

The Circuit Rider



Vol. XXII, No. 49 Dec. 6, 2017 University United Methodist Church 2220 N Yale Ave Wichita, KS 67220 316-686-67658

Grace and peace to you!

We are in the season of advent. This is a time of waiting with anticipation for the coming Christ Child. My preaching is based on the narrative lectionary which is a four-year cycle of the scriptures. The narrative lectionary gives us access to some of the scriptures which are not heard from in the revised common lectionary. December 3 was one of those Sundays when we heard a new story. It may have not been “new” as most children have heard the story some time in their Sunday school classes or vacation bible school. In the reading we learn about King Nebuchadnezzar and his fear which drove him to force people to abandon their Jewish faith or face death. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship the idol and were thrown in the fire. They went into the fire and came out of the fire. The King was so impressed with God’s presence with them that he issued a decree of protection.

Fear is the driving force of much of the world’s politics, including work place politics. Fear is exchanged for living in silence when words of truth need to be spoken. Fear is held over the heads of people who are often ignored or invisible when others hold power. We are called to step into these spaces to share what we can with mercy and justice for all people. We can and will need to use our own power to advocate for safety, well-being, and quality of life for all people. During this season of anticipation will you use the power you have to help a neighbor or friend? Will you give of yourself to someone who has no means of paying back your act of kindness?

An advent devotional guide is found on the welcome table in the narthex. These readings are available to share with others. You may use the devotions until Epiphany which is January 6. Also available is a kindness calendar for the month of December. Each day has a suggestion of a means of kindness in the world. Will you join the movement to bring kindness into our world during the month of December?

After worship the children’s team practiced the play the children will bring to us on the evening of December 17. Oh my! This is a wonderful telling of the Christmas story. Mark your calendars so that you don’t miss it. This play has it all: costumes, speaking parts, music and adorable kids. Refreshments will be served after the program.

This season is one of welcome and hospitality and it makes the perfect opportunity to invite someone to church with you. Offer to pick them up and give them a ride. On Sunday, December 17, the Chancel Choir will bring us an amazing worship experience with “Ceremony of Carols”. We will have two services on December 24 as it is the fourth Sunday of advent as well as Christmas Eve. Advent 4 will be at 10:30 a.m. and Candlelight Christmas Eve will be at 7:00 p.m. This is a great time to reach out to someone without a church home to feel the possibility of community which comes with a church connection.

May the lights of the season remind us that we are people of the light. We are the people bringing light into the places where people need hope, peace, joy, and love. May they know we are Christians by our love. May it be so.

Shalom,
Pastor Jo

Reading ahead for the week: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Prayer for the week

God, we wait with you in the stillness. We wait, grateful for the chance to be quiet. We wait for the breath of your Spirit to breathe life into the weariness of our bones. Amen.

Calendar

Wednesday, December 6

10:30 a.m. – Line Dancing
5:30 p.m. – The Lord's Diner
6:00 p.m. – Snack Supper
6:30 p.m. – Youth Group
6:30 p.m. – B*L*A*S*T
6:30 p.m. – Christmas Gifts
7:00 p.m. - Nursery
7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice

Thursday, December 7

Friday, December 8

Office closes at noon

Saturday, December 9

Sunday, December 10

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m. – Worship

Monday, December 11

3:00 p.m. - Circuit Rider articles due

Tuesday, December 12

11:45 a.m. – Read & Eat Book Club

Wednesday, December 13

10:30 a.m. – Line Dancing
6:00 p.m. – Snack Supper
6:30 p.m. – Youth Group
6:30 p.m. – B*L*A*S*T
7:00 p.m. - Nursery
7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice

Thursday, December 14

10:00 a.m. – SEWcial Circle

Friday, December 15

Office closes at noon

Saturday, December 16

Sunday, December 17

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m. – Worship – Ceremony of Carols
11:45 a.m. – Christmas Dinner
5:00 p.m. – Children's Christmas Program

Please Remember in Prayer:

Gary Logan, Amos Nsabimana,
Curt Terflinger, Lance Dixon
Martha Holroyd, Diana Alexander
Susan Daniel-Brey, Bill Daniel
Tiffany Dick, Sylvia Kulmeier
Barbara Oldham, Fred Kuhlman

Please hold in tenderness

Jan Messmen's family
following her death.

