

NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
December 2017
NEWS



Don't give your church leftovers. Sound familiar? Plan now to give a regular amount weekly, bi weekly or monthly. The church needs regular giving in order to meet its budget. While we are gifting others, we need to be gifting our church as well.

The Christmas Eve service offering will all go toward the outreach fund to help local residents with food, gasoline, prescriptions, electric or heating. If you will not be attending the Christmas Eve service, please consider giving a separate donation toward the outreach fund.



Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, December 24 this year. There will be 2 opportunities to attend church and celebrate the birth of Christ. During Sunday Morning Service the Bell Choir will be playing. The evening candlelight service will start at 7:00pm.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, December 6, noon – Lunch Bunch – Holiday Feast
- Saturday, December 9, 10 am – 3 pm Granny's Country Christmas with cookies, candy and vendors – proceeds go toward for missions
- Sunday, December 10, 9 am, Bell Choir plays at Bigelow Church
- Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 pm Education Committee
- January 11, 2018-March 8, 2018, After School Program every Thursday.



The church received enough money to pre-buy propane for the winter heating season. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. A total of 1880 gallons of propane was purchased, leaving a balance of \$313.63 in the propane fund. To date, we have received delivery of 242 gallons, with 1558 gallons remaining to be delivered over the next few months.

2018 Committees

The American experiment was unique and improbable in 1776, when Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence and the American colonies defied Britain, the most powerful nation on earth at the time. Of the people, by the people and for the people had never been done before. President Lincoln used the phrase in his Gettysburg Address. But the origin of the phrase comes from 1384, when John Wycliffe wrote in the prologue to his translation of the Bible, "The Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People" The United Methodist church embraces this ideal. Rather than one person in charge, the entire congregation is tasked with getting involved in the running of their church. It is a very American ideal. Please remember this when approached to do your part as part of a church committee. We the people need to be present and involved in the everyday operations of OUR church. Members are being recruited for church committees at this time, to start their responsibilities in running the church in January 2018. Committee choices include finance, education, worship, mission, trustees, PPR, nominating, fellowship and possibly others.



Why Do We Celebrate Advent?

Advent is the season that starts four Sundays before Christmas. For hundreds of years, Christians have used this season to remember the coming of Christ, and to prepare for Christmas. It's more than just a piece of history, though. So, why *do* we celebrate Advent? Celebrating the Advent season can help us today to follow Christ more faithfully in a couple good ways.

Advent helps us focus on Jesus.

We've all heard the clichés like "*Jesus is the reason for the season*" and "*Let's keep Christ in Christmas.*" Even though they are clichés, they contain nuggets of truth. One of the reasons that they exist is that it is just so easy to let all of the activities, and shopping, and parties overwhelm our focus on Jesus. Celebrating Advent gives us daily and weekly reminder that this season is about God's love for us, through sending His Son to earth, to be with us!

Advent helps us honor Jesus.

The word "Advent" means the arrival of someone or something important. When an important event like a graduation or wedding is coming, we work hard to make sure everything is perfect. When an important person is coming to visit, we work hard to properly prepare for them so that they will know they are valuable to us. We plan the menu and the decorations; we clean the house and edge the lawn. We don't just wait until the last minute and throw something together. Similarly, celebrating Advent helps us give Jesus the proper attention and focus He deserves. By focusing on Him throughout this season, and not just on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we honor Him more faithfully.

Advent helps us remember Jesus is coming again.

Advent is not only a celebration of Christ's first coming as a baby; it is also a reminder of Jesus' return that is yet to come. Just as God's people awaited the first coming of the Messiah, His people now await the return of our Savior. The four weeks of Advent remind us of both of these comings. In weeks one and two, the Scripture readings look forward to His second coming and remind us of the importance of being prepared for His return. Weeks three and four look backward and help us remember the excitement and expectation that the hope of the Messiah brought to the ancient Jews. It has always been important for God's people to remember that God is up to something, and that we need to live in expectation of what He will do when He comes again. In our world, there are so many things that can occupy our attention. The Christmas season is one of the most exciting times of the year, but it is also one of the most distracting seasons of the year. Even for those who want to keep focused on Jesus, it is difficult to do so. By celebrating Advent, we acknowledge that celebrating Jesus is more than one special evening and the following day! The "how" to celebrate Advent isn't as important as the connection you make with Him, so be intentional about you and your family growing in Him together. Let us be a people who acknowledge God's great love and generosity for his people every day this Advent season!

in His grip, **Larry**