodrum
Melissa Kindred
Huston Spradlin
- 20Lauren Stidham
- 21LuAnne Woodrum
- 25Terri Benz
Sheryl Hanson
- 26Alison Prosser
- 31John Gotschall
Ashley Pond

January Anniversaries

- 4Charlie and Mary Tomlin
Jim and Joan Quigg
- 6Gerry and Bonnie Robinson
- 13Bob and Rita Northrop
J.W. "Bill" and Carol Smith
- 16Richard and Diane Webster

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and well wishes after the passing of my brother-in-law, Wayne Decker. I appreciate your love and support very much.
-Karen Decker

Upcoming Worship Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for January 2022 Worship.

Readings & Message are subject to change.

January 2

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: *After Christmas*

"Not Going Back to Herod"

NT: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 9

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: *After Christmas*

"What Waits after Herod?"

OT: Isaiah 43:1-7

Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

January 16

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: *After Christmas*

"The Best is Yet to Come"

NT: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 23

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: *A Life in the World Pt. 1*

"Awareness"

NT: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

January 30

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Altar Color - White

Sermon Series: *A Life in the World Pt. 2*

"Difficult"

NT: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel: Luke 4:22-30



Boy Scout Christmas Wreath sale
Noah Borgman, pictured at right, is seen selling Christmas wreaths and other holiday decorations to help support Troop 103. Centenary is the charter for that local troop.



Centenary held an outdoor Christmas worship service on Wednesday, December 22 at 6 p.m. 18 people braved the 'not to cold' weather to participate in carol singing, scripture reading and a devotion.

Missions

MMDC Volunteers

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center is currently seeking volunteers from the local area. Wearing masks and social distancing is required. Volunteers must be registered in advance. Several members of Spirit Circle plan to volunteer on MLK Day, January 17. To find out more about volunteering at MMDC contact Martha Vaché.



Human Relations Day

Human Relations Day will be on January 16. The special offering that day will support the ministry of Christ among those living on the margins of society. The offering will be used to nurture at-risk youth, strengthen communities' self-improvement efforts, and advocate for the oppressed. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Human Relations in the memo line.

Doorbell Dinner volunteers remain faithful

The Doorbell Dinners program has been an active, effective ministry in Jacksonville since the early 1970's. Faithful Centenary members have been involved since its beginning.

The Doorbell Dinners program allows those confined to their homes to receive 2 daily meals, a hot lunch and a sack dinner. Three groups make it work: Jacksonville Memorial Hospital, Prairie Council on Aging and church volunteers from 13 different churches to deliver the meals.

The last deliveries were during the week of September 27-October 1 and Centenary's next scheduled commitment is the week of March 14-18, 2022. Pat Baptist and Barbara Wooldridge are coordinators for Centenary's involvement.

Thank you, volunteers. If you have visited with any of the recipients, you know how appreciated your efforts are.

Advent Offerings still being accepted

It's not too late to give a donation to our Advent Offering. The money from this offering will go be donated to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis. It will be used to help families in this high poverty area. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with Advent in the memo line.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for Chaddock's Santa Express, shopped for Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts, rang bells for the Salvation Army, shopped for and delivered Christmas food, went Christmas Caroling, participated in or helped with our Children's Christmas program, or shared Christmas cheer in countless other ways. Your love brightened the Christmas season for others as you shared Christ's love.



Pictured above, L-R, are: Barbara Wooldridge, Kathy McCarty, Steve McCarty, Harold Sorrill, Jim Stocker, Linda Tribble, Reg Tribble, Pat Manker, Darcy Adams, Carolyn Beddingfield, Tom Jordan. Those also helping during the week but not pictured are Rhoda Walker, Marilyn Kimmons, Brenda Lane, Jane Lair and Pat Baptist.

United Methodist Women



Spreading Christmas Cheer

Pictured at left, members of the Centenary Hope Circle went Christmas caroling Thursday, December 16. Due to Covid-19 the singers remained outside the homes they visited. Those they serenaded were very pleased.

