

Food for thought from J

January 9, 2022

It's that time again! Time to make those New Year's resolutions and then see if we can stick to them for more than the couple of weeks that is, roughly, the average length of time the vast majority of people manage to stay committed to their best laid plans to lose weight, get in shape, save more money, etc., etc. And while this may seem like a fairly cynical view of the whole "resolutions" process, it's actually just a realistic assessment of the fate of anything we try/resolve to do on our own to change our lives for the better or to find joy, fulfillment, purpose - if it is not rooted, first, in a desire to seek God and God's kingdom.

At this same time last year, I offered an alternative to traditional types of resolutions from the wisdom of Methodism founder John Wesley who suggested 3 simple rules for Christian living:

- Do no harm
- Do all the good you can do
- Stay in love with God

While I certainly stand by these rules as an excellent template for growing in our relationship with God and living as faithful witnesses to the love of Christ, this year I want to suggest an even more fundamental starting point for real lasting change and for finding the lives of hope, peace, joy, love, fulfillment, and purpose that God wants us all to have as a result of God's work in and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

This year before we put any more time and effort into determining how we are going to improve ourselves and our lives, physically or spiritually, consider what it really means that we believe in a God - a self-existent, living, sentient being - with the ability and the will to create the universe and everything in it (including us) - out of nothing! Consider the mystery and awesome nature of that God who not only exists outside of time and space, but also, who is the author of that very same time and space in which we measure and experience our human existence. Consider that, ultimately, the God of the Bible is the one who created not only everything we see and experience around us, but also, is the one who made all the rules and the laws that govern every aspect of existence itself. Then consider the fact that this same awesome and incredible God so wants to have a personal relationship with us that God used that divine power to take on flesh - to be born as a human child - and lived among us so that, among other things, God's holy nature and plan for creation might be more clearly revealed to us, and that we might have a perfect example of how we should live, as humans ourselves, in relationship with God and with each other.

Then stop! Really stop!

Think about this. Take some time.

Contemplate it seriously.

Meditate on it.

Pray about it.

Now - how should this change your life?



IN MEMORIAM

Richard Shakman
December 17, 2021

"In my Father's house are many mansions..."

*The Chancel Flowers are given by
Mary and Cliff Livingston in
memory of their parents.*

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Sarah Crawford** by Ed Annable

In memory of **Richard Hammock** by Lynda &
Bennett Massey

In memory of **Wanda Jones** by Anne & Larry Spell;
Pathfinders Class; Linda & Wallace Twig; Doris Hicks

In memory **Robert Lorenzo Porter** by Pathfinders
Class

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **our Sunday School Teachers** by Goodwill
Sunday School Class

In honor of **Daniel Jason Allen** by Danette Copeland

In honor of **Beth and Larry Hendrickson** by Nancy
Hammond

In honor of **Dorothy Johnson** on her retirement by
Beverly Schlitzkus

Flower Delivery

Anne Spell

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

Epiphany: 'Usually a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.' For Christians, it is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).

Our Wynnton choirs wrap up Epiphany with stories of the journey to Bethlehem to worship the newborn King. Chorally, we move from the fatigue of the journey, to the excitement of the star sighting, and finally to the intimacy of the worship of a babe in a manger, the newborn King!

"Seeking the King" from Night of the Father's Love by Pepper Choplin

Seeking, seeking the newborn King.

The road is dark, the dust is dry. We find our path by starlight. We are seeking the King. We are seeking.

Though we are tired, the journey's long, we walk in faith to carry on. We are seeking the King. We are seeking.

We bring gold to crown Him with royalty, frankincense to show His divinity. We bring myrrh, the fragrance used when someone dies, though we're not sure the reason why. Seeking, seeking the newborn King.

Now, we are so tired, we've come so far, but now, once again, we see the star. We see the star, now we rejoice with great joy. We're rejoicing, for now we see the star of wonder, star of night, star of royal beauty bright.

Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light. Seeking, seeking the newborn King.

Seeking, seeking the newborn King. And when we find the newborn King, our greatest gift we then shall bring when we worship the King. We will worship the King. We will worship the King, we'll worship the newborn King.

Matthew 2:9-11 NIV

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and incense and of myrrh.

As always, I am so very grateful for the dedication and hard work of the Wynnton Choirs' members, as well as the loving support of our Wynnton family and friends. This year, may we all be blessed each season and every step of our Christian journey.

God's Great Peace to You!
Diana B.

JANUARY IS BACKPACKS OF GRACE MONTH AT WYNNTON!

Backpacks of Grace is a primary ministry of our church through which we provide weekend food for selected students in need at our Partner in Education school, Wynnton Arts Academy. Each Thursday morning, volunteers pack bags that are distributed at the school on Friday. We purchase many basic items from Feeding the Valley at low costs, but other, supplemental items must be purchased from retail food stores at higher prices. This is where you can help!

If you wish to donate, please choose items from the list below. They must be packaged in INDIVIDUAL SERVING containers. Also, NO PEANUTS can be in the product or in the manufacturing process (see "Contains" label on packages). Items which are particularly helpful are:

- Individual macaroni and cheese cups
- Individual snacks (cookies, crackers, etc.)
- Individual breakfast food (cereal, oatmeal, grits, etc.)
- Individual fruit cups (diced fruit, applesauce, etc.)

