



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace be with you in Jesus Christ our Lord!

The season of Advent celebrates God's incarnation. The Word—God's Son—Jesus Messiah—becomes flesh! We remember and retell the story of Jesus' birth. We recall the convergence of starlight bright and heavenly angel choruses.

Advent also points to Christ's return. We claim his promise. "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ." (Thessalonians 5:23) "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in Glory." (Colossians 3:4)

"Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people, and he will appear a second time..." (Hebrews 9:28)

So this is Advent 2017, we continue in faithful worship and ministry together. The first Sunday of Advent, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will enjoy the beauty of greens and light in our sanctuary. Worship will include Holy Communion with emphasis on forgiveness and healing.

On the second Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, we welcome guests from Mid-Michigan Teen Challenge who will bless us in worship with song and testimony. Following worship we will enjoy a delicious ham dinner and the sharing of gifts. (There will be an added love offering for them during worship.)

December 17<sup>th</sup> is the date of our Children's Christmas pageant, *Thee Wee Kings!* The costumes, the music, the fun script will make for a joyous blessing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent.

Then the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent includes our morning worship and the two Christmas Eve services at 7 and 11 p.m. These will include an inspired message and lots of special music!

On Christmas Day don't forget the Christmas Dinner in our Fellowship Hall from 11 a. m.-1 p.m.

Thanks be to God for ministry fulfilled and God's promises for Advent 2017.

Yours in Christ's Love,

*Pastor Dave*

## **Heaven Sent to Host Food Pantry Distribution on December 21st**

Volunteers from our church as well as other churches will meet at the Heaven Sent Community Ministries building on Main Street on Thursday December 21, 2017 for the regular distribution. If you would like to help with the distribution, show up at Heaven Sent at 4:30 that day.

Meanwhile the Second Chance Clothing Shoppe continues to operate from their building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 10-2 on Saturday.

Men, Women, boys and girls: Add to your winter wardrobe for the right price. Check out the selection; remember it changes all the time! Drop-offs can be made at the back door.

Heaven Sent sponsors another food distribution on the last Saturday of the month at the VFW Hall Parking Lot in Marlette. Your volunteer help would be most appreciated. Call Gina at 989-635- 0077 for details.

### **Is it your Sunday to serve?**

#### **Sunday, December 3, 2017**

***Greeter:*** Dan and Alyson Edwards  
***Ushers:*** Pat Wilson, Don Potter and Tom Decker  
***Nursery:*** Linda Bush  
***Children s Church:*** Christmas Play Practice

#### **Sunday, December 10, 2017**

***Greeters:*** Mike and Susan Hutchens  
***Ushers:*** Scott Bohms, Paul Dunsford and Dan Edwards  
***Nursery:*** Kristy Naracon and Grace Decker  
***Children s Church:*** Christmas Play Practice

#### **Sunday, December 17, 2017**

***Greeters:*** Randy and Judy Hostetler  
***Ushers:*** Ralph Hunt, Joe and Kyle Abbott  
***Nursery:*** Helen and Logan Abbott  
***Children s Church:*** Christmas Play

#### **Sunday, December 24, 2017**

***Greeters:*** Jack and Dorothy Kelly  
***Ushers:*** Brock Welshans and Lon Dunsford

***Nursery:*** Sarah Kady and Emily Bell  
***Children s Church:*** Brock and Krissa Welshans

#### **Sunday, December 31, 2017**

***Greeters:*** Lorraine and ML Kraft  
***Ushers:*** Mike Hutchens, Jon Keys and Ted Patrick  
***Nursery:*** Amy King and Kyle Abbott  
***Children s Church:*** Jill Thomas and Nicole Brydon  
***If you cannot serve at the time assigned, please make arrangements for a sub or call the office by Wednesday before the Sunday assigned.***

#### **You're Invited**



### **United Methodist Women Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon**

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at Noon

Fellowship Hall

You may bring a male guest. Please bring a dish to pass and your own tableware. Instead of doing a gift exchange, we will be collecting clothing for our Elementary School: sweat shirts, sweatpants, and T shirts sizes 6-14. (They do not need to be new; just in good condition.) Any questions contact Gerry Smith or Mary Ann Fick.

### **Tree of Shining Love Ceremony on the 3rd**

The Marlette Regional Hospital is holding its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual *Tree of Shining Love* event on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-2 p.m. This year special recognition goes to farm families of the Thumb Area communities. Contact the hospital if you would like to honor someone special.

