



EVANGEL HEIGHTS UMC BEACON

A Stephen Ministry Congregation December 10, 2017

Church Office – 574-234-8379 Website: www.eheights.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EvangelHeightsUMC

Rev. Dr. Patrick Somers, Senior Pastor, Ext 106 or pat@eheights.org.

Night Emergencies 574-273-0655

Pastor Carl Hetler, Youth Ministries, Ext 102 or carl@eheights.org. Night Emergencies 574-520-2985

Kathy Canarecci, Office Manager, Ext 101 or kathy@eheights.org

Janet Brooks, PDO Preschool, 574-232-6480

Carol Robison, "Sunshine" Disability Ministries, 574-291-5951



We began the Advent season last Sunday celebrating the power of God's presence and how Jesus teaches us in many ways to be present to others, listening, loving and caring.

The opening lines of Psalm 139 enlarge our understanding of just how inescapable God's presence is:

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.... Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day. For darkness is as light to you.

In other words, we cannot take a breath or take a step without being in the presence of God. Praise God!

Pastor Pat

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR HONDURAS

In the wake of elections, unrest has rippled across Honduras.

Curfews have been established, especially in the city of Tegucigalpa where our own Lindsey Kalk lives. Please be in special prayer for her during this unsettled time. We are grateful that Lindsey does have a network of friends where she lives. Pray for peace.





CHRISTMAS PAGEANT needs props to help create a 1930-1940's environment! Could you loan Kelsey Clear one of these items?

For Five and Dime Store set:

- ★ Candy for display (some real, some fake) candy canes, other candies you would find in a five and dime
- ★ garlands, wreaths
- ★ small poinsettias
- ★ plain red and white stockings
- ★ cash register
- ★ Nativity sets
- ★ "popcorn" (real or fake) and string and needles
- ★ Casserole dish
- ★ Vintage cookie box
- ★ Older looking board games:
 - ★ Monopoly,
 - ★ Game of Life
 - ★ Sorry!
 - ★ Chutes and ladders
 - ★ Scrabble, etc

BROADWAY CHRISTIAN PARISH HAS PUT OUT AN SOS FOR NEW OR GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR THEIR SOS JUBILEE. THEY NEED THE BOOKS BY DECEMBER 15. PLEASE PUT THEM IN THE SUNSHINE ROOM IF YOU'RE ABLE TO HELP.

They must be at the church no later than Saturday, December 9. Please place them in the fellowship hall, next to the north side of the stage. We appreciate your generosity in helping us prepare for the Christmas program.



CHRISTMAS TREE OF HOPE

There are just a few gifts remaining on the Tree of Hope. Let's empty the tree! Please return your unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 10. Thank you for your ongoing support for the families at Hope Ministries.





CRAFT SHOW NEWS

Once again, I must thank all those who contributed to another successful craft show this year. Special thanks to the Clear family, who did such a great job of setting up and taking down the tables and chairs; to Marilyn Ehret for running Attic Treasurers; Jan Stinchcomb for an awesome \$1500 profit for the Bake Sale; and Lisa Meredith for spearheading the food again. Kathy Canarecci always graciously did the computer work, and Brenda Emmerth and Tina Harris stepped in to fill slots at the last minute. Carol and Tom Nelson and Maureen and Bill King also provided invaluable help. Our total for the show was over \$4,600. All this could not have been possible without all the other church members who volunteered. We are truly blessed. Sande Stanley



CHRISTMAS EVE MEALS AT HOPE

Evangel Heights continues the tradition of providing all three meals for Hope Ministries on Christmas Eve. The full meal schedule and menus are now posted on the bulletin board across from the office. There are still possibilities to assist in serving, especially lunch and dinner. There are many opportunities to provide food items indicated on the various menus. Please sign up for what you can bring. When you bring food items into the church, please clearly mark for which meal your donations are offered. Thank you!



'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,' Matthew 25:35.

EHUMC has again put the words of Jesus in action. The school kits for UMCOR have been shipped.

Gail Galloway



PIANO FUND, PHASE TWO.