Attendance

December 3

Worship

171

Sunday School

70

General Offering

\$8052.38

December 10

Acolytes

John Obama
Linley Owen

Ushers

Bruce Walton
Bob Alley
Doug Marshall
Ryan Owen

Administrative Ministry

Janel Slaughter
Keith Miers

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to provide flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one this Christmas, you may do so by filling out the card that will be provided in this Sunday's bulletin. If you will not be in attendance on Sunday, you can mail in your order to UUMC 2220 N. Yale Ave Wichita, KS 67220. Be sure to include a payment of \$15, your name and the name of who you are honoring. Please have all requests turned in by Sunday, December 17. The poinsettias will be available for pick-up after 7:00 worship service on Christmas Eve. If you have any questions, contact Katie at 316-686-6765.

Christmas Gifts That Don't Break is a study the children and youth are using this Advent season. Adults can study the materials on Wednesdays December 6, 13 and 20 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No books to read. If you would like to participate contact Katie at 686-6765.

Hugs Tree for Missions

During the month of December, the missions team will be collecting new hats, underwear, gloves, and socks. Please bring in these items (in all sizes, especially larger sizes) beginning this Sunday and place them under the Hugs Tree located in the Gathering Place. Contact the office at 686-6765 with any questions.

A big thank you to the Knit Wits who contributed well over 150 hats and scarves to the HUGS tree. Thank you for thinking of others throughout the year.

Nancy and Ken Fugate are proud to announce that Alex Fugate is graduating from Butler CC with his degree in nursing. Pinning ceremony is at 7pm on December 7th in the 500 building on Butler campus in Eldorado. There will be a live feed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/butlerccVideo> Congratulations cards can be sent to 558 S Fountain, Wichita KS, 67218.

Ayden Chalfant is with the Southeast High School band performing at the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii this week.

Would you like to help with a shower of Christmas greetings? Here is an opportunity to extend good wishes of joy and hope. Randy is Diana Kramer's son. Do not include anything in the Christmas card as he is not allowed to accept anything but mail.

Mailing Address:

Randall Myers #109887

Norton Correctional Facility East Unit

210 S Cedar

PO Box 527

Stockton, KS 67669

E4 – Energy, Environment, Economics, and Ethics (12/4/2017)

50 TOWNS AND CITIES HAVE COMMITTED TO 100% CLEAN ENERGY

A total of 50 towns and cities have made commitments to transition to 100% clean energy, and have joined the Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" campaign. Greensburg, KS, Aspen, CO, Burlington, VT, Kodiak, AK and Rock Port, MO have already achieved 100% clean energy. Another 45 cities across the nation from Maine to Florida and from Washington state to California have pledged to achieve 100% clean energy before the year 2050. In addition, four counties nation-wide have joined the commitment. Hawaii is the first state in the U.S. to set a state-wide goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050.

WHAT DOES THE "READY FOR 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2050" MEAN?

Participating in program means that the town, city or state has established a goal and target time through a stand-alone Resolution or Proclamation, or an integrated Community Action Plan or Energy Action Plan. Guidelines:

- Community-wide Electricity Use: A full transition of the electrical sector to clean, renewable energy.
- Timing: no later than 2035 for electricity,
- No later than 2050 for all energy sectors.

SAVE ENERGY AND EMISSIONS WITH LED CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

This year, we retired all our old incandescent Christmas lights and decorations, and switched to 100% LED. The new LED lights save 80% of the energy, are cooler, and reduce fire risk, and are quite reasonably priced.

GIFT TO THE PLANET...100% Renewables by 2050

The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Pastor or the UUMC Administrative Council...Bill Wentz, UUMC environmental guru

Join us on Sunday December 17

Third Sunday in Advent – Ceremony of Carols 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Dinner – Enjoy fellowship and a warm meal – 11:45 a.m.

Christmas Program – The children will preform "Room at the Inn" and sing – 5:00 p.m.