

Olney Free Methodist Church

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Notes for the Journey

Volume 7, Issue 51

December 20, 2017

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

CANDLES, CAROLS AND COMMUNION

Our annual special "Candles, Carols and Communion" service will be held at 6:00pm on Christmas Eve in the sanctuary.

There will be Special Music, singing Christmas Carols, Communion and an inspiring Candle Light Service.

We hope everyone will be able to attend.



Thoughts

I was recently asked, "Are you ready for Christmas?" It is a very real question this time of year with all the things needing to be done to host and visit family and friends. Sometimes it seems as if we cross one item off the list and then remember two more we need to add.

In the midst of everything that needs to be done, please let me encourage you to make a priority of taking time to worship and thank God for the gift of His Son.

Of all the things that seem to need to be done this week, worship, reflection and adoration of the Christ Child is the most important.

2018 Tithing Envelopes

Your 2018 tithing/offering envelopes are available on the table in the foyer. You can pick yours up on December 31 and anytime after that date.

If you have never had a set of envelopes before, but would like a set, please take one of the blank sets, locate the number on the box and place your name next to the corresponding number on the sign-up sheet.

The envelopes are a good reminder to contribute to the work of God's kingdom on a regular basis. Also using the envelopes enables the church to issue you a year-end statement of giving that can be used when you file your Federal income taxes.

Kids' Klub

The next Kids' Klub meeting will be January 7, 2018 at 6:00pm.

During December the kids will continue to bring

- ◆ gently used light-weight jackets
- ◆ sweat shirts
- ◆ children's shoes

for the children in need in Progresso, Mexico. If you have any items to donate, the Kids would love for you to join them in collecting during December.

Mike and Ruth Thomann will deliver the gifts in January when they travel to Texas.

Lectionary Scripture

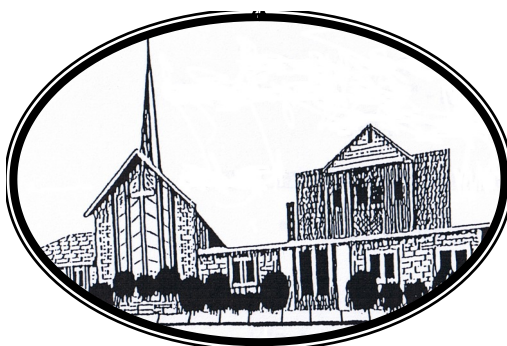
(December 24, 2017)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:47-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



Mission

*A community of believers
endeavoring to live and love
as Jesus taught.
Come—Experience
Community!*

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 24

Morning Worship 9:30am
 Special Christmas Worship
 No Sunday School
 Treat Bags distributed
 Candles, Carols and Communion 6:00pm

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Tuesday, December 26

In This Together 6:30pm

Friday, December 29

Narcotics Anonymous 7:00pm

Happy Birthday



Cole Harris December 24
 Brandon Murphy..... December 25
 Jackson Kramer..... December 27
 Amber Totten..... December 28
 Bret Ernst..... December 28
 Roy Miller..... December 28
 Megan Taylor December 30

Big Brothers-Big Sisters

The Big Brothers-Big Sisters program in Richland County have a specific and urgent need right now. There are several boys on the waiting list to be matched to a "Big Brother."

The young people in this program need a positive role model who demonstrates integrity, maturity and respect.

Just an hour or two of your time per week can reap huge benefits for a child facing stress in their home life—and it's one of the *most rewarding things you ever do!*

The volunteers will receive professional training and support in their mentorship and they find joy in sharing some of their favorite activities with their *Littles*.

Call TODAY if you can spare the time to change the life of a child for the better, forever. The match specialist is Abbie Caress, (cell) 317-281-12361 or email her at abbiecaressBBBS@gmail.com.

Thank you for caring.

Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study that meets in the Library at 10:00am each week will resume their study Wednesday, January 3. We hope you will be able to join us in our study of the scriptures.

Statistics for December 17

Morning Service	135
Offering (weekly need—\$4,050)	\$ 8,361.28
UMC-Kay Stotts Godoy, Michael & Maria Long, Mark & Lena, Russ & Sherrie	
Cole (goal \$8,000) YTD	\$ 5,477.00
UMC-Home Missions (goal \$6,118) YTD	\$ 5,127.00

Prayer Needs

Kris Constable—health
 Family of Mae Goodman
 Galen Campbell—recent surgery
 Bob Fore—health (Mike's father)
 Unspoken needs
 Please continue to pray for needs previously listed



Christmas Schedule

We have two wonderful services planned for Christmas Eve:

- 9:30am—Christmas Worship Service with special music, message and holiday treat bags
 - 6:00pm—Candles, Carols and Communion
- Please come and be a part of helping us celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Outreach Meal

Preparations are underway for the Christmas Outreach Meal at Immanuel United Methodist Church.

The meal will be delivered on Saturday, December 23 to those in the area who may not have a Christmas dinner. Please call the IUMC at 395-8618 if you or someone you know would like a meal delivered.

If you can provide a cake for dessert, please bring it on Friday, December 22. Thanks for your help and donations.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 2—6:30pm. Elijah Men's Group at the parsonage

Wednesday, January 3—6:00pm. Ladies' Bible Study at the parsonage

Tuesday, January 6—6:30pm. In This Together

Thursday, January 11—6:30pm. Board of Administration Meeting

Sunday, January 28—6:00pm. Society Meeting