



Disciple Moments

The Newsletter of St. Paul United Methodist Church & Center Grove United Methodist Church
“Small Church...Big hearts for serving the Lord & our neighbor in Love...transforming the world”
December 2018 / January 2019 edition



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Prepare the Way: Series Overview

Advent marks the beginning of another year in the cycle of Scriptures that presents the narrative of the love of God revealed to the world. As is our usual fashion, we — the worship resource planning team—have chosen to take Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany together as a seven-part series to begin Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week (with the exception of the first Sunday after Christmas Day) includes two Scriptures—the Old Testament and Gospel readings—that complement one another in illustrating how we are to “prepare the way of the Lord” (Lk. 3:4). The first week of Advent points directly at Christ’s coming. Even though there is some apocalyptic language, the overall tenor of the passage is one of hope and encouragement. Though fear and foreboding are significant elements of this event, Jesus says, “stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Lk. 21:28). Signs will be given, and God’s people must be alert, constantly praying for strength, in preparation to “stand before the Son of Man” (Lk. 21:36, NRSV). Week two begins with the question from Malachi, “who can stand when he appears?” (Mal. 3:2), which serves as a hinge point from the “stand” imagery of the previous week. This week’s readings address issues of justice, purification, and refining that will accompany Jesus’ coming. The third week of Advent, *Gaudete* Sunday, is always an occasion of joy. With these Scripture lessons, however, comes an expectation that the people of God will “do” something to be a part of the inheritance promised to Abraham. Zephaniah instructs the people to “not let your hands grow weak” (Zep. 3:16), and John offers further teaching: “Bear fruits worthy of repentance” (Lk. 3:7-16). The promise to Abraham is not forgotten in week four, in which Mary sings and recalls the covenant of old that shows God’s mercy and justice. There are senses of preparation and nesting as both Bethlehem and Mary receive word of Jesus’ coming. Both Bethlehem and Mary will be agents of welcoming God in flesh to earth.

Christmas Eve then becomes the point of arrival as Christ—the “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”—comes to the world. In the ways Jesus comes, however, it is often easy to become so overwhelmed that we cannot see the presence or work of Christ around us. Just like Mary and Joseph, we find ourselves

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searching for Jesus, despite knowing all the places and ways in which Christ can be found. With enough searching, however, the promise we are given with the story of the Epiphany, is that all who search for Jesus will find him.

Jesus is coming! It is our responsibility to “prepare the way” and get ready. What is your church doing to make a place for Christ to be known in your community? © 2018

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Prayers of the people (Local Church)

Wanda Krimminger	Billie Hipsley
Becky Morgan	Rod & Thelma Tomberlin
Jackie Duke & Family	Allen Hartsell
Don Cassese	Eric Shaver & Family
Belinda Morton & Family	Bob Krimminger
Cathy Cranford	Family of Peggy Cranford

Homebound

Elizabeth Widenhouse
(Brookdale Nursing)
Laura Leigh
(Morningside Nursing)
Helen Shinn
(Universal Healthcare)
Sarah Dry (home)

Community Prayers

Kate & Jerry Fincher	Sharon Tomberlin
Grady Roten	David Nixon
Ted Macomber	Tammy Geeland
Dale Maske	Sherry Poley
Carol Corey	Clara Tomberlin
Lori Love	Mike Martin
Earnest & Vera Parker	Robert Mills
Gail Mullins	Jimmy Lanier
Lynda Johnson	Austin Banks
Marion Kinley	Sarah Brooks
Everett Alexander	Lynette Anderson
Kenneth Williams	Jeff Parsons
Margaret Talbert	Alice Stephens
Ronnie Wheeler	Ira Frick
Adolfe Price	Daron Ewing
Chett Kidd	Billy Robbins
Chris Maske	Cameron Hamilton
Billy Gray	Billy & Karen Honeycutt
Charles Oxendine	Lanny Cruise
Jeremy Shaver	Bobby Suarez
Steve Bogues	Bennett Hammond
Ezra Demby	Barbara & Robert Shinn
Lee Hudson	Steven Nichols
Lessie Hudson	Jerry McGraw
Henry Roten	Krista Bowers
Jim Clarke	Susan Haas
Tyler Whitley	Jordan Maske
Charles Duke	Tracy Cruse
Andrew Tarnate	Katie Honeycutt
Sierra Tucker	Vea Family
Richard Belch	Jerry Pisorski Family
Bob Garnett	Mark coral Family
Jeremy Presley	