Old UMW program books needed

For historical purposes the UMW has tried to keep copies of our program books for each year. However, we are missing copies for several years. Please let the church office or any of the UMW officers know, if you have a copy of the program book for any of the following years:
before 1958; 1967 and 1968; 1970 to 1973; 1996 to 2007; 2010 and 2011; and 2014.

January

Circle Meetings

FHS Circle: Wed. Jan. 12, 6:30 pm
Hostess: Linda Tribble

Hope Circle: Thurs. Jan. 13,
1:30 pm in the parlor
Program: Prayer and Self-Denial
Jane Masters

Ruth Circle: no January meeting

Spirit Circle: Wed. Jan. 12 at 6:00 pm,
Location at the church TBA
Bring a sack meal.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women and/or Circle Membership

All women in the Centenary family are invited to become a member of our United Methodist Women. UMW members may participate in a circle or be a member-at-large. The UMW sponsors activities such as our Love Visits, Salad Luncheon, Mother's Day

Banquet, and Christmas Brunch. Circles meet monthly for study, spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. For more information contact one of the circle leaders or Jarice Crenshaw, UMW Membership Chr.

UMW Sunday

Centenary's annual UMW Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, January 30. UMW members will help with the service. Our 2022 UMW officers will be installed and our UMW Mission Woman of the year award will be announced. Martha Vaché will give the message. This year's UMW Sunday offering will be given to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.

Future UMW Dates

UMW Business Meeting: Tues. Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m. in the parlor or on Zoom.

UMW Sunday: Sun. Jan. 30

UMW Love Visits: Wed. Feb. 2 – 9:00 am in the Parlor, bring 2 dozen cookies to share

2022 UMW Books

Centenary's 2022 UMW books are printed. UMW members may pick up a copy in the Narthex, the church office or from circle leaders. Thanks to Brenda Lane for editing the books and Christi Kennedy for printing them.

2022 Business Meeting

UMW officers will meet on **Tuesday, January 4** in the parlor at 6:30 p.m. The group will finalize plans for UMW Sunday and other events in 2022. All UMW members are welcome to attend. Members may also participate on Zoom via their computer/tablet or by a phone call. Contact Martha Vaché to receive the log in information.

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

FHS sponsors an annual Cookie Walk and breakfast fund raisers. Their most recent project has been promoting Centenary's new bell tower project. They have occasional day trips. Co-leaders: Terri Benz and LuAnne Woodrum

HOPE CIRCLE

2nd Thursday at 1:30 p.m., church parlor. Location and time may vary.

Hope Circle has a variety of activities: Christmas Caroling, shared meals, programs, visits to Centenary friends, a service projects, and our semi-annual Garden Walk. Leader: Martha Vaché

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle keeps in touch with each other via phone calls and cards. Meeting times TBA.

Secretary: Bonnie Minor

SPIRIT CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the church; bring a sack meal. Location: TBA

Spirit Circle sponsors a variety of activities that are usually related to children. They plan to do mission activities such as volunteering at Midwest Mission Distribution Center and helping with VBS.

Co-Leaders: Rusti Cummings and Amy Stidham

(All UMW and circle activities are subject to change due to the pandemic. Watch for updates.)

United Methodist Women

What I enjoy about being a UMW member?

I have loved being a UMW member. UMW offers so many opportunities for fellowship, service and support. I initially joined the Hope Circle and later helped begin the Spirit Circle. Over the years, my favorite Spirit Circle activities have been the chili and dessert cookoffs, fall wiener roasts, the many things we do to serve the children of our church, and especially the support and fun shared at monthly meetings.

Recently, I spent the afternoon with the Hope Circle for lunch and Christmas caroling (not sure who enjoyed it more: the carolers or those we visited). Although I have not been a FHS member, I like to attend their breakfast fund raisers which are delicious and provide a good chance for fellowship with other church members. In addition, the FHS cookie walk is always a great way to brighten my holiday season.

And, I can't forget the churchwide UMW salad lunch and Christmas brunch – so much fun and terrific food. The greatest blessing – I am so thankful and have been blessed by the prayers, love and support these women have shared with me. The Centenary UMW ladies are truly my Christian sisters.

