

# New London United Methodist Church News

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## December 2017



### Bell Ringing for Salvation Army on Sat., Dec. 2

Have you signed up to help ring the bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign? We'll be at Festival Foods in New London from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, Dec. 2. Even if you aren't taking a shift to ring the bell you can stop by to see people you know and help fill the kettle!

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### Red and Green Dinner

Holly jolly food in shades of red and green will be the focus of our free meal on Mon., Dec. 11 from 5:30 to 6:15 PM in Cottrill Hall. Think about your favorite festive recipes and then sign-up to bring an appetizer, salad/vegetable dish, entrée, dessert, or beverage.



### Confirmation & Youth Sunday School Christmas Play Sunday December 17th

Our annual play is called the "The Fumbly Bumbly Angel." We will be practicing on Sunday Mornings from 10:15-11:15am. There will be a Dress rehearsal and Pizza Party on Saturday December 16th from 10:00AM-Noon.

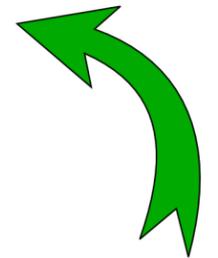
### Live Nativity

Live Nativity will be Friday Dec. 15th and Saturday Dec. 16th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. If you would like to take part in the Live Nativity or help in anyway we sure could use your help!



### Christmas Eve Services

On the morning of Sun., Dec. 24 Lee Kersten will be playing for the 10:15 AM service; and in the evening the RiverRocks will provide music for our 8:00 PM service. Both services will include time to pray, praise, and reflect upon God's incarnate gift of love; the sharing of Holy Communion; and conclude with lighting candles and singing "Silent Night." Everyone is welcome!



## Pastor's Page

### A Compact Advent

The four weeks of Advent are going to feel a bit more compact this year! Mostly because the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. That's why it is helpful to follow the pattern of our Advent devotional book (*Pauses for Advent*, by Trevor Hudson) and start with Nov. 27 as the first day in the *week leading to* the First Sunday of Advent on Dec. 3. And we will start our "hanging of the greens" after worship on Sun., Nov. 26 so the sanctuary will be ready for all things Advent in Dec.

But it's more than Advent that we're preparing for. We're really trying to get ourselves ready for Jesus. To not only remember his birth, but to also remember our own re-birth and new life in Christ. Both are amazing gifts of the incarnation of God – the living presence of God with us. We are truly blessed to have this special Advent time each year for remembering and celebrating!

Pastor Joyce

### How Do I Reach Pastor Joyce?

If you want to avoid the disappointment of not finding me at the office when you stop by, you can call before you come, or simply call to make an appointment so I'll be ready to see you. If you need to leave a message you can leave a voice mail message at church (920) 982-4703 or on the parsonage answering machine (920) 250-5543.



### Yes – Worship on Dec. 31! No Worship on Mondays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

We are planning a worshipful grand finale for 2017 on New Year's Eve, Sun., Dec. 31 at 10:15 AM!

We will not be holding worship services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. (We're giving the gift of time off to our hard working musicians in RiverRocks!)

### Start the New Year with an Epiphany Celebration!

In our worship services on Sun., Jan. 7 and Mon., Jan. 8 we will celebrate Epiphany! In some traditions it would be celebrated as "Three Kings Day" – as many see the magi as royalty bearing the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. But we will focus on what our 'star word' led us to in the past year, and what our new 'star word' may lead us to in this new year. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion as a gift that Jesus gave to us.

**SCRIP - The Holidays are coming** - Have you heard about our Scrip Program? We stock a variety of cards that people seem to want and buy consistently. If there is something that you would like ask and we will see if we can get it for you. Order early. You can buy Scrip on Sunday Mornings; weekdays when the office is open, (usually 8:00 am to Noon); and Monday evenings from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. When you buy scrip cards you help the church as well as help yourself. You are going to buy gas and groceries, or presents for your loved ones anyway! By using Scrip you lessen the chance of your identity being stolen as well. All you have to do is swipe the Scrip card instead of your own bank/credit card. Very easy and very convenient!

### December Mission of the Month: Our mission Christmas tree!

Everyone can place an ornament on the tree in memory or honor of someone, suggested donation \$1. Donations will go to UMCOR

### Ongoing Missions

We are always collecting food for the Community Cupboard; we have our penny jar for the Mission of Hope House; and candy bars for all of the missions of the month.



**Maple Syrup is here!** Tony Fuller has brought in some Maple Syrup for us. Pints \$7 and Quarts \$12. Please see Lynette in the office if you would like to purchase some Maple Syrup.

