

December 2020 Newsletter  
**Batesville United Methodist Church**  
106 South Park Avenue  
Batesville, Indiana 47006  
(812) 934-3137  
batesvilleumc@gmail.com

Watch us live or check out our library @  
[www.batesvilleumc.org](http://www.batesvilleumc.org)

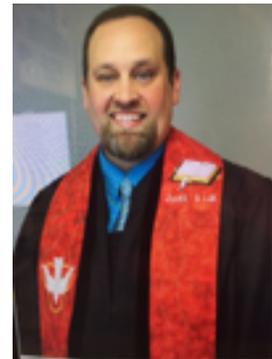
**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 A.M. Sanctuary/Children's Time  
Nursery Available  
Handicap Lift at the Alley Door #5  
Ramp at Door #2 at the corner of  
Park Street and South Street



## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

*“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”*

Luke 2:4-7



### SILENT NIGHT

I know we are not yet through Advent, but I wanted to share a word with you about Christmas. I think for many when you think of December you either first think of my birthday or maybe Christmas, well probably Christmas. After all “It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” But this year, well Christmas is probably going to be different for most.

Only two of the four gospels even address Jesus birth. If you look at Matthew, there is some government business that needs taken care of, Joseph and Mary have their first fight, Mary is pregnant and it is not Joseph’s and some issues with travel and lodging. And then, oh ya’ Mary gives birth. Luke is a little more descriptive, with the addition of angels singing and a visit from those disrepute’s, shepherds. But still no real details, no descriptive prose to explain just how it happened and what it was like.

So with this lack of explanation, no setting the scene in fine detail, as we wish it had, we turn to song. That’s right songs. Songs like ‘Silent Night’ to help set the mood, to allow us to picture the scene and set the mood for one of the greatest events in history, God putting on flesh and coming down to live among us.

I’ve always wondered what “Silent Night” is trying to describe. Is it really silent with a young girl giving birth, Joseph arguing with the Inn Keeper, and shepherds quaking? Is it silent because what can be said of such a gift, such a holy moment? Maybe it is the peace, after all it’s not just peace it’s “heavenly peace.” Maybe, even in the midst of birth, stress, preparation and even unwanted visitors, silence is the best response. Stillness in the presence of the holy.

Maybe, just maybe this year, of all years is a good reminder to just let it go and be still and silent. To just be present in the holy and cherish the heavenly peace, a peace that overcome any circumstance, any pain, any distraction.

A few weeks ago, I shared in my sermon about my maternal-grandparents and the simplicity of their lives. How a canned ham and some pipe tobacco seemed like the greatest gifts. I heard from more of you about that than anything I’ve ever shared. Many of you had grandparents just like mine, many of you connected with the idea of simplicity and thankfulness. Well isn’t that really what this season is about? Simplicity, silence and thankfulness for the greatest gift we will ever receive.

I know this Christmas will be hard for many and painful for others. We have said good bye to many we love, we have been apart and we will miss so many things. But, perhaps in the silence of this holy night, we just may feel that special presence, that heavenly peace and know that we are never alone, never forgotten and always loved!

Merry Christmas!

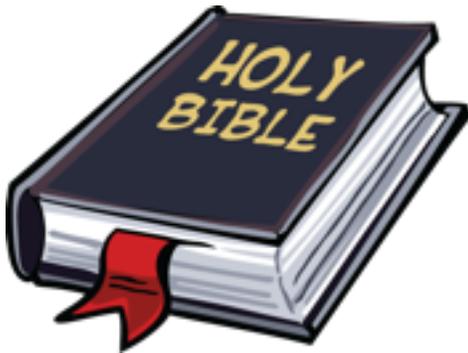
PC



## REMINDER

From our webpage you can watch our Sunday Services live or any time with the archives!

<http://www.batesvilleumc.org>



### Thursday Evening Bible Study

We are currently meeting through ZOOM, studying the Gospel of Matthew. If you are interested in participating contact Pastor Chris and he will send you a link.

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday: by appointment with Pastor Chris  
Tuesday: 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 m  
Friday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Please Note: Pastor Chris is not in the office on Fridays.

Thank you!

## PRAYERS

Bishop Trimble, Rev. Russ Abel (CS), Pastor Chris & Family, **Family of Jay Varner, Betty Lou Barber, Naomi Melia, Alexis Delaney, Bob Fitzpatrick, Nance Widdowson, Gloria Riley**, Linda Amberger, Ted Hartshorn, Connie Summers, Elaine Wessling, Teachers and Students, Les Smith, Darrin and Trish Woodrum, Matt Litton, Ginny Hartshorn, MacKenzie Kramer, Andrew Murphy (Matt Trossman), Lesa Worthington (Dixie Butte), Rev. Charles Flory, Denny Harmeyer, Anthony Pemberton (Naomi Melia), Steve Brinkman (Mary Kay Roberts), Janice Schein, Barb Schwartz, **John & Millie Lewis**, Hoagy Wright, Mary Linger, Karl Hinkle, Owen Lewis, Jackie Schaefer (Wright), Cody Ryan (Hisrich), Dee Dudgeon, Edie & Wilbur Zimmer, Our Children and Youth, Batesville Community, Safe Passage, People in the Armed Forces, Irene Fitzpatrick (Chateau), Susan Wonnell (Chateau), Betty Schaefer (St. Andrews), Patty McFall (Stutler, Otterbein Retirement), Bill Hisrich (The Waters).

