

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 19, 2015

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00 a.m. Previous Sunday Service aired on WFRZ-TV
 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Children, Youth, and Adults
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 1:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
 3:00 p.m. Family Promise Week
 4:00 p.m. Festival of Christmas
 5:30 p.m. The Road Ahead (Borders, WH 205)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

All Day Family Promise
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Clothes Closet (2911 Zelda Road)
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Respite Ministry
 12:30 p.m. UMW Circle 4 Christmas Party
 5:45 p.m. Boy Scouts
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 6:45 p.m. Girl Scouts

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

All Day Family Promise
 7:00 a.m. Men's Covenant Group (J. Blount, WH 207)
 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (L. Bryan, WH 201)
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Respite Ministry
 10:00 a.m. Terrific Tuesday
 12:45 p.m. Side by Side Choir
 4:30 p.m. 50 and Over Exercise Group
 5:30 p.m. Ladies Exercise
 6:00 p.m. Samaritan Counseling Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

All Day Family Promise
 8:00 a.m. Heritage Club (FH, Adult Lounge)
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Clothes Closet (2911 Zelda Road)
 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study (Byran, FH)
 12:15 a.m. Prayer Partners (Webb, EB Reception Room)
 4:30 p.m. Open Altar Prayer Time (Sanctuary)
 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper Served (Fellowship Hall)
 6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)
 6:00 p.m. Previous Sunday Service aired on WFRZ-TV
 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

All Day Family Promise
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Respite Ministry
 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
 5:00 p.m. Tower Class Christmas Party
 5:30 p.m. Ladies Exercise

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

All Day Family Promise
 11:00 a.m. First School Christmas Program
 2:00 p.m. Church Offices Closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

All Day Family Promise

Poinsettia Gifts

The Worship Committee is offering the opportunity to place poinsettias in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of family and/or friends. Poinsettias will be placed in the chancel and narthex of our church on Sunday, December 20. Those who wish to deliver a plant to a friend may pick it up after the 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight services. The names of those persons being remembered or honored, along with the name of the giver, will be listed in the worship bulletin on December 20. You may participate by filling out the form below and sending it along with your check for \$15 or more to the church office. **ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 14.** Please mark your check POINSETTIA PURCHASE. Proceeds go to missions.

In Memory of _____
 In Honor of _____
 Given by _____
 I wish to pick up a poinsettia after one of the Christmas Eve Services.
 I DO NOT wish to pick up. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

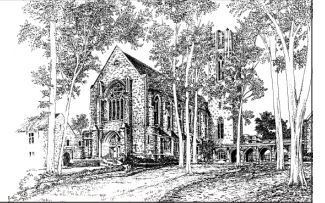
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All Tower Chimes mailings are lovingly handled by volunteers!

Minister-On-Call
 WEEKENDS
 334-318-8708

Sunday, December 13, 2015
 Matthew 1:18-25
 Sent: The Gift of Hope at Christmas
 Jesus Is God with Us
 Dr. R. Lawson Bryan
 Senior Minister

Wednesday, December 16, 2015
 The Longest Night Service
 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 Rev. Gillian L. Walters
 Minister of Discipleship



TOWER CHIMES

DECEMBER 13, 2015

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 50

To God Be the Glory

Two weeks ago I began the Advent sermon series with a reference to a Waffle House story found in the first chapter of our Advent study book. The next week a handsome Waffle House coffee mug decorated for Christmas appeared on my desk. Here's the story. After the Hanging of the Greens service on November 29, a couple from our church went to Waffle House for supper. They saw the Waffle House Christmas mugs and told their server that I had mentioned Waffle House in my sermon that morning. Then the server, Rochelle, asked which church they attended. When they told her she exclaimed, "I have been to that church for the Pentecost service!" She was referring to the joint Pentecost service that we sponsor along with AME, AME-Zion, and CME churches. I want to thank our church members for this handsome mug and for helping us to see how the Pentecost service continues to connect us with others in our community. And, I want to thank Rochelle for reminding us that modern day shepherds still work the night shift—at Waffle House. To God be the Glory!

Last Sunday I quoted a lady who approached me recently and said, "Please thank the church for their spirit of generosity in helping those in need all year long." I then gave several examples of the extravagant generosity of which that lady was speaking. Here is one more example. For over twenty years the Missions Work Area has partnered with the Montgomery County Department of Human Resources (DHR) to purchase Christmas gifts for foster children under DHR supervision. This started when Louise Pittman, a church member now deceased, was a part of the state DHR and Helen Geesey was on the Montgomery County DHR Board of Directors.

Gayle Auman receives a list of fifty foster children and outlines each child's wish for Christmas. With funds from the missions' budget Gayle and a group of six to eight church members shop for the items. The usual process is to buy a church outfit, a play outfit, and two toys. Children requesting a bicycle are also given a helmet. Then everything goes to Gayle's house where she goes through it to make sure everyone is covered. Finally, a "wrapping party" which used to be at Gayle's house is held at the church on the first Saturday in December and then the gifts are delivered to DHR on the following Monday. Thanks to Gayle and all who join her in this project.

