



Circuit Writer

The Monthly Newsletter of the Erlanger United Methodist Church - December 2017

Pastor's Pen

I hope the joy of Christmas is coming alive to each of you as we start this Advent Season. It is a busy time with all the decorating, cooking, shopping and parties. It also, though, calls us to a time of introspection and spiritual renewal. That also eats into our time, but I hope we don't set aside the important because the urgent is distracting us, often times that happens. We have a good Advent Devotional to help with that process. The Upper Room is always good, too. And the Bible, with the story of the original Christmas and all the prophecies about the coming of Christ is an excellent resource to use for inspiration.

It's amazing what you can think of in just a few minutes each day. If you take longer, it will help all the more. Ask yourself where you fit into the story. What character would you have been in the original version? Would you have been skeptical or excited? Would you have dropped everything to find Christ, or shrugged your shoulders with a "no big deal" attitude? It's pretty



clear everyone knew about it, but what percentage of the people actually did something with their knowledge?

Christmas is all about making that connection between our heads and our hearts. We know it's Christmas time, but is Christ really living in our hearts? And is what's sticking in our heads about Christ - or decorating and cooking and partying? Let's not lose the key component of the holiday in all the peripherals of the season.

It's a wonderful season for faith to come alive. Let's make that happen - at church, at home and everywhere we go. Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

joy
to the
world

See you in church!

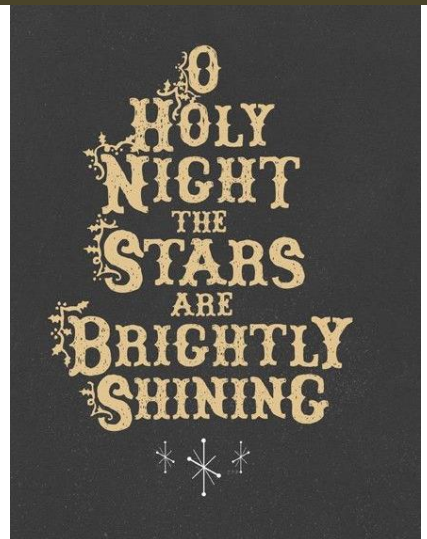
Pastor Mark



DECEMBER EVENT

Fri	1 st	7:00 p	Daycare Program
Sat	2 nd	8:15 a	UMM Devotional Lesson
		9:00 a	UMM Meeting
		9:30 a	Decorate for Christmas
Sun	3 rd	Hanging of the Greens	
		9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 a	Sunday School
		10:30 a	Worship
		4:30 p	Devotions
		5:30 p	Youth / Young Adult
Mon	4 th	7:00 p	SPRC
Tue	5 th	7:00 p	Bible Study
Wed	6 th	12:00 p	Caring Team
		7:00 p	Choir Practice
Thur	7 th	11:00 a	WIM - Christmas Luncheon
Sun	10 th	9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 a	Sunday School
		10:30 a	Worship
		4:30 p	Devotions
		5:30 p	Youth / Young Adult
Mon	11 th	7:00 p	Council On Ministries
Tue	12 th	7:00 p	Bible Study
Wed	13 th	6:00 p	CookieRama / Practice
		7:00 p	Choir Practice
Thur	14 th	6:00 p	Prayer Group
Fri	15 th	1:30 p	Church Christmas Lunch

Sat	16 th	5:00 p	Manna Mission Meal
Sun	17 th	9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 a	Sunday School
		10:30 a	Worship/Children's Program
		4:30 p	Devotions
		5:30 p	Youth / Young Adult
Mon	18 th	6:30 p	Trustee Meeting
Tue	19 th	7:00 p	Bible Study
Wed	20 th	7:00 p	Choir Practice
Sun	24 th	9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 a	Sunday School
		10:30 a	Worship
		6:30 p	Christmas Eve Service
Mon	25 th	Christmas Day	
Sun	31 st	9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 a	Sunday School
		10:30 a	Worship
		4:30 p	Devotions
		5:30 p	Youth / Young Adult



