

Olney Free Methodist Church

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Notes for the Journey

Volume 6, Issue 47

November 22, 2016

Advent

Sunday, November 27 is the first Sunday of the Advent Season.

Advent is the beginning of the church year when we spend time preparing our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Let me encourage you to do just that—spend the season preparing your heart to celebrate His Birth. This year will be special in that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, so we will have the opportunity to gather and worship on that very special day.

Christmas Outreach Meal

Yes, just about 3 and a half weeks before preparations will begin for the Christmas Outreach Meal at the Immanuel United Methodist Church. They begin on December 22 and will deliver the meal on Christmas Eve morning.

As in the past they will need cakes for dessert. If you can provide a cake, deliver it on December 23.

Help on each day will be greatly appreciated. There's lots of cooking and cleanup for an undertaking like this. Go any time and they will put you to work.



Concert

December 3 at 7:00pm
OCC Performing Arts Center

Thought of the Week

This past Sunday was the last Sunday of the "Church Year." It is referred to as "Christ the King" Sunday. One of the main scriptures we focused on was Isaiah 61 which was a prophesy about Jesus and what He read a portion of in the temple when He was making Himself known to the world.

Here it is:

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of despair."

Notice some of these descriptive words it uses, "good news, freedom, release, comfort, beauty, joy, praise." By quoting this scripture, Jesus was proclaiming the goodness he wants to bring into our lives.

As we said, He is right here with us. He has been with us all along. We just need to open our hearts to a relationship with our good, kind and loving King.

Today is the beginning of a new chapter of our lives. Allow Him to lead and guide.

Lectionary Scripture

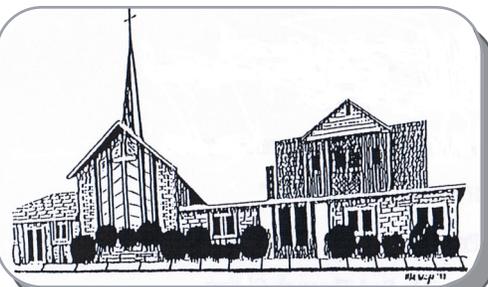
(for November 27, 2016)

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44



Mission

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, November 27

Morning Worship 9:30am
 Sunday School 10:40am
 No Choir Practice
 No Youth Group

Monday—Saturday

Men's Coffee

Wednesday, November 30

Ladies' Bible Study in the Library 10:00am

Friday, December 2

Narcotics Anonymous 7:00pm

Saturday, December 3

River Brass Christmas Concert 7:00pm

Statistics for November 20

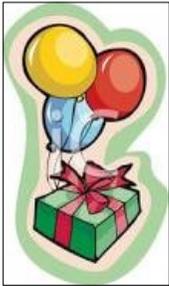
Morning Service	134
Offering (weekly need—\$4,050)	
UMC-Kay Stotts Godoy, Michael & Maria Long, Mark & Lena, Russ & Sherrie Cole (goal \$8,000) YTD	\$ 6,088.00
UMC-Home Missions (goal \$6,118) YTD	\$ 4,414.00

Prayer Needs



Norma Fore—health
 Ron Hinkle—recovering from surgery
 Beverly Stuessel—health (niece of Grover and
 Leota Burkett)
 Unspoken person in Barnes Hospital
 Leota Burkett—health
 Please continue to pray for needs previously listed

Happy Birthday



Heather Thomas..... November 27
 Kathy Neeley..... November 27
 Paul Linder..... November 28
 Garrett Wright..... November 28
 Michael Inyart..... November 28
 Melissa Means..... November 28
 Marilyn Grove..... November 29
 Liesl Wingert..... November 30
 Kate Plotner..... December 2
 Matt Plotner..... December 2

Thank You Note

Thank you so much for all the cards and kind words for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I have the wonderful privilege of being a part of a great church with a congregation that has a heart for making sure that our children and youth are being taught the love of God. Thanks so much.

Stacy

Happy Anniversary



Dan & Sherry Brashear..... November 28
 Grover & Leota Burkett..... November 30
 Bill & Pam Taylor..... December 1

Leaf Raking Fundraiser

Youth are still arranging dates to Rake Leaves, a fundraiser for their 2017 Mission Trip. A free will donation would be great, but it is not necessary. If you are unable to donate, please let us know anyway and we will happily rake your leaves.

Please call Stacy and let her know (phone 618-240-2807).

Special Advent Calendar

Sunday, December 11—Children's Program in Morning Worship
 Sunday, December 18—Choir Cantata
 Saturday, December 24—Candles, Carols and Communion, 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

Thank You Note

Again, words cannot express our family's appreciation for all the expressions of kindness and love during this season of Pastoral Appreciation. We are indeed blessed and honored to be able to be a part of your church family. Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement.

Pastor Steve, Liesl and Family

* *Children's Christmas Play * *

Practice for the Children's Christmas Play, "The Twelve Symbols of Christmas," is during Sunday School each week.

The Christmas Program will be given on December 11 during Morning Worship.