## United Methodist Women Will Not Meet In January, February Or March

Minutes November 7, 2017

Our meeting was called to order by acting chairwoman Gerry Smith at 1 p.m. We said a prayer followed by the UMW purpose. Present were Mary Ellen Linton, Elizabeth Snow, Gerry Smith, Orpha Thompson, Julia Robbins and Mary Ann Fick.

Gerry Smith gave the treasurer's report with a balance of \$3,372.04.

Correspondence: We received a thank you from the United Methodist Retirement Committee for the money we sent them supporting the UMRC's Benevolent Care Fund.

Mission Report: Gerry Smith gave a report that the *Response* magazine was renewed for the church. She also reported that the Hospital Auxiliary has several rooms completed in their renovation of the Hannah Wolfe Residence; there are 8 more rooms to go.

Old Business: We discussed what we can do instead of having another Harvest Dinner. After all the discussion we decided that next spring we will put a flyer in the bulletin with different options so the congregation can give us an idea on how we can raise money.

New Business: Considered donations to the following:

1. School
2. Shoebox
3. Senior Angel Tree
  - a. Man \$100.00
  - b. Woman \$100.00
4. Missionaries
  - a. Atkins \$200
  - b. Potters \$200
5. Food Bank \$200
6. UMCOR \$500
7. Community House \$100

8. Toys for Tots \$100
9. Boy Scouts \$100

TOTAL \$1600

Julia Robbins moved and Mary Ellen seconded that we approve the above donations; motion carried.

We also have 5 blankets and several pairs of slippers to add to the Angel Tree.

For our December 5, 2017 meeting we will be having our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner at noon.

There will be no meetings for January, February or March. Our next meeting will be April 4, 2018 at 1 p.m.

Gerry Smith closed with a little skit about the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Ann Fick*, Acting Secretary

### KIDS' KLUB

of the Marlette First United Methodist Church presents a Christmas Program called



Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

During Worship Service

**Will repeat for Hannah Wolfe on the 20<sup>th</sup>**

Join the kids for Christmas Cookies after the program. (Oh, by the way could you bring some cookies?)

This article appeared in the *Eastern Magazine* in Fall 2017. *Eastern Magazine* is a publication of Eastern Michigan University.

## Made with Love

Wounded Warrior Quilt Project has produced hundreds of quilts for wounded soldiers.

Physically, the twin-sized quilt with an alternating light and dark pattern is just 120 pieces of fabric, each of them 6.5 square inches. There are also to be sure layers ...and the four squares that bear special messages. As craft projects go, it's pretty simple.

But to a young soldier waking at Germany's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center with the reality of one leg instead of two, it became so much more. He began to sob as he reached down after his amputation to where his other leg had been. That's when an attendant slipped a quilt around his shoulders. It brought him so much comfort that he asked to take it with him when he transferred stateside.

Since the death of her husband, a World War II fighter pilot named Joseph L Ross in 2005, Patrecia Ross (BS66, MA70) had worked tirelessly with some fellow members of her local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) to make quilts for wounded American soldiers and ship them to Landstuhl. Now that group was disbanding, and Ross wondered if it was time to hang up her thimble.

But after she read the young soldier's story in a letter from a nurse who had been there, quilting was out of the question. "Can I take my quilt?" Those five words kept me working," says Ross.

Ross had sewn since her mother taught her how, but it wasn't until after she retired that she came up with the idea of quilting for wounded soldiers. The first year she worked with her mother and they produced 20 quilts between them. After her mother and her husband passed away, she became a snowbird, keeping her house in Marlette, and traveling to Estero, FL for the winter months, where she connected with BSMA to continue her growing passion.

It was seven years ago that Ross received that fateful letter, just as the BSMA was breaking up. So she founded her own, the Wounded Warrior Quilt Project (WWQP) which is still going strong and has grown to a contingent of 50 retired women who live in Corkscrew Woodlands, the neighborhood Ross calls home from fall to spring.

"I found a lot of ladies who weren't quilters but they had had careers, taught or did this or that," says Ross who taught language arts in Trenton for 40 years. "They had time on their hands in retirement and this project gave them a new purpose."

To accommodate their skill level, Ross employed a method made famous back home in Michigan. She

designed a quilting assembly line—complete with five sewing machines, four ironing boards and five irons—and taught each woman how to do an individual tasks, from cutting to tying, ironing and sewing. They didn't need to learn to quilt, just do one job.