NOVEMBER TITHES AND OFFERING

Tithes	-	\$18,364.29
Sunday School	-	\$64.00
Loose Plate	-	\$302.25
GECDC	-	\$7,000.00
Upper Room	-	\$23.00

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	-	\$25,753.54
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Christmas Child	-	\$82.00
Adult Ministries	-	\$301.00
Emmaus Emergency	-	\$142.00
Emmaus Various Proj.	-	\$67.00
Emmaus Zimmerman	-	\$74.00
Flowers	-	\$190.00
Good Samaritan Fund	-	\$433.00
Manna Mission	-	\$336.00
Memorials	-	\$70.00
Methodist Home	-	\$160.00
Miscellaneous	-	\$100.00
Mission	-	\$53.91
Reimbursements	-	\$45.00
UCV	-	\$300.00
Women in Mission	-	\$312.00

SPECIAL GIFTS TOTAL	-	\$2,665.91
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GRAND TOTAL - \$28,419.45





From the EUMM

Hi Folks.

As we look back on 2017, we are very thankful for you, the congregation. The UMMen fundraisers are now closed for the year. May have one more donation. You supported us at the Brunch, You supported us at the Spaghetti Dinner. You supported us at the Ice Cream Social. You supported us at the Chicken Dinner. The car show was a great event. Decisions have been made to donate \$500.00 to Ida Spence, \$250.00 to The Zimmerman's, \$500.00 to Vines & Branches, \$500.00 to the KYUMH for Children & Youth, \$500.00 to Manna Mission, \$250.00 to Matthew 25, \$250.00 to Community Kindness and \$250.00 to Appointment Congo for the Law's. We are not done yet. At our next meeting we will have a little more money to give away. Without you, nothing would be possible. We are truly blessed to have so many caring folks in our congregation.

Canned goods update for the United Christian Volunteers. Thru November 30, 2017, 5,841 food items have been delivered. Emphasis in December is on "Christmas Fixings". Our goal for 2017 is 7,000 food items. I think we will reach that goal. But there are still hungry folks out there. Let's keep up the good work. There are many folks in the local area that can't afford enough food for their families. Your support has gone a long way in helping this cause. Thank you. Whatever you bring will be greatly appreciated.

We would like to invite all men to join the Erlanger United Methodist Men. Our next meeting is December 2, 2017, Saturday, 9:00 am at Erlanger UMC in the Asbury Room.

Thank you and GOD Bless you all. We look forward to a great 2018!!

THE MISSION OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON UNITED METHODIST MEN IS TO ASSIST MEN TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST, TO SERVE HIM, TO GROW SPIRITUALLY AND SEEK DAILY TO DO HIS WILL.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

We will be collecting old Christmas cards and any other greeting cards thru the end of January 2018. We will send these to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Place in mission's drawer 6 and 7. Thank you.



PRAYER CHAIN 2018

If you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain please call Mary Swanson at 859-727-1253 or Eleanora Wettig at 859-331-3295. If anyone needs to be taken off please let us know.