Now is the time to be inviting others to attend the Festival of Christmas this Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Please read the inside article for details about *Servcie of Nine Lessons and Carols* that will be presented.

The Longest Night Service will be on Wednesday, December 16, at 6:00 p.m.in the sanctuary. This is in lieu of our usual Wednesday night chapel service. The Longest Night Service is designed to provide comfort and strength for those experiencing grief and pain in the midst of Advent and Christmas. The Rev. Gillian L. Walters is the preacher for this service. The service concludes with altar prayer time, Holy Communion, and the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

See you Sunday,

Update on Pledges for 2016 Budget

To date we have received pledges totaling \$3,539,411 or 78.1% of our 2016 budget. This is a great start! Together we can reach our goal. Please turn in your pledge card as soon as possible.

First United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Around the Congregation

Our Known Hospitalized

Baptist East Jackie Laurie
St. Vincent Nan Lazenby
HealthSouth Jackie Floyd
Ken Kostenbader

In Memory Of

Joanna Byrd
Memorial Fund: *Ed and Joann Reifenberg*

Willodean Craig
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
Mrs. Allen Taylor

Billy Crews
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
Rebecca Crews

Jeff Davis
Cathedral Builders: *Betty Brislin* Joseph
Ministry: *Dae Miller* Memorial Fund:
*Weldon and Kappy Doe; Ed and Joann
Reifenberg* Missions: *Al Neuhauser*
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
*Charles and Linda Bedgood; Eileene
Griffith*

Jane Dunlap
Cathedral Builders: *Betty Brislin; Claire
Smith* Memorial Fund: *Allen and Ann
Edwards* Music Ministry: *JOY Class*
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
*Maud K. Garrick; Kevin and Stacie
Haynes; Billie B. Steele*

Elizabeth T. Emmett
Memorial Fund: *Dae Miller*

Kathryn Frasier
Memorial Fund: *Susan Harrison*

Helen Goggans
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
Robin Hardwich

Chris Hornady
Memorial Fund: *Allen and Ann Edwards*

Mays Jemison
Memorial Fund: *Henry and Diane
Chappell; Allen and Ann Edwards; Ed
and Joann Reifenberg; Terry and Nancy
Williams* Stegall Seminary Scholarship
Foundation: *Buddy and Robin Hardwich;
Kevin and Stacie Haynes; Susan Mathews;
William and Joan Mitchell; Laura Sullivan*

Bobby Jolly
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Moore

Henry Klingler
Memorial Fund: *Dae Miller*

Mozella Newman
Music Ministry: *Joy Class* Stegall
Seminary Scholarship Foundation: *Ann
Cheney*

Bonner Patrick
Memorial Fund: *Allen and Ann Edwards;
Ed and Joann Reifenberg*

James Rittenour
Joseph Ministry: *Rick and Sissy Flynn;
Latham and Belle Saddler* Memorial Fund:
Flora S. McCormick; Mrs. Roger C. Norris

Royce Slate
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
Maud K. Garrick

Judge Rodney R. Steele
Respite Ministry: *Carol Bell; Jane Gordon*

Emmie Jeane Strickland
Memorial Fund: *Ed and Joann Reifenberg*

John Sullivan
Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation:
Laura Sullivan

Dan Wise
Memorial Fund: *Ed and Joann Reifenberg*

In Honor Of

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Burleson
Honor Fund: *Dae Miller*

Ted and Donna Giles
Pastors Discretionary Fund: *Sid and
Debbie Coleman*

Tom and Carol Hammond
Honor Fund: *Ed and Joann Reifenberg*

Joseph Ministry Volunteers
Respite Ministry: *Anne Franco and Family*

Charles Merritt
Honor Fund: *Tim and Carol Kline*

Leslie Shannon
Cathedral Builders: *Fellowship Class*

Claire Smith
Honor Fund: *Tim and Carol Kline*

Wednesday, December 16 Dinner
Adults: \$6 Youth: \$5 Children: \$3
Family Maximum: \$17

Chicken Pot Pie Potato Wedges
Baked Potatoes Vegetables Salad Bar
Christmas Cookies Cake

Sweet Potato Drop

Our church will be hosting a Sweet Potato Drop for the Society of St. Andrew next week. Please join us on Wednesday, December 16 or Thursday, December 17 or Friday, December 18. We have 40,000 lbs of large potatoes being dropped in our parking lot. We will have two shifts each day until we are finished. The first shift will be from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and the second shift will be from 1:00 p.m. until dark. Please come help when you can even if you can't stay for the whole shift. We are inviting other churches to help us as well.

Music NEWS

Music for Sunday, December 13

8:45 a.m.

