

Shiloh United Methodist Church

2380 State Road AA P.O. Box 756

Holts Summit, MO 65043

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Shilohumc@embarqmail.com

www.shilohumcmidstate.org

Sunday Worship – 9:00 AM

Sunday School – 10:00 AM

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

December 2011

Wait For It....

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Most of us have either experienced or observed the anticipation with which a young child awaits Christmas morning. They often try just about every trick in the book to make it come earlier; to somehow rush Santa Claus into delivering the presents early; or trying to make Christmas day come sooner. Yet, there is no way to make it come any faster than it does, and the excitement of Christmas day is all the better because they had to wait for it to get there. So why is it that adults don't show the same kind of patience when it comes to the Christmas season?

As we enter the period called Advent – that time where we are supposed to be preparing ourselves for the joy of the arrival of the Christ child – we seem to look for all kinds of ways to make it go faster. We start the shopping right after Thanksgiving, even though we won't open the presents until Christmas Day. We spend weeks engaging in parties, dinners, and celebrations, even though the event we are supposedly celebrating won't be here until December 24th/25th. We want to sing Christmas carols for the whole month before the blessed event, even though we have weeks afterward to sing and celebrate. And then when it does come, we want to move on as quickly as possible to the New Year, and return to our normal lives. We seem to be taking our clues from the secular world which is more interested in shopping, partying, traveling and overeating than they are celebrating the reason for the season – the birth of hope and salvation in the form of Jesus Christ.

The liturgical calendar is supposed to take us in a different direction; yet it is one we are more likely to resist than to follow. The whole point of Advent is to develop the discipline of waiting on God, and preparing for the second coming of Christ. That is what we celebrate on Christmas Day – the return of God to earth, the birth of hope, the conquering of the secular world by divine plan – as well as the time afterwards that we call Christmastide and Epiphany. Our approach to the Christmas season should be different from the rest of the world, because we know that the time of celebration comes after Christmas, not before.

We will have plenty of time to celebrate the arrival and promise of God throughout the rest of the Christian year. But right now it is our turn to wait, and to wait as God wishes us to wait. God wants us to absorb the enormity of the moment and ponder the implications for our lives and ourselves, when we accept that the first Christmas is only a prelude to the second coming; and that the second coming means the end of this world that we find ourselves so attached to and the beginning of the Reign of God. To think of it this way gives a whole new meaning to the holiday season, and I hope serves to bring us closer to where God wants us to be when Jesus returns.

So have a patient Advent, a blessed Christmas, and an even more joyful Epiphany season as we rejoice, pray, and give thanks to the one who makes it all possible.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave



DECEMBER

- Sun, 11/27/11 First Sunday of Advent
- Sun, 12/4/11 Holy Communion Sunday
UMW Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale @ New Bloomfield UMC,
11:30am – 4:30 pm
New Bloomfield Christmas Parade,
2:00pm
- Mon, 12/5/11 Choir Practice, 5:45 pm
- Thur, 12/8/11 SERVE Food Pantry, 1:00 pm
- Sat, 12/10/11 Holts Summit Christmas Parade
- Sun, 12/11/11 Aluminum Can Recycling Pick-up
- Tues, 12/13/11 Twilight Zone @ New Bloomfield UMC, 11:00 am
- Sun, 12/18/11 Brown Bag Sunday
Wainwright Candlelight Communion Service, 7:00 pm
- Mon, 12/19/11 Choir Practice, 5:45 pm
- Sat, 12/24/11 Candlelight Communion Service @ New Bloomfield, 8:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 11:00 pm
- Sun, 12/25/11 Christmas Day
Worship Service, 9:00am
Worship Service, 6:45 pm
- Sun, 1/1/11 Epiphany Sunday
New Year's Day
Holy Communion Sunday
Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service, 9:00 am & 6:45 pm
- Sun 1/8/11 Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Anyone who wishes to help with the lighting of the Advent Wreath during the worship service should contact Pastor Dave as soon as possible. We will need lighters for the next three Sundays as well as the Candlelight services on Sunday, December 18th and Christmas Eve, December 24th.



Birthdays This Month

The following members and friends of Shiloh United Methodist Church will be celebrating birthdays in December:

- | | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 12/2 | Terry Grable |
| 12/3 | Morgan DaiPrai |
| 12/9 | Ty Kasmann |
| 12/10 | Jim Seidl |
| 12/12 | Lyndsey Sheley |
| 12/14 | Oliver Schuchard |
| 12/16 | Aisha Hartsfield |
| 12/17 | Ron Bommel |
| | Jean Skouby |
| 12/26 | Iona Viessman |
| 12/28 | Carol Griffen |
| 12/30 | Carolyn Sundermeyer |



The following members and friends of Shiloh United Methodist Church will be celebrating wedding anniversaries in December:

- 12/16** **Oliver Schuchard & Daryl Rogers**

SERVE FOOD PANTRY

The November Food Pantry was one of our largest yet. We served 79 families, and had 20 volunteers. A special thank you is due the missions committee which donated 75 turkeys that were distributed for Thanksgiving. We are regularly serving around 75 families per month who do not have to use the gas to go to Fulton to pick up their food.

Our next effort will be Thursday, December 8th. Volunteers should plan on being here by 10:30 am to help unload the truck. We then share lunch and a time of fellowship before opening the pantry at 1:00 pm. Those of you who participate continue to make a big difference in our community.