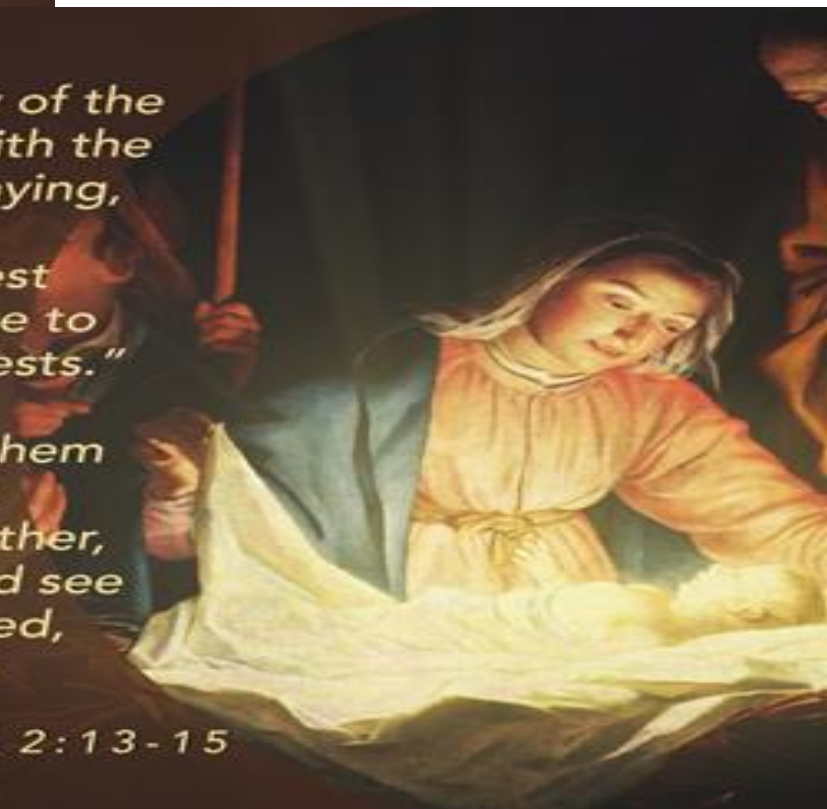
Thank You,
Eleanora

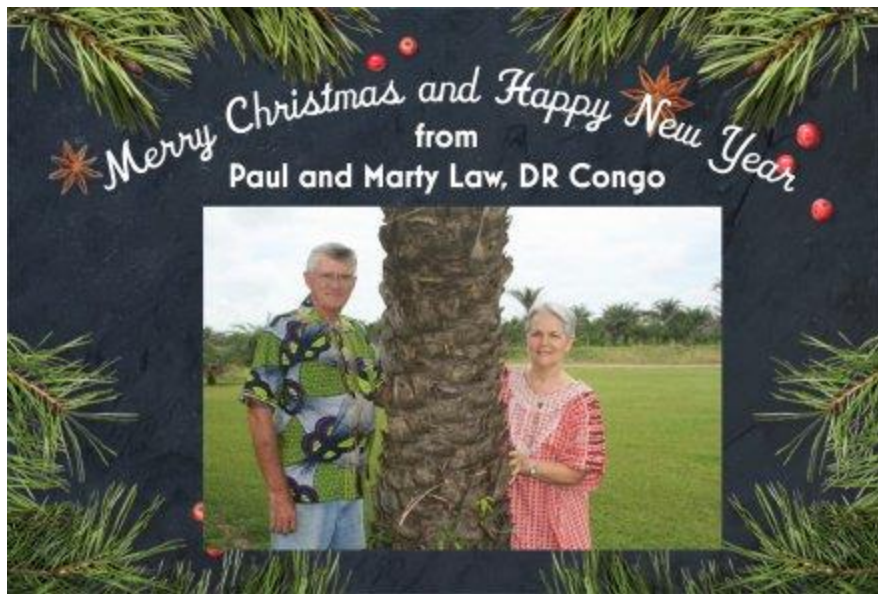
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

LUKE 2:13-15





Marty works with hundreds of children in Bible classes during the week while Paul is constructing churches and digging well for the villagers.

We are "faith missionaries" so that means we have no denomination nor large organization behind us. We depend on the Lord AND YOU!