Behind the scenes, over the past month, special contributions toward reconditioning our historic grand piano have surpassed \$11,070.00. That means we are nearly a third of the way to our goal of \$30,000, the cost of reconditioning the piano. Thank you so much! Work has already begun and will take from six to eight months to complete. The piano now in use in the Sanctuary has been loaned to us at no cost. Praise God! While the work continues, we have only \$19,470.00 to go.

- You could fund
 - a string for \$10 (there are 236 strings)
 - a hammer for \$15 (there are 88 hammers)
 - a note (one key) for \$100 (there are 88 keys)
 - a chord (three keys) for \$300
 - a scale (eight keys) for \$800 (There are 88 keys on a piano)
- You could fund
 - a peddle for \$1,400 (There are three peddles on a piano)
 - The wood refinishing for \$2,000 now funded
 - The bench has already been funded.



Perhaps this could be a special Christmas gift to the church! Or, you can spread your gift over the next 4 months during the rebuilding process. Please mark checks or envelopes "Piano Fund." Thank you! You are a blessing.

ARE YOU AGE 70 ½ OR OLDER?

You may make a donation to Evangel Heights, as part of your required minimum distribution (RMD), by making a transfer from your IRA directly to the church. For some, this may be an advantage as it does not incur a tax consequence. Several people in the church have taken advantage of this possibility over the years. The IRS has now made this a permanent tax break. Please inquire of your financial or tax advisor for details.



John Bliley would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Just as a reminder, he is not allowed to receive any type of cards. Any correspondence needs to be on lined white paper and in a white envelope.



A WORD OF THANKS, PRAISE, AND JOY!!!!

The Briggs family, Sandy included, want to thank the entire family of Evangel Heights United Methodist Church for your overwhelming support and prayers through our path over these past months. My motto in life (which I am certain my children grow tired of hearing me say) is, "Find a way to win." Which we have done and will continue to do as we find our way into a new normal. This would have been unthinkable more difficult without the support that we have from all of you, God, and Jesus Christ.

There are certainly emotions of grief, sorrow, and longing. Yet through all of this, I have been continually filled with gratitude and hope for the future. I am grateful for all of the help, support and prayers from all of you. I praise God and Jesus Christ to have given us the strength to bring us through this far with confidence that that same strength will be provided us going forward. I praise God and Jesus Christ that through our 21-month journey from diagnosis to the end that Sandy felt tranquility and comfort, undoubtedly provided through divine intervention, supported in no small part by your prayers. I praise God and Jesus Christ that I had the ability to be able to be at home and care for Sandy during the final weeks when she could not care for herself. A special thank you to those of you who interrupted your lives to be at the house caring for Sandy so that I could support our children through their extracurricular activities. Through her journey there were times of discomfort for Sandy quickly corrected through pain medication. I praise God and Jesus Christ that throughout the entire 21 months that there were but 4 to 5 short hours of uncontrolled pain which God saw fit to allow at a time when our children were at school not having to witness. Thank you to Heartland Hospice for quickly stepping in to relieve Sandy's pain. I praise God and Jesus Christ that Sandy's sisters and longtime best friend from high school were able to be at our house during Sandy's final couple hours of physical life. I praise God and Jesus Christ that Sandy was able to have her wishes of spending those final few weeks in our home.

With sorrow comes JOY!!!! I am happy to announce that Kelsey is due to deliver our first grandchild June 20, 2018.

Joe Briggs



December 10, 2017 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Send Peace

December 17, 2017 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Children's Pageant

Share Joy

December 24, 2017 10 a.m. only

Wrap in Love



8:00 a.m. Prepare and serve breakfast at Hope Ministry
Doug and Sherry Kalk

10:00 a.m. One Advent Service

12:00 noon Prepare and serve lunch at Hope Ministry
Marty and Donna Kooy

5:00 p.m. Prepare and serve dinner at Hope Ministry
Joe and Brenda Emmerth

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Candle Lighting Service
with Chancel Choir and Evangel Ringers

11:00 p.m. Dynamic Candle Lighting Service with gifted
Musicians

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 10 TO DECEMBER 16

Sunday, December 10

- 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Children's Practice
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, December 11

- 1:45 p.m. Tanglewood Service
- 6:30 p.m. Nurture Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study at Hetler's

Tuesday, December 12

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Prayer

Wednesday, December 13

- 11:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study
- 12:45 p.m. Mosaic
- 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon
- 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group