Upcoming events

- Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
- SPUMC Council (1st Sunday)
- CGUMC Council (3rd Sunday)
- Christmas movie & cookies SPUMC – 12/16/18
- Safe Sanctuary Training (TBD)
- CPR Training (TBD)
- Installation of 2019 Leaders 1/6/19
- Covenant Renewal Service 1/6/19
- Christmas Eve Service 12/24/18 8 pm SPUMC

Birthdays & Anniversaries (December/January)

Crystal Stephens	1/8	Gerri Stanley	1/5
Katherine Washington	1/7	Shauna Spratt	12/5
Belinda Morton	12/21	Cecil Krimminger	1/23
Betty Hyatt	12/17	Tracy Tomberlin	1/20
Thelma Tomberlin	1/4	Margaret Saunders	1/13
Dusty Morgan	1/7	Justin Miller	1/31
Syrus Dellinger	1/23	Mary Floyd	12/27
Sierra Santos	1/17	Joey Santos	1/17
Keats Dellinger	12/25		

Special News

*Congratulations to Syrus Dellinger on his recognition in a NC Wildlife Magazine article

*Praise God as Eric Shaver declared his intention to enter the ministry discernment process

*Annual Stat Reports due 1/31/19

2019 Important Contacts

Position	SPUMC	CGUMC
Pastor	Alan Thompson	Alan Thompson
Lay Leader	William Beaver	
Council Chair	Amanda Milke	Bob Krimminger
Finance Sec	Andrea Cline	Kathy Hartsell
Trustee Chair	TBD	TBD
SPRC Chair	William Beaver	N/a
A/C delegate	Penny McCulloh(res)	
Lay Speakers	William Beaver Dusty Morgan	

2019 MLK Celebration

THEME: Living into the Dream: All of God's Children! WHEN: January 19, 2019 - Registration begins @ 9:00 am; Celebration begins @ 10:00 am WHERE: University City UMC, 3825 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269

Upcoming 5th Sundays

12/30/18

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Make Your Voice Heard: Delegation Listening Sessions

November 29, 2018

The Western North Carolina Conference General Conference Delegation invites you to join them at a **Make Your Voice Heard: Delegation Listening Session**. Two opportunities are available and will be identical so you can register for the one that you prefer.

Saturday, January 5	First United Methodist Church in Morganton (200 N. King St, Morganton)	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 6	First United Methodist Church in Salisbury (217 S. Church St., Salisbury)	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The time together will include overview information, covenant, and Q&A; table conversations with delegation members at each table; personal statements by participants; and, commissioning of the delegation. Delegation members will be present and available around tables to participate in discussion and hear your perspectives.

<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/make-your-voice-heard-delegation-listening-sessions-/make-your-voice-heard-delegation-listening-sessions-12483050>

Safe Sanctuaries

God calls us to make our churches safe places, protecting children and other vulnerable persons from sexual and ritual abuse. God calls us to create communities of faith where children and adults grow safe and strong.

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Always stay current with news and happenings in the Western NC Conference And the Metro District...<https://www.wnccumc.org/>

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Commission on a Way Forward

Human Sexuality in the Methodist Church

<https://www.wnccumc.org/commissiononawayforwardresources>

See the entire report at

<https://wnc-www.brtsite.com/newsdetail/way-forward-report-released-in-all-four-official-languages-of-general-conference-11609061>

Mission and Service Opportunities



<https://www.opphouse.net/>

704/786-4020



<http://cooperativeministry.com/>

704/786-4709



<https://www.facebook.com/Jamis-Halo-714036168633296/>



Please SEND (front only) of your recycled cards (except for Hallmark, American Greetings or Disney) to: [St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's St., Boulder City, NV 89005](https://stjudesranch.org/recycled-card-program/)

<https://stjudesranch.org/recycled-card-program/>

Wings of Eagles Ranch
therapeutic horseback riding & outdoor adventure center

<http://wingsofeaglesranch.org/you-can-help.html>

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Relief Supply Kits

<https://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>

Disaster Response Team Opportunities and Training

<https://www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Volunteer-Opportunities/Types-of-Volunteers/Disaster-Response/Disaster-Response>

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