After the changes in my life a few years ago, one of my newest opportunities has been to serve as co-president of Centenary's UMW. This has given me a greater understanding of the many ways this group helps us grow in our Christian faith such as the

retreats and reading program.

The other opportunity has been to serve as secretary for the LaMoine River District UMW. This has been so much fun visiting the other churches in our area, getting to know the leadership team, and hearing about the many different ways their UMW units carry out the UMW mission: to know God, develop creative supportive fellowship, and expand mission.

As a UMW leader, I invite you to join us and check out the many opportunities which are available to grow as a Christian woman. Submitted by Rusti Cummings

FHS Christmas Party



Members of the For Heaven's Sake Circle gathered at the Parsonage on Thursday, December 16. They enjoyed dinner, desserts, a devotion and a fun game. Pictured above, L-R: Pat Manker, LuAnne Woodrum, Linda Tribble, Mary Tomlin, Debbie Belzer, Debbie Nielsen, Diana Phillips.

2022 UMW Officers

Co-Presidents: Rusti Cummings and Angi Freitag

Vice President: Catherine Pritchett

Secretary: Debbie Nielsen

Treasurer: Martha Vaché

Spiritual Growth: Mary Tomlin

Membership/Nurture/Outreach: Jarice Crenshaw

Education/Interpretation: Terri Benz

Social Action: Martha Vaché

Program Resources: Diana Phillips

Communications: Martha Vaché

March to the Manger held on December 19, at both services



Pictured above: Ashley Cummings is Mary and her son, Braxton is Jesus during the 10:45 service March to the Manger



Pictured above: Jack Borgman is Joseph and Maiza Eilers is Mary during the 8:15 service March to the Manger

Thank You

We would like to thank the congregation members of Centenary who donated to our Christmas gifts this year.

We appreciate your support very much.

Pastor Mel

Kevin Hinkle

Christi Kennedy

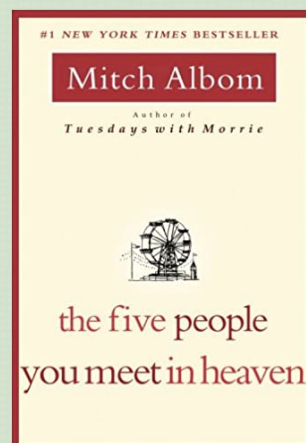
Terri Benz

Rachel Hinkle

Patty Adcock

Kayleigh Dirden

Ladies Book Club



The January Ladies Book Club will meet on Tues., Jan. 11 at 6:30 in the church parlor.

The featured book will be *Morrie and The Five People you Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom and *The Women of Christmas* by Liz Curtis Higgs

Centenary Volunteer needed for JAAC

The Jacksonville Area Council of Churches has requested a new delegate from the Centenary congregation. Kevin and Rachel Hinkle have stepped down and a person is needed to attend the meetings and give updates on church events and also help plan and facilitate the many ministries the council offers in Jacksonville.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Pastor Mel.

PASTOR CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

How might that change the very next thing you do? Take this a step further. Select a random day to remind you to call a friend, send a card or greet a stranger with a kind word and a smile. Ask God to help you set as many reminders as you think you need.

You might consider downloading the Bible App and select a reading program that will give you encouragement throughout the year. You could get involved in on of the the Bible Studies or the Monday Morning Prayer Group or get involved in one of the United Methodist Women circles.

I have at least two openings on committees that need to be filled, come and see me and I can help connect your gifts to needs the church currently has. One option is listed in the story directly above this one. Whatever it is, make a choice, then make a plan.

Being like Christ is worth the effort on your part. If you are waiting for God to give you a sign to get active - - this may be it!

God Bless, Pastor Mel

Quote of the Month

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”
– Corrie ten Boom

Lay Servant Training 2022

Are you ready to answer the call for Lay Service? This program begins the journey for Lay Servants in the LaMoine River District. Completing the classes listed below plus 1 advanced class, offered each spring and fall, will meet the requirements for a Lay Servant.

Candidates may choose to continue their training by completing 6 more qualifying classes to achieve Lay Speaker status.