Offertory
Away in a Manger arr. Ola Gjeilo
Adult Ensemble
Lauren Carpenter and Amy Lea Todhunter,
soloists

Act of Praise
Mary's Wonder arr. John Seagard
Cathedral Choir

11:00 a.m.

Offertory
Lost in the Night by Kyle Haugen

Act of Praise
Shepherd's Gloria arr. Mark Patterson
Youth Choir

Festival of Christmas: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 13 at 4:00 p.m.

For this year's Festival of Christmas on December 13 at 4:00 p.m., the Cathedral Choir, Youth Choir, and Orchestra will present a traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols celebrating the story of the coming of the Christ child in both Word and song. With its origins dating back to 1880, the first Service of Nine Lessons and Carols held in the Kings College Chapel was on Christmas Eve in 1918, just after the close of the First World War. It was a celebration of hope and light in a dark time in history. Our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols this year will include music by William Dawson, Antonio Vivaldi, John Rutter, Mark Patterson, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Ola Gjeilo, Bob Chilcott, John Seagard, and many others. This Festival of Christmas: a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is a gift from the Music Ministry of FUMC to the community of Montgomery. Please invite your friends and neighbors and join us at 4:00 p.m. this Sunday, December 13 in the Sanctuary for one of the most meaningful worship and music experiences of the Advent Christmas season!

Latté with Lawson

Sunday, December 20 10:00 a.m.
Bay Section of the Fellowship Hall

If you are visiting our church, thinking about church membership, a new resident in our area, or interested in the life of FUMC, we hope you will join us for coffee and a conversation with our senior minister, Dr. R. Lawson Bryan.

50 Forward MINISTRIES First United Methodist Church

Stimulate Your Brain Day
*We will take a break for the holiday
season and will resume after the first of
the year.*

**Terrific Tuesdays:
December 15**
**Get ready for Christmas with Annie
& Willie by Jeanie Key and the
children from ECDC!**

HERITAGE CLUB
The Heritage Club meets each
Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m.
in the Adult Lounge.

FIX-IT SHOP
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.

An Invitation and Announcement from the Heritage Club

The Heritage Club is pleased to announce the following officers for 2016:

President – Lee Dowdy
Vice President – John Price
Sec/Tres. – Tim Kline

The Heritage Club, an association of retired men and women of the church, invites retirees to meet with them for coffee, snacks, fellowship and an interesting program each Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. in the Adult Lounge in the basement of Fellowship Hall. Currently we are watching and discussing the history of the United States with an excellent and interesting series of video lectures, followed by group discussion. For further information, please call John Bullard at 652-4996.

College Christmas Party
Sunday, December 20
7:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

We'll gather at 7:00 p.m. in the lounge and hop on the Montgomery Trolley to see Christmas lights. We'll return to the Youth Lounge for hot chocolate and cookies.

AMEN Support Group

A Meaningful Empty Nest (AMEN) Support Group will meet January 27 at 6:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall Room 204. Our speaker will be Elizabeth Manderville, licensed professional counselor. We hope to see you there!

CHILDREN'S

GETAWAY TO CALLAWAY FANTASY IN LIGHTS
Friday, December 11, 3:30 – 11:30 p.m. Grades 3-5

Those who have pre-registered should meet in the Fellowship Hall to sign in at 3:30. Children who attend Forest Avenue, Bear, and other schools with a late dismissal should arrive as quickly after school as possible. Please let us know in advance so we will wait for you! It will be cold on the open air trolley ride, so bundle up! Remember to bring money for dinner, snacks and the gift shop!

THE CHILDREN'S DOVE TREE
December 13 and 20

Children and their families are invited to sponsor a dove for \$5.00 in honor or memory of someone special and place it on the children's dove tree located next to the Duffey Chapel. Volunteers will be near the tree to assist on Sunday mornings before and after Sunday School. The money collected will be given to the United Methodist Children's Home as part of the White Christmas offering.

PCD 2016 CALENDARS

Prayer, Chore, Deed calendars are located on tables in the children's Education Building. These wonderful calendars emphasize the importance of saying a prayer and doing a chore and a kind deed every day. Please pick one up for your family.

A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!

Last Sunday the children decorated the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall with hand-crafted ornaments made with love during Sunday School. We hope parents, members, and visitors will enjoy this beautiful gift to the church.

Thought for the Week:

"As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be, Christmas is."
Eric Sevareid

FUMC YOUTH

**Thank you to all the parents that
helped make the youth Christmas
parties so much fun!**

SUNDAY
9:45 a.m. Youth Fellowship
Youth Lounge
9:55 a.m. Sunday School Classes

**Sunday Night Youth
Festival of Christmas
4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**
We will support our youth choir by attending the Festival of Christmas together. This will be our only event for the evening.

**Due to exam week, we will not be having
Chick-Fil-A or Refuel this week.
Good luck and study hard!**

**Sign up now:
Winter Retreat**
January 15-18, 2016
Camp Hargis
\$150 until January 11

Upcoming:
Spring Kickoff
January 10, 2016



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