



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

The Kedron Connection

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From Our Pastor

Isaiah 40:9-11

This newsletter should arrive close to December 1, our first Sunday of four in the Advent season. December 1 is also famous for two other events in U.S. history.

On that day in 1878 the first telephone was installed in the White House. Communication from the executive branch of government took a big leap forward from mail and telegraph! And in 1891 James Naismith instructed his students to toss soccer balls into peach baskets that he had nailed at opposite ends of a gym. Basketball was born from the desire to create an indoor sport for exercise in winter.

Don't you think that in some ways these "events" sum up the Advent season? Get the Word out, "communicate" the birth of a child who is Savior and while doing that have fun, enjoy, share with a "team" of others in "exercising" our faith in God! The church is all about communicating the message of Jesus by Word and deed, by song and sermon, gift giving and receiving. And in the "doing of sharing," church folks, Christ followers, have a good time, enjoy multiple blessings and remember the reason for the season!

So, "pick up the phone" and share a "full court" of faith and joy with others. Find ways in December to make a difference in the lives of others who need to know the Word, experience the faith, and find joy in the life God has given us in Christ Jesus!

Happy Advent....Merry Christmas!

Pastor Barry

Men's Breakfast- All Invited

All of our congregation is invited to the December Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 7. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This will be a time of good fellowship and good food. Thank you, men.

No December Fellowship Supper

There will be no First-Wednesday Fellowship Supper in December.

Bible Study

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at his home on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. The address is 1215 Ledbury Dr., Smyrna. There will be no study on December 3. The group will meet again on December 10.

Youth

Our Youth Faith Formation study group is active. Our congregation was blessed by their participation in Worship Service in November. We are grateful for our children and youth and those who have worked with and supported them and their adult leaders.

Bucket Offerings

In December our bucket offerings at Sunday morning worship will be used at Kedron for Christmas gifts for our children and youth.

Food Bank

You may bring food donations for the local food bank on the first and second Sundays of the month. Place the donations on the pew in the narthex. The food will be delivered to the food bank. The suggested item for December is sugar-free food.. All non-perishable foods are accepted and appreciated. The need is great.

Laity

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will not meet in December.

An Invitation

Open House at the Culbertsons'
December 15, 2:00- 5:00 p.m.
Snacks and Carols
2232 Racquet Club Drive
Murfreesboro

Sunday Morning, December 22

We hope all can join us on this Sunday before Christmas Day. Our time of worship will be as usual, 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Program – Our Christmas

Program will be presented during the morning worship service. Delann Dunbar is writing and directing the program.

Fellowship – Following worship service we will gather in the fellowship hall to share snacks.

Christmas Cards – If you want to bring cards for the church family, they will be distributed. There will be a basket for the money you would have spent on postage if you want to donate this to the church.

Christmas Eve

This year our December 24 Christmas Eve Service will be at Kedron. We will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Happy Birthday to:

Kristy Fraley	December 6
Martha Fraley	December 8
Marc Fraley	December 11
Linda Pagello	December 11
Alfred Rhodes	December 12
Danny Fraley	December 14
Jane Watts	December 24

Happy Anniversary to:

Ricky & Lynn Fann December 22

Thank You

Many thanks to Delann Dunbar for planning beautiful and creative worship services for All Saints Sunday and the November 10 service focused on veterans. Thank you also to all those who helped.

Where in Scripture is this found?

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

NRSV

(hint - book of Luke)

Psalm 100 was the Psalm quoted in the November newsletter.



“Isn't there anyone who can tell me what Christmas is all about?”

Prayer:

Thank you, loving God, for making our world and all the things in it. Thank you for loving our world so much that you sent Jesus to share your love with us and show us how to love one another. Help us to celebrate Christmas every day by sharing your love all year 'round. Amen.

December Calendar

Sunday, December 1:

1st Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Saturday, December 7:

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, All Invited

Sunday, December 8:

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, December 10:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, December 15:

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

2-5 p.m. Open House at the Culbertsons'

Tuesday, December 17:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, December 22:

4th Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Christmas Program

10:30 a.m. Fellowship and Snacks

Christmas Cards

10:30 a.m. January, 2020 newsletter information due. Email:

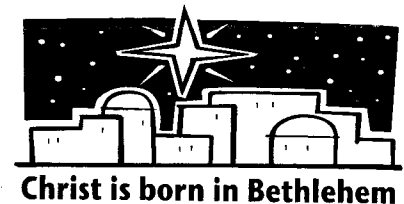
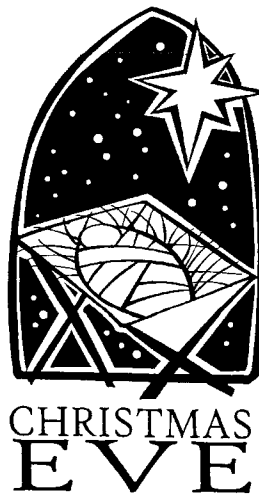
lf_fraley@prodigy.net

or phone: 615-459-2618.