For one woman the job is to produce four special patches that go on each quilt. Their messages are "Love to you, wounded warrior, from Estero, Florida." "God Bless America", "Peace from God be unto you." And Ross' favorite "In memory of Joseph L. Ross, WWII B-17 bombardier."

So far WWQP has produced 799 quilts, sending them to the VA Hospital in Tamps, Fla. as well as Landstuhl. Her perseverance reflects a lifetime of meeting and overcoming challenges. Ross' husband survived twice being shot down over the Pacific Ocean, then came home to a small town (Marlette). That's where he met Patrecia, a high school student who was 19 years his junior.

"People said it wouldn't last because of our age difference," Ross chuckles. "We were married 52 ½ years, He was ninety when he passed and I took good care of him."

She and her husband raised three children and, with his encouragement, she received her bachelor's in education in 1966 at Eastern, then returned to earn her master's in 1970. An accomplished pianist in addition to her other talents, Ross gave piano lessons to help pay for her coursework enroute to a PhD from the University of Michigan in 1981.

"EMU made me who I am today. I've lived a good life," says Ross.

Now her life is still dedicated to making the lives of others better, even if it's just in providing the comfort of a quilt to those who are hurt and far from home.

Sherry Owens



# Christmas Bells

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to all

And thought how, as the day had come  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to all

Till, ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to all

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South  
And with the sound  
The Carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to all

And in despair I bowed my head  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to all

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep  
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep  
The Wrong shall fail  
The Right prevail  
With peace on earth, good-will to all

## THIS NIGHT

Adapted by David Mulder from a poem *That Night*  
by an anonymous author. Stanzas 3, 4 & 7 by  
David Mulder

This night over Bethlehem skies  
The mystic star dispenses its light  
A blind man moves in his sleep  
And dreams that he has sight

This night when shepherds hear the song  
Of angel voices coming near  
A deaf man stirs in slumber's spell  
And dreams that he can hear

This night when Good News of great joy  
Is sounded across the field  
A sick woman smiles in her sleep  
And dreams that she is healed

This night when to the mother's breast  
Our little king is held secure  
A harlot sleeps in blessed rest  
And dreams that she is pure

This night in old Bethlehem town  
Where Messiah's birth is foretold  
A cripple turns his twisted limbs  
And dreams that he is whole

This night when in the manger low  
The Anointed One draws his first breath  
A man in the grip of the grave  
Dreams his victory over death

This night of nights, O Holy Night  
When we welcome our newborn King  
The silent hopeless sinner sleeps

And dreams that she can sing



## Prayers of Thanksgiving



For a special day devoted to counting our blessings and giving thanks.

For all those who prepared a shoebox to be sent to needy children for Christmas. Pastor Dave and John Tapson delivered 30 boxes from our church to the drop-off site.

For all those who have kept Kim Schell in their prayers during her recent surgery and recovery.

For the excellent **Thanksgiving meal** served at our church and supported by other churches of Marlette with donated food and labor.

- For **Michelle Boyle** who is in training to be our church treasurer beginning at the first of the year. She works at the Mayville Bank as a loan officer and teller. We appreciate her willingness to serve.
- For **Gerry Smith** who is training Michelle and has served and will continue to serve as our treasurer until the end of this year. We appreciate her willingness to serve.
- For our **praise choir**—Krissa Welshans, Sherryl Potter, Sarah Kady, Katie Lewis and Jenn Mason—who add so much to our worship service on Sunday morning.
- For **Pastor Dave and Pat** as they approach retirement after years of service here and other places.
- For **Linda Warner and Mary Lou Kraft** for their dedication to serving excellent meals to the church family as well as the rest of the community.
- For the regulars who help almost every time with free lunch,
- For **Scott Bohms** who is retiring at the beginning of the year from his position as Chairman of the Trustees after 10 years of service. He leaves the buildings and grounds in excellent condition. (We are looking for a replacement; would you consider doing this job?)
- For **Kim Schell** who folds the bulletins each week, prepares the newsletters to be mailed each month and mails bulletins and prayer sheets to those who are unable to attend worship service.