Thursday, December 14

- 6:00 p.m. Evangel Ringers' Practice
- 6:30 p.m. Friendship Bible Study
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 15

- 6:30 p.m. God Sightings meeting at Deethardt's

Saturday, December 16

- 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Children's Pageant Dress Rehearsal



Last Week's Beacon Follows





First Sunday of Advent

EVANGEL HEIGHTS UMC BEACON

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 3, 2017

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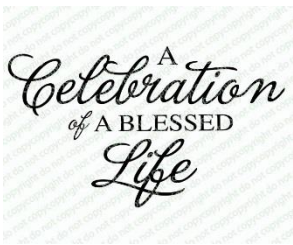
Pastor's Page

The Advent Season starts December 1 with the first Sunday in Advent on December 3. Many activities alert us to this season, especially around the church. A new devotional book is available, if you haven't already picked one up during the past week. The Sanctuary will wear its Christmas wardrobe. Advent Wreath lighting by several families in the church will punctuate our worship services over the next four weeks. Preparations for the Christmas Eve meals at Hope Ministries will escalate over the next couple weeks. The children and youth will put finishing touches on their annual Christmas Pageant (Dec. 17 at 10:00). The office will buzz with activity, as will The Chancel Choir and Evangel Ringers, as we ramp up preparations for Christmas Eve services at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Why do we do all this? To celebrate the Greatest Gift, God with us, Jesus. Over the years, the celebration of Christmas has grown simpler and more focused for me. Our home does not mark the season by Black Friday or Cyber Monday. We mark the season with the gifts of faith, peace, joy and love, gifts that are the costliest, because Christ gave his life for us, and gifts that cost us nothing, because Christ, once again, freely gives these gifts to us.

Take a breath. Remember, God loves you with an everlasting love.

Peace,
Pastor Pat



SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE December 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Palmer Funeral Home, Palmer Community Complex, 601 North Michigan Street, (Old Route 31) in Lakeville. Every year, Palmer Funeral Homes host a memorial service for those who have had loved ones die, especially during the past year. Pastor Pat will be leading the service this year. You are welcome to attend.



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- ★ Older looking board games:
 - ★ Monopoly,
 - ★ Game of Life
 - ★ Sorry!
 - ★ Chutes and ladders
 - ★ Scrabble, etc

Ideally, if these could be brought to the church by this Sunday, December 3, that would be wonderful. They must be at the church no later than Saturday, December 9. Please place them in the fellowship hall, next to the north side of the stage. We appreciate your generosity in helping us prepare for the Christmas program.

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Evangel Heights continues the tradition of providing all three meals for Hope Ministries on Christmas Eve. Additional information is now posted on the bulletin board across from the office. The breakfast coordinators are Doug and Sherry Kalk. The lunch

coordinators are Marty and Donna Kooy (new participants at Evangel Heights – let's give them a hand!). The dinner coordinators are Joe and Brenda Emmerth. Thank you meal coordinators and helpers!

CHRISTMAS TREE OF HOPE

There are just a few gifts remaining on the Tree of Hope. Let's empty the tree! Please return your unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 10. Thank you for your ongoing support for the families at Hope Ministries.





December 3, 2017 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Be Present

December 10, 2017 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Send Peace

December 17, 2017 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Children's Pageant

Share Joy

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7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Candle Lighting Service
with Chancel Choir and Evangel Ringers

11:00 p.m. Dynamic Candle Lighting Service with gifted
Musicians

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 3 TO DECEMBER 9

Sunday, December 3

- 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Children's Practice
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Grace Notes
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, December 4

- 9:30 a.m. PDO Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Funeral Visitation
- 1:30 p.m. Perez Funeral Service
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study at Hetler's

Tuesday, December 5

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Design
- 11:30 a.m. Prayer
- 5:30 p.m. MYM Board Meeting
- 6:45 p.m. Bulla Bible Study

Wednesday, December 6

- 11:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon
- 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. Spirit Moves

Thursday, December 7

- 9:30 a.m. PDO Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. God Sighting/Caregivers at Robison's
- 6:00 p.m. Evangel Ringers' Practice
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 8

- 6:00 p.m. SPRC Staff Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. God Sightings meeting at Deethardt's