Pastoral referral and approval is recommended for each candidate. If you are interested and would like more information, contact Peg Ratliff at 217-883-0137 or pegat04@hotmail.com

February 26, 2022, 9-4

United Methodism and Bible Study

March 12, 2022, 9-4

Leading Worship and Sermon Preparation

March 26, 2022, 9-4

Mini Sermon Presentation

and Caring Beyond the Local Church

All courses will be held at Melrose Chapel, Quincy, IL. Lunch will be provided for each day, cost of the training is \$30.00

Financial Report

As of November, 2021

General Expenses	\$249,204.48
General Giving	\$257,691.54
	-\$8,487.06

Thank You

We would like to thank all who came to the Christmas Open House at the Parsonage. We enjoyed showing the home and welcomed your fellowship.
Pastor Mel and Debbie

Sunday School Christmas Program held

A large crowd gathered to enjoy the return of the in-person Sunday School Christmas program, held on December 12, 2021. Approximately 25 children played stars, shepherds, wise men, Kind Herod, Mary, Joseph and the angel Gabriel. The Adult Sunday School helped by telling the story of Jesus birth through Gospel readings. A heartwarming video message from the kids was also a highlight. There were a number of congregational hymns as well as a beautiful solo rendition of 'Breath of Heaven' which was sung by Rachel Hinkle accompanied by her mother, Terri Benz. Those in attendance were given a paper bell and asked to write something that gives them joy on it. They had a moment in the program to come forward and decorate the large Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary with their bells. Many parents helped with costumes and assisted in keeping order throughout the busy evening. The Education Committee would like to send out a big THANK YOU to all who helped in any way with the program. *More photos on page 13*





More photos and story from youth Christmas Program on page 12



Christmas Eve 2021

Above is a serene view of the Sanctuary before worshippers arrived for Christmas Eve Services on Thursday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m. It was a blessing to be back in person for this year's service. This photo reminds when the disciples were overcome with fear due to the raging storms and in an instant Jesus created a place of peace for them to feel safe. I'm sure 2022 will have its share of storms, we all need to keep this sanctuary as a safe haven for all who need a safe place to escape.

JANUARY 2022

JANUARY 2022					
					SAT., JAN. 1
S- Sunday school room N- Narthex F- Fellowship Hall P- Parlor O- Pavilion C- Chapel X- Online					
SUN., JAN. 2	MON., JAN. 3	TUES., JAN. 4	WED., JAN. 5	THURS., JAN. 6	FRI., JAN. 7
Holy Communion One Service today at 10:00 a.m.	OFFICE CLOSED	9:30 am - Tuesday Morn. Bible Study (F) 6:30 pm - UMW Business Meeting (P)	7:30 pm - AIAnon (F)		SAT., JAN. 8
SUN., JAN. 9	MON., JAN. 10	TUES., JAN. 11	WED., JAN. 12	THURS., JAN. 13	FRI., JAN. 14
	8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg 5:30 pm - Monday Night Bible Study (P)	6 pm - Trustees Meeting (F) 6:30 pm - Ladies Book Club (P)	4:30 pm - Missions (P) 6:00 pm - Spirit Circle (P) 6:30 pm - FHS Circle (?) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (F)	1:30 - Hope Circle (P)	SAT., JAN. 15
SUN., JAN. 16	MON., JAN. 17	TUES., JAN. 18	WED., JAN. 19	THURS., JAN. 20	FRI., JAN. 21
Human Relations Day	8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg 5:30 pm - Monday Night Bible Study (P)	9:30 am - Tuesday Morn. Bible Study (F)	6:30 pm - Administrative Council (P) 7:30 pm - AIAnon (F)	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	SAT., JAN. 22
SUN., JAN. 23/30	MON., JAN. 24/31	TUES., JAN. 25	WED., JAN. 26	THURS., JAN. 27	FRI., JAN. 28
23 - Pennies for Hunger 30 - UMW Sunday	8:15 am - Prayer Group (C) 10 am - Office Staff Mtg 5:30 pm - Monday Night Bible Study (P)		7:30 pm - AIAnon (F)		SAT., JAN. 29