- For all those who work the sound booth including **Jason Bell, Emily Bell and Jerrod Naracon**.
- For **A. J. Howard** who creates beautiful music on the church organ each Sunday.
- For **Cinda Nelson** who keeps our building clean and in good order.
- For **Randy Hostetler** who works behind the scenes keeping our buildings up to date.
- For **Judy Hostetler** who is our go-to person when we have a funeral luncheon to prepare
- For **Rev John Allan** who helps with visitation and is available for counseling except in the winter.
- For all who work each week with Kids' Klub and who are getting ready for the Christmas program called *Three Wee Kings*.
- For **Doris Huntoon** who has taken over the Lamb Ministry since Dianne Herpolsheimer has moved to Kalamazoo.
- For **Sarah Kady** who chairs our Ad Board as well as serves as a lay leader when Pastor Dave is out of town.
- For all who serve on committees and support the church in other ways.
- For **Zoey Bliss** who is much better after being hospitalized for having a very high temperature of unknown origin.
- For Doris Huntoon who is feeling much better after dealing with bacterial pneumonia.
- Thanking God that Janet Bloor's sister, Melanie Ross is home from the hospital and doing well. Still must do therapy. Thank you for your prayers.
- For the safe return of Pastor Dave and Pat from their vacation in Minnesota.
- For **Emily Bell, Doris Huntoon and Steve Shifflett** who reported on their trip to Haiti this summer during our worship service on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- For the healing of Bill Ricker's back. He and Nan were in church November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- For **Carl Nicol** who celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Bishop Bard suggests prayer, thought, discussion and action when it comes to violence in churches***

Lake Junaluska is a United Methodist retreat center nestled in the Smokey Mountains just west of Asheville, North Carolina. I arrived here late in the day Saturday, November 5 for the Council of Bishops meeting to begin Sunday. By the time we gathered for the memorial service Sunday afternoon, our traditional opening worship when we meet, the news was coming from Texas of a horrific incidence of gun violence at a Baptist church. The words of the poet Wordsworth flashed in my mind, "the world is too much with us." Into the beauty of this environment came this terrible news.

As more details became available through the evening and into the next day, my heart continued to break. Twenty-six people -- including a pregnant woman, a five-year-old, the pastor's fourteen-year-old daughter and a seventy-seven-year-old grandfather - were killed, and twenty more wounded by a gun man who had a history of mental instability and violence, and whose in-laws were part of the congregation he targeted. Monday night at the Council of Bishops meeting, Bishop Robert Schnase from the Rio Texas Area shared some stories from Sutherland Springs and our United Methodist presence there, even as he also reported on hurricane damage in Texas.

The shooting at Sutherland Springs follows all too quickly the mass shooting in Las Vegas and the church shooting in Antioch, Tennessee, not to mention the terrorist attack in New York City that killed eight people. Violence marks and mars our world, and those of us in the church are disturbed that not even our sanctuaries are immune from such violence. We think of the church as a place of safety, a refuge, a place of peace, but the recent violence disturbs those images, reminding us that the church is not immune from the broader forces in our society. We are called to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation. We are called to be places of

hospitality and welcome. The truth is that in responding to this call of God in Jesus Christ, we make ourselves vulnerable. We cannot eliminate that vulnerability if we are to remain faithful to our calling. We need not let such violence paralyze us.

In response to the violence in our world, we should always offer prayer. Like you, I hear voices cry out that prayer is not enough. Perhaps, but as people of faith we trust in the deep power of prayer and believe it makes a difference. Prayer is one kind of action in response to the violence in the world, and I think it to be our first response to such violence. We cannot always be physically present to families whose lives have been shattered by the loss of loved ones to violence, yet we can be spiritually present through our prayers. Prayer not only offers our hurting world to God's love, but it also raises our awareness of the pain in our world and moves us to ask how we might respond in other ways.

As we think particularly about violence in churches, we should also be more attentive to safety issues. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus encourages his followers to be "wise as serpents." There are things we can do to make our places of worship safer and more secure, and [a recent article in MIconnect](#) suggested some resources. We want our churches to be welcoming places for all people, and so we never want to close ourselves off from those who are struggling. We want to be wise as serpents and also innocent as doves. Concern for the struggling in response to God's call in Jesus Christ does not preclude implementing policies and procedures in our congregations for the safety and well-being of all. Local law enforcement agencies are often an excellent resource for helping congregations consider upgrading their safety procedures, as are church insurance companies. Our churches should always be places of welcome and hospitality, places where the struggling can find help, yet we can also be wiser about our safety.