We are looking to update our prayer list. If you have any new information, please email the office or if you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please fill out an orange prayer card. You can find the prayer cards in the hymnal holders on the back of the pews. Thank you!



# OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach Team met on November 17th. It was reported that funds were sent to Safe Passage (monthly commitment), Ilula Staff salary, UMCOR, local fire victims two 6 in 1 (World Communion Sunday and Methodist Student Day), purchased fabric for student bags and pizza to help a local family! All of the church working together!

Several options were discussed for the 2021 budget. This will be finalized at the January 12 meeting at 5:30.

The annual Faith Promise Mission will be February 7, 2021. Look for further information to come!

Sending Christ's Love throughout the Community and Around the World!

Outreach Team

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



December 10th - Pastor Chris Renick  
December 14th - Betty Lou Barber  
December 15th - Ron Simpson  
December 17th - Bill Hisrich  
December 19th - Mary Weber  
December 23rd - Val Stutler  
December 26th - Linda Crowell  
December 26th - Deb Obermeyer  
December 30th - Jim Rowland



December 14th - Chris & Jerilyn Lowery  
December 23rd - Bob & Sheila Smith  
December 24th - Craig & Connie Summers  
December 27th - John & Vickie Greiwe



# SPROUTS - KIDS CLUB

The BUMC elves are hard at work, with whispers of gifts for good little SPROUTS. If you should happen to be visited by our elves, please send a short video or picture of the SPROUTS with their gifts to Pastor Chris, he will share them with the congregation!

Please continue to pray for our SPROUTS!

## December Scriptures:

December 6th - Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8- 15a, **Mark 1:1-8**

December 13th -Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24,  
**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

December 20th - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55, **Luke 1:26-38**

December 27th - Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 4:4-7, **Luke 2:22-40**

(**Bold** indicates sermon text)

## December Calendar

Thursdays - Bible Study - at 6:30 p.m. - The Gospel of Matthew  
Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm- LiveStream



## December Flower Volunteers

December 6th - Jeff & Amy Liter

December 13th - Deb & Hoagy Wright

December 20th - Jerilyn & Chris Lowery

December 27th - Congregation

December 31st - Congregation



## **2020 Crown of Thorns**

The Crown of Thorns represents the suffering of Christ.

*“Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus ... and gathered around him. ...then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. ...Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said.”* Matthew 27:27-29 NIV (paraphrased)

-

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We need Advent Candle Volunteers.  
Contact Pastor Chris**



**If you would like to donate a poinsettias to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Please bring those by December 18th.  
If you would like to dedicate in memory of or a special occasion please notify Marilyn prior to the 18th and a list will be created.**

## **Cake Mixes Needed**

You are a blessing to our community! Our goal is to donate 600 boxes of cake mix to the Batesville food pantry for the holiday season.

We have currently donated 487 boxes! We are so close to reaching our goal! Let's finish strong and reach our goal in early December. Thank you and have a blessed Thanksgiving!

## **Food Pantry Volunteers**

We really need your help in filling out our schedule or we run the risk of not being able to support our community the way we need to during these trying times. Safety for all involved is our number one priority.

- Due to Covid, the food pantry is drive thru only.
- Clients pick up the food outside while all workers stay in the facility.
- It is completely non-contact.

-Masks and gloves are required and will be provided if needed.  
If you have any questions, please contact Chris Heckman at 812.216.7382.

## **TRUSTEE NEWS**

The Trustees have been keeping busy with the project of the repairs to the bell tower and steeple with the funds provided from endowments. Special thanks to Bev Giesting for putting on her hardhat and keeping up with the workers through the project. Some of the major repairs on the bell tower were rotted wood being replaced around many parts of the tower itself and it was painted to match color scheme of the rest of the chapel, a new heavy duty frame was built to hold the bell more secure, and the stand that holds the bell itself was sanded and repainted. The church steeple had many needed repairs as well. Repaired louvers (slatted areas) and replaced hardware cloth protecting the louvers, rotten wood removed, and a completely new paint job. The first two pictures below show the bell tower before and one of the lifts that had to be brought in to do the work. The second two pictures show the finished project. There are so many things that need upkeep in a church that some are not noticed until brought to our attention. These symbols of our church are good reminders to us to always look up as we search for beauty and guidance from the Lord.

The Trustee Committee