Sunday, December 29:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

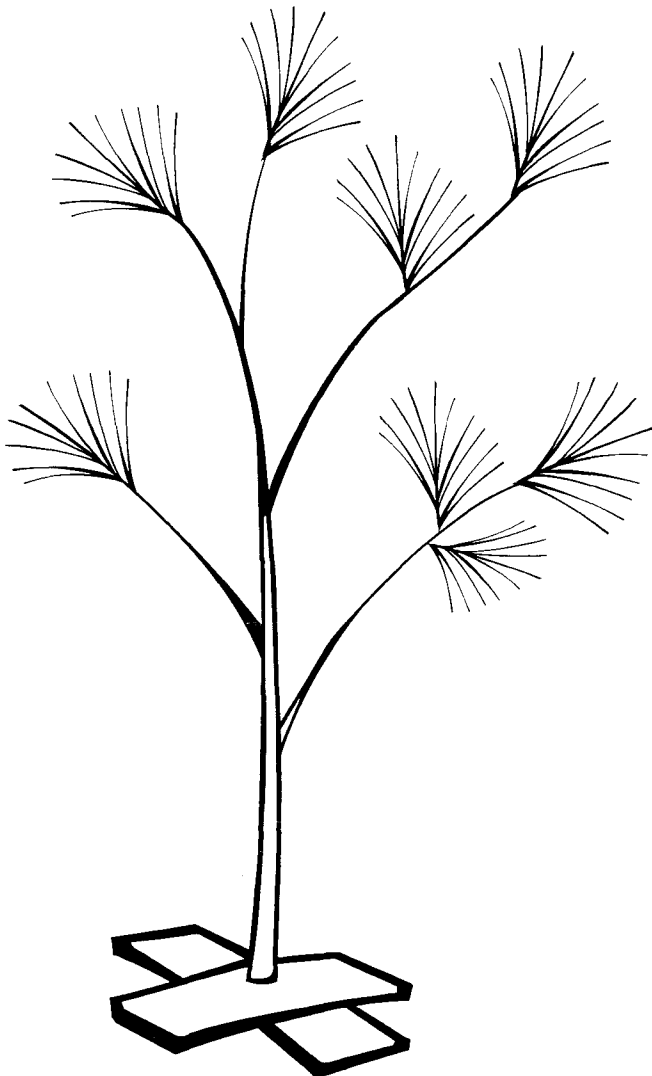
9:30 a.m. Worship Service



Telling the Story of Jesus' Birth

The Christmas story is well known by many people. Even people who aren't Christian could probably make a list of details from the story. We see the story in seasonal cards and decorations. We play out the story in seasonal cards and decorations. We play out the story through Christmas pageants and programs. We sing the story with the soundtracks playing in the stores and elevators.

Make a list of things you remember from the Christmas story; then read the beginning of the Gospel of Mark (1:1-13). How many of the things on your list are mentioned in the Gospel of Mark? Where does it say he was born? Did any special visitors attend his birth? When is the first time Jesus is even mentioned? If Mark was the only Gospel we had to learn about Jesus and we wanted to celebrate Jesus' birth, what kinds of Christmas ornaments might we put on our trees? Look back at Mark 1 to get some ideas; then add them to this Christmas tree!



The four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – are not “eyewitness reports” of Jesus’ life. No scribes or reporters were at Jesus’ birth, writing down everything that happened. Instead, people heard stories about Jesus that were passed from person to person and faithfully told over and over. About 40 years after Jesus’ resurrection, people began to write down the story of Jesus’ life and ministry. Each Gospel tells that story from a certain point of view and each is addressed to a different community of readers – some who were mostly Jewish and knew the stories of the Hebrew Scriptures and others who did not. This is why details in the four Gospels do not always match.

So how can we know Jesus Christ – really *know* him? Dr. Thomas G. Long writes: “As we read and think about the Bible’s stories about Jesus we will come to understand that Jesus is not just a person who once lived and died. We will learn about his special relationship with God and with other people, and we will see that the risen Christ is with us still.”

Read the beginning of the other three Gospels – the place where Jesus’ birth story would likely be found – and fill in the chart to compare the details in each story.

	Matthew 2:1-23	Luke 2:1-20	John 1:1-5, 14-18
Place of Jesus' birth			
Visitors			
Other details			