Finally, I encourage us all to think more deeply and broadly about how as a society we might enhance safety. In light of the

*(Continued on next page)*

## **Violence** (Continued from previous page)

New York terrorist attack, city officials will review the possibility of erecting more barriers which might prevent the use of vehicles as a weapon. As a society, we are much more reluctant to consider what kinds of preventive measures might be helpful in relation to gun violence. I am clear that there is no set of laws that will completely eliminate gun violence. I am clear that most persons who own guns are relatively responsible owners, and use their guns for hunting or sport. I also know many gun owners who see no need to have devices on the market which allow the conversion of a semi-automatic into a virtually automatic weapon. Taking such devices off the market may have prevented some of the deaths in Las Vegas. I know many gun owners who support a more adequate background check system, which may have kept guns out of the hands of the shooter in Sutherland Springs, Texas. The stressors in our society exacerbate mental health issues and seem to increase anger and fear. We need to address such issues. We should also consider how we can do more to prevent rage from becoming weaponized. I hope we can talk and think, and then act upon such conversations. It is challenging work, I know, but so, too, is the work of grieving violent death or worrying that someone might bring their weaponized rage into the church again.

In this difficult time, may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and may the God of peace who calls us to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation continue to give us the courage to engage in this work in the world with both wisdom and wide-eyed wonder.

Grace and Peace,

David A Baul

## **Prayers for Healing & Protection**

- For Kim Schell who was hospitalized last Saturday and had to have emergency surgery. She is currently in rehabilitation at Fisher's Home in Mayville..
- For Mike Hadley, Pastor Dave's son-in-law, who will be having a heart ablation December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- For Sue Brydon for healing and strength as she undergoes chemotherapy
- For Jill Thomas as she continues her battle with cancer.
- For Terry Warner who is scheduled for heart surgery on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
- For Helen Abbott's niece Hannah who is recovering from brain surgery.
- For Bill Ricker who is now home continuing to recover from back surgery.
- For Mike Southall, Jan Wilson's brother who continues his fight against cancer.
- For Don Phillips who is now living at the Sanilac Medical Care Facility in Sandusky.
- For Jeff Brown, Deb Wilson's brother-in-law who is now under hospice care. Pray for his family.
- For Ilene Smit, Judy Hostetler's sister, who continues to deal with cancer.
- For Judy Bohms, Scott's sister, who is has been placed under hospice care.
- For Jane Grant who continues to reside in Sandusky at the Medical Care Facility.
- For Brison Ricker, grandson of Bill Ricker's brother, whose brain tumor is not improving.
- For Don Cameron and his mother who will be traveling to Kentucky later this month.
- For Paula McDowell who is in need of a liver transplant.
- For Gordon Pabst who was hospitalized overnight in Marlette for health concerns. He is home now and doing better.
- For Elizabeth Snow who was hospitalized in Marlette for health concerns. She is home now and feeling better.
- For Tom Decker who has been experiencing health problems.
- For Gail Boyne who has been experiencing extreme back pain.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>◀ Nov 2017</span> <h2 style="margin: 0;">December 2017</h2> <span>Jan 2018 ▶</span> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study @ Scharla's	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service w/ communion 11:15 Fellowship in FH	<b>4</b> 7 p.m. SG @ Chris & Wayne Bell's	<b>5</b> 12 Noon UMW Christmas Party in FH 7 p.m. Little Women 7 p.m. Trustees in FH	<b>6</b> 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers UR 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in UR MID-WEEK FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-6 Free Meal 6-7 p.m. Kids' Klub	<b>7</b> 7 p.m. AA in Basement 7 p.m. SG @ Tapson's	<b>8</b> 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study @ Scharla's	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service Mid Michigan Teen Challenge 11:30 Pot Luck Dinner with Teen Challenge	<b>11</b> 7 p.m. SG @ Chris & Wayne Bell's	<b>12</b> 7 p.m. Little Women	<b>13</b> 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers UR 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in UR MID-WEEK FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-6 Free Meal 6-7 p.m. Kids' Klub	<b>14</b> 7 p.m. AA in Basement	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Free Community Lunch in FH
<b>17</b> 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service Children's Program <i>Three Wee Kings</i> Christmas Cookies and Fellowship after program	<b>18</b> 7 p.m. SG @ Chris & Wayne Bell's	<b>19</b> 7 p.m. Little Women	<b>20</b> 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers UR 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in UR MID-WEEK FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-6 Free Meal 6-7 p.m. Kids' Klub at Hannah Wolfe	<b>21</b> 5-6 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution @ HS 7 p.m. AA in Basement	<b>22</b> Last Day of School before Christmas Holiday break.	<b>23</b>
<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 11 a.m-1 p.m. Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall	<b>26</b> 7 p.m. Little Women	<b>27</b> 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers UR 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in UR	<b>28</b> 7 p.m. AA in Basement	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

◀ Nov 2017

# December 2017

Jan 2018 ▶

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