Of course, financial donations are always welcome, and they may be made through the church office.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

We received \$4,637.50 for our Thanksgiving offering that will go to Open Door and we receive \$2,632.50 for our Christmas offering that will be used for our Partner's in Education expenses at Wynnton Arts Academy.

Trinity House Needs

We are in need of personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotions, etc. If you can help, please leave your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall.

SUPPORT FOR UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the primary arm of the United Methodist Church that provides vital support for such missions as domestic and international disaster relief, global health, missionaries around the world, and evangelism/church revitalization. If you would like to support UMCOR financially, you can do so in the following ways:

1. Send your check, designated to UMCOR, to the church office and we will make sure it is forwarded to UMCOR.
2. Go to their website: <https://umcmmission.org> and follow the links for designating your gift to the mission of your choice. For those wishing to support relief efforts related to the recent disasters in Kentucky, you can designate your gift for US disaster relief.
3. You can also support UMCOR on an ongoing basis with the Amazonsmile program that will make automatic donations to UMCOR based on your spending with Amazon.

BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

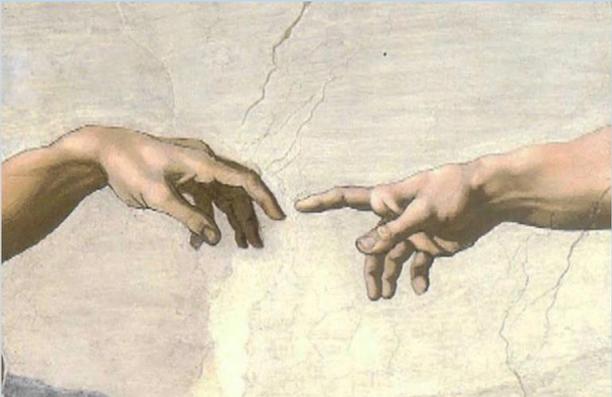
WE NEED YOU! - to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of February. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday. ...and also, please note that our sign-up sheets for the first quarter of 2022 are available on the sign-up table in the main hallway. Please be thinking of dates for which you can sign up over the next few months.

Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through 3-year olds is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for K-5th Grade is on the 2nd floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday school is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Through Old Testament stories and mission projects, our children have been learning who God is, how He loves us and is always with us, and how we are to love God and love others. These lessons have prepared us to meet Jesus during this Advent season. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on the second floor of the Grimes building.



Youth Sunday School

The youth have started a new series called, "Created in God's Image". Students from 6th through 12th grade are welcome to join us in The Basement at 9:45 Sunday mornings for coffee, donuts, and digging into God's word.

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Glenn Killough	Kathy Draughon
Matthew Allen	Debi Meacham Wright
Bobby Porch	Dorothy Robinson
Lillian Cox	Kerry Mess
Lynn Christenson	Jennefer Spell
Beverly Ragsdale	Jim Accordino
Jean McGlamry	Gena Tincher
Lenore Ash	Gwen Bolin

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Richard Geeslin
Family of Rubye Screws
Family of Stella Jambon
Family of Marjorie Croft
Family of Sarah Crawford
Family of Deanna Stevenson
Family of Wanda Jones
Family of Rick Mitchell
Family of Brad Trim

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 9

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
Streams Live on Facebook
11:00 a.m. Children's Church - Grimes Building

Monday, January 10

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 11

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
10:00 a.m. Quilting Group - Alpha Bldg.

Wednesday, January 12

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30-7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall
7:15-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 13

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace

SUNDAY'S SERMON

So, Who's Your God?
Exodus 3:1-14
Rev. J Grantham

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies Jan. 7 - 9
Rev. J Grantham 706-681-3258

END OF YEAR

General Fund.....	11,360.00
Audio Visual.....	3,000.00
Christmas.....	100.00
Endowment.....	13.02
Prepaid Pledges.....	1,700.00
UMCOR.....	200.00

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

January 9: Luke 9:28-62, Genesis 16, Psalm 9
January 10: Luke 10:1-20, Genesis 17, Psalm 10
January 11: Luke 10:21-42, Genesis 18, Psalm 11
January 12: Luke 11:1-28, Genesis 19, Psalm 12
January 13: Luke 11:29-54, Genesis 20, Psalm 13
January 14: Luke 12:1-31, Genesis 21, Psalm 14
January 15: Luke 12:32-59, Genesis 22, Psalm 15

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9	Doris Hicks, Rick Toelle
10	Barbara Blackwell, Margie Nell White
12	Natalie Hubbard, Jaleen Welch
13	Donna Thigpen

OUR STEWARDSHIP

12-26-21

General Fund.....	15,598.00
Endowment.....	75.00
Missions.....	52.00
Backpacks of Grace.....	1,235.00
Christmas Offering.....	910.00
Operation Christmas Child.....	37.00
Other Contributions.....	16.00
UMCOR.....	150.00

1-2-22

General Fund.....	7,941.00
Endowment.....	7.00
Music.....	20.00
Other Contributions.....	5.00