The Third Sunday of every month is Brown Bag Sunday. You are invited to bring bags of canned goods and other non-perishable food items. As part of our assistance with the SERVE Food Pantry, we have been told that we can use some of the food which we collect here at the church to add-on to the food donations for large families. We will simply report the weight of the donations to SERVE and still get credit for the contributions, but we won't have to take them to Fulton. As of right now our pantry is low on:

Rice
Dry beans
Cereal
Oatmeal
Peanut Butter
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Meat – Tuna, Spam, etc.
Dry Milk
Crackers (all types)
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables (other than peas and corn)

Many of these items are also what we use to put together our emergency food boxes to hand out to families in crisis throughout the month. So we can contribute these

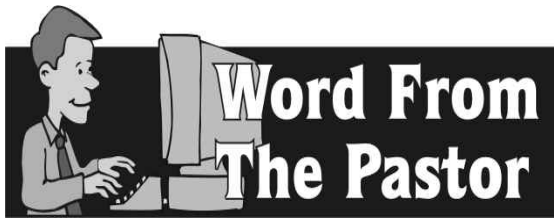
items to SERVE and distribute them as we now do in Holts Summit.



Marti Wilson is now teaching the children's Sunday School class. She is interested in knowing when families wish to have it taught (AM or PM). Anyone wishing to help can get Safe Sanctuary certified by checking out the Annual Conference Website at www.moumethodist.com and then going to the Safe Sanctuaries link. The training can be completed in about three hours, and you can do it over the course of a few days if desired. Any questions should be directed to Pastor Dave.

Check Out Our Website!

At the September Administrative Council meeting, Jeff Patridge reported that we have received over 300 unique hits on our website in the last year. If you haven't been there lately, you should really check it out. Jeff is to be commended for the job he has done both in structuring and maintaining the site. You can find it at www.shilohumcmidstate.org. You can find the church calendar, copies of the newsletter, pod casts of Pastor Dave's sermons, copies of the Pastor's Corner for the last few years, and links to the Our Journey Home webpage and our Facebook pages. This is one of our outreach efforts to the broader community, and the numbers show that there are people tuning in.



It has been quite awhile since we have had a newsletter, and I apologize for that. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for allowing me the leeway to both care for Janet and mourn her passing. I know that she would agree that both churches were so very gracious in understanding our situation and giving us the ability to spend her last year with one another. It was our hope that we were able to live that last year as a testimony to our commitment both to Christ and our ministry among you. For those of you who took the time to visit and help care for Janet, you were truly the Body of Christ to us in our time of need. To all who helped with the visitation and the memorial service, you helped to honor her memory as true Christians. I will never forget your compassion, your care, and your love during a very difficult time. May God bless each and every one of you.

I am trying to jump back into the job that you expect of me in the weeks and months to come. I have resumed office hours, and after the first of the year we will once again be resuming the mid-week bible studies. Most importantly, I will be trying to honor Janet by placing more effort into the Our Journey Home worship service. Janet was a key part of that effort, as both of us believed that the future of Shiloh United Methodist Church will be found in our continuing outreach to the Holts Summit community. The demographics show us that this is a predominantly un-churched population which is younger, less well-educated, and worse off financially than our current congregation. Our goal is not to create another congregation, but

rather to reach out to this population without disrupting the Sunday morning worship you are all so committed to. However, the model of evangelism practiced by our Lord is to meet them where they are and try to bring them into the church. Thus, Our Journey Home is billed as a service for those who have more questions than answers and who are looking for a relationship with Jesus Christ. I hope that some of you will join us in this effort.



We have received word on the specifics for WOW 2010 in Springfield on January 21st and 22nd. We can save \$15.00 per person if we get our registration in before December 12th. Early bird registration is \$60.00 per person, with the cost rising to \$75.00 each after that date. Any youth interested in accompanying us to WOW/ should contact Pastor Dave by December 11th. If you would like to invite friends to attend with us, you are encouraged and welcome to do so. The Youth Group will be contributing at least part of the cost, with the specific amount to be determined by the group. Any adults who would like to go as sponsors and chaperones should also contact Pastor Dave.

we have finally raised the necessary funds for the computer. By the end of the year we hope to have it up and running, which will allow us to keep all official church records in the office.

Lectiionary Readings

The following passages comprise the Lectionary readings for the month of December 2011:

12/4: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a ; Mark 1:1-8

12/11: Isaiah 62:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/18: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

12/24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

12/25: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

12/31: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21: 1-6a; Matthew 25: 31-46

1/1: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

1/9: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17



The time is upon us for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child and all

the festivities and commitments that go with it.

If you would like to help with the decoration of the sanctuary with Poinsettias, they are \$8.75 apiece. There will be forms in the bulletins for the first part of December to sign up for as many as you wish. Checks should be made payable to Noma Davis.

We will once again be setting up a card exchange in the narthex to facilitate the delivery of Christmas cards to one another. Bring your cards to church, and we will have a system devised to get them to the right place.

Thank you to all of those who helped decorate the church during the Hanging of the Greens. Your efforts help to foster in the Advent spirit within our worship.



Our candlelight services will take place on the following days and times:

Sunday, 12/18/11: Wainwright Candlelight Communion Service @ Shiloh UMC, 7:00 pm

Friday, 12/24/11: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service @ New Bloomfield UMC, 8:00 pm

Friday, 12/24/11: Christmas Eve Midnight Candlelight Communion Service @ Shiloh UMC, 11:00 pm

We will have regular worship services on Sunday, December 25th.



May Love, Joy and Peace fill your holiday season and the year to come.
May God Bless each of you,

Pastor Dave

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