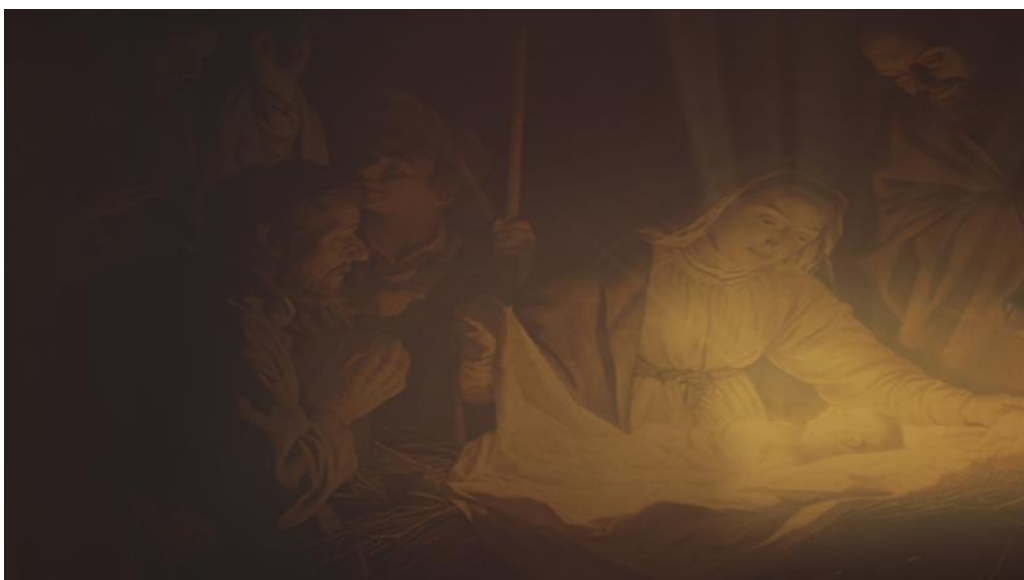
Paul and Marty Law

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WOMEN IN MISSION



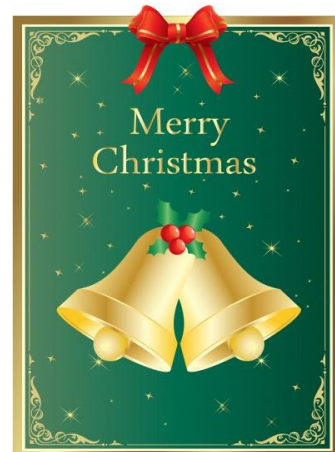
We enjoyed lunch and conversation at the Towsey House after our Nov. 2nd WIM meeting.

This is the **LAST CALL** for Campbell's Labels for Education. Place in the mission drawer 1-2 containers. These and Box Top's Labels will be mailed to Red Bird Mission the 2nd week in December 2017.

Our annual Christmas luncheon will be Thursday, December 7th at 11:15 am at the Greyhound Grill. If you plan to attend and need a ride please contact Martha or the church office by Monday Dec. the 4th.

We want to help of the congregation in collecting old Christmas cards and other greeting card for projects at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. We just need the front of the card only. We will be collecting the card until the end of January 2018, you can drop the cards in tothe mission drawer 6-7.

Wishing Christmas Blessings to ALL!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2017

Well done, EUMC will be sending 111 Operation Christmas Child boxes around the world! Read this testimonial from a child in Ecuador - A 14-year-old boy shared he lives only with his mom because his dad abandoned them when he was 4. His life was very sad because of the many arguments he had with his mom. One day, a friend invited him to a children's event where he received a shoebox gift from Operation Christmas Child. That day, he learned that God is always with him. He prayed and confessed his sins, and accepted Christ as Savior. The next week he started the discipleship program where he got to know Jesus and His love. His mother wasn't a Christian. He decided to change his attitude so she would know Jesus too. When he graduated, he asked his mother for forgiveness and they cried together. The most special thing was that his mother decided to accept Jesus in her heart too! Now, they go to church together and he knows that, even though his father abandoned them, God will never do the same.



Celebrating milestones, birthdays, holiday's and family traditions is something each of us hold near and dear to our hearts. To many of us, time with family is more valuable than anything else we might treasure in this world. As the holiday season quickly approaches, many of us will reflect on years past and the fond memories we have shared with family and friends, gathering at the dinner table, finding the right present for that special someone, indulging in the yummy desserts only grandma can make so perfectly. The reality of our families here at Family Promise is the dream to one day have traditions of their own, to pick that perfect gift, or simply provide for their children without the help of others.

Family Promise is unlike any other social service program. Family Promise of NKY is successful because of all of the community partnerships and the genuine belief that if you surround a family with hope, love and support and maybe just a little guidance; they will fly! We are honored to be able to share; Family Promise on NKY has assisted seventy-one individuals out of homelessness since the inception of our program and each family has sustained their independence in our communities. Not one family has re-enter homelessness! This statistic alone shows how influential this program is, and how much each of you influence our outcomes!