### United Methodist Women News

There will be a change in our annual cookie walk this year. It will be called a Christmas Bake Sale. We still want Christmas cookies and will have a table where you can pick out what you want but we will also sell any other kind of bakery. Our bake sale went so well at our salad luncheon with all kinds of pies, bars, jams, etc., we thought this would be a better offering to the public. We will also sell home made candy. We will be setting up in Cottrill Hall on Friday December 8th at 1 pm. The sale is Saturday December 9th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Please have your bakery at church by 8:00 am on the day of the sale. We will put a table in the church's front entrance between the inner and outer doors, if you bring anything after we finish setting up on Fri., set on table. All the proceeds from sale will go to our local mission of giving gifts to six St. Joseph residents who have no family, we will be spending approximately \$50 on each one and we will also give a money gift to the Community Cupboard food pantry. We thank everyone who can help us with bakery donations as we try to make Christmas a little brighter.

In place of our monthly meeting in Dec., we will be going out for a Christmas luncheon at Val's on Dec. 14th at 11:30am (note: a week earlier than our normal date). Call Russella Wochinski if you plan to attend.

As we close out 2017 we thank our congregation for the support they have given us this year. We once again invite all women to join us. All are welcome at our meetings. Wishing all a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

**UMW Purpose:** United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom and whole personhood through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission in the global missions of the church.

## Prayers

Please keep our Circuit NE04 Partners in your prayers: Clintonville UMC; Seymour/Cicero: New Life UMC; Center: Emmanuel UMC.

With our members or family members who are looking for work.

With all of our Service Men and Women who serve here and abroad for our freedom.

For all of our shut-ins who can't make it to church on a regular basis.

For Ruth Riefsteck, as breathing has become harder for her.

For every one that they have safe travels with the Holidays.

For Jim Woeshnick as he recovers from Heart Ablation surgery.



Handbell Choir for Adults is every Sunday after Church from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Brick Room.

Handbell Choir for Children is every Wednesday after school from 3:30pm-4:30pm in the Brick Room. No school there will be no practice.

## News from Our Library

Billy Lapp has been sent from his job as a rose expert at Penn State University to identify an unusual rose found in an Amish family's greenhouse just before Christmas. The only problem is that this is the Amish community that Billy left years ago and he has no wish to return. But his love of roses and the mystery of the identity of this particular rose intrigue him, so he makes the journey to Stoney Ridge. Bess Riehl has tried to move on with her life after Billy left, so his return is unsettling for her. As Billy tries to piece together the history of the old rose, he and Bess discover that Christmas can indeed be a season of miracles. **"Christmas at Rose Hill Farm"** by Suzanne Woods Fisher can be found in the fiction section. Look for the special Christmas label on the spine of this and all other Christmas books throughout the Library.

Submitted by: Jane Martinson



## December Celebrations

If we missed your celebration - Call 920-982-4703 to let us know

Jon Heise	12/05
Sally Tschurwald	12/07
Amy Luebeck	12/08
Lana Brensike	12/12
Carol Swinton	12/12
Jenna Bushie	12/14
Betty Dowd	12/16
Russella Wochinski	12/16
April Poppe-Ford	12/17
Mike Popke	12/19
John Shaw	12/19
Cameron Behnke	12/25
Cheryl Williams	12/25



John & Sig Shaw	12/26
Jerry & Sandi Ernst	12/27



Thank you to every one who helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner. We had another successful year.

## Here are Some Service Opportunities!

**Greeters or Coffee Hour Host:** Can you shake someone's hand and say "Good Morning" or hand out bulletins? Can you make coffee? Can you set out bake goods? Your abilities are needed. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in Cottrill Hall if you can help.

**Food Pantry:** The New London Community Cupboard is always looking for extra donations. Please feel free to drop off any non-perishable food items in our shopping cart. Needed items include: stuffing mix, canned chicken, beef stew, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, pasta (egg noodles and elbow macaroni), cold cereals, peanut butter, jelly, cream soups, baked beans, canned corn (no creamed), tuna, mac & cheese, and canned pasta. Please be generous, the shelves are pretty bare and some of our neighbors, including many children, are hungry! If you can bring in any items we would be so appreciative, and we will turn in what we have to the Community Cupboard.

**Fellowship Needs:** Can you bring something for our Fellowship time: juice—all kinds; paper towels; boxes of tissue; fruit snacks; healthy snacks—like carrots or celery, fruit, nuts; applesauce; pudding cups; coffee creamers—regular and flavored; cookies; crackers; regular coffee—Folger's, Hill's Bros.; napkins. Please drop these off in the church office at any time. Thank you for your support of Fellowship!