Due to the necessary structure of the program and the needed screenings to ensure a safe environment for participants, volunteers and staff, we are ineligible for any Federal or State funding. This is truly a community owned program! It would not be possible to facilitate moving families out of homelessness without you!

Our annual operating budget is \$180,000. If we raise \$50,000 during this campaign, it will go a long way in helping us to continue this desperately needed service for homeless families with children in our community. As you reflect on your own blessings this year, we ask that you consider making Family Promise part of your holiday plans. In the midst of shopping for gifts and gathering with loved ones, please think of our families and consider a tax deductible, charitable donation. Donations can be sent to **Family Promise of Northern Kentucky, P.O. Box 721763, Newport, KY 41071.** Please make checks payable to Family Promise of Northern Kentucky.

December Birthday's

Peggy Sawyer	12/02
John Lambert	12/03
Wilanne Stangel	12/04
Nancy Doyle	12/04
Mimi Evans	12/05
Mike Mulligan	12/05
Glenn Wells	12/06
Roger Wilson	12/06
Lisa Flesch	12/08
Doris Doyle	12/10
Haley Doyle	12/11
Erin Herbers	12/11
Wanda Hill	12/12
Carolyn S. Chandler	12/15
Doris Butler	12/17
Gay Love	12/21
Charles Love	12/26
Phyllis Ford	12/28
Mark Shepherd	12/30

December Anniversaries

John & Cheryl Palmer 12/11

If you would like a list of all the Birthdays and Anniversaries just let Suzanna know.



CHURCH SAFETY

At the last Administrative Board meeting the subject of church safety came up and we reflected some on incidents like the recent church shooting in Texas which has upset many of us. Of course, we want our church to be a safe haven for all its member and the people of our community as well. It's scary to think of what is going on in the world today. And no environment is completely safe, but there are things we probably should do to keep us as safe as possible but still allow new people to come and be a part of our worshipping community.

There are several seminars that are cropping up to advise churches about how to deal with situations like happened in Texas, so we are going to find one of these seminars to attend and we are going to be talking to some safety experts about what can be done. Hopefully we can come up with some good ideas about how we can be as safe as possible while still being as open and welcoming as possible.

A couple of people have suggested locking all the doors and having an armed security officer in the building while church is happening. These ideas may make us feel better, but they also defeat our purpose of being inviting and welcoming, so we're going to have to come up with a balanced, safe approach to things. The incidents of church shootings are really very, very rare when you take into account the number of services that are held across the country every week and the number of shootings that have taken place. The media hype makes things sound much bigger than they are. We can't let fears overwhelm us, but at the same time, we shouldn't be careless about something as important as safety.

Ultimately, it will be up to the Trustees to suggest a policy to the Administrative Board. There are several steps we can take to keep people safer, but as mentioned earlier, it just isn't possible to make everyone completely safe all the time. No matter what steps we take or how careful we become, there is always going to be a way for a crazy person to get around our safeguards. We will be looking at this subject very closely, and we will do all we can to be as prudent as possible. We value everyone's lives and want us all to worship without fear.



SNOW POLICY

As a rule, normal amounts of snow will not affect our having Sunday morning services at EUMC. It will have to be pretty bad for us to call off church. In the event that we do, we will send out an e-mail that morning to let everyone know. We will also have it put on Channel 12's cancellation listings, so you can watch Channel 12 for the word as well. We will only send out an e-mail **IF CHURCH IS CANCELLED**. No word means we're going to have it. You might want to check both sources just to be sure in case an e-mail message gets lost in cyber-world (like occasionally happens) or in case the power is off at the church.

But we also want to be clear that we do not want people to put themselves or others in jeopardy to come to church. You know the roads in your neighborhood and your personal limitations in driving, so please use common sense. Don't let a flake or two give you an excuse to stay home, but also don't endanger yourself (and others) to come when things are bad just to prove to everyone how hearty you are. Use common sense. Hopefully we'll have a very safe winter for everyone.

Sunday evening or weeknight activities and committee meetings are more likely to be affected by snow, but will be judged on an individual basis. Your committee chair or group leader will let you know about those activities.





And the child grew and became strong;
he was filled with wisdom,
and the grace of God was upon him.