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WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

is Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Noisy Mission Offering in December is going to



COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS
DINNER



No Compass published in January.

Calendars will be available in the Sanctuary

From the Pastor's Desk

The holiday season is upon us once again, and with it comes all the joy and burdens we have grown to expect. The joys of lights, music, decoration, family and friends, and so much more. But also the burdens of a boatload of expectations we and others have about this time of the year.

One question most of us will ask this holiday season is: "what can I give this person in the form of a gift or present?" Shopping for just the right gift is often not easy and can become pretty stressful if we let it.

In the closing verse of the popular Christmas hymn "in the Bleak Midwinter" a similar question is ask - What can I give him, poor as I am. The verse goes on to reflect on various options but concludes with "give him my heart".

This Christmas carol, like so many others, attempts to move us back to the heart of Christmas; away from the glitter of lights and the endless list of tasks, to a simple stable and a tiny bundle of life wrapped in cloths, lying in a feed trough. This tiny life that would grow up to impact the world more than any other single life in history is quite literally the reason for the season.

To give him our hearts is the only proper response you or I can make. And yet in our giving, we are asked to encourage others to also find this truth, this hope, this joy we have found in the Christmas baby. So this year our Christmas offering will be dedicated to do exactly that for the children and youth of our church and community.

Our 2017 Christmas offering will go to support sending our children and youth to summer camps where more young people discover Christ than through just about any other means. This past year 38 youth attended summer camp at a cost of \$10,912.50. This coming year many more youth will be available to attend and we are committed to sending any that desire to go because they discover and grow in Christ through summer camp.

I invite you to join with me in giving the gift of Christ this holiday season to a child or young person by helping to send them to summer camp.

Your servant in Christ, Larry A. Gilbert

2	9:00 am	Handbells	12	7:00am	Yoga	19	7:00am	Yoga
	10:00 am	AA		11:30am	A-Team		6:00pm	Cub Scouts
3	1:00pm	Youth Outing		12:00 pm	Young at Heart		6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
4	6:30 pm	Bald Knob Cross Meeting		6:00 pm	Board of Trustees	20	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Men's Book Study			Cub Scouts			Choir Rehearsal
		AA Big Book		6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal		7:00 pm	SPRC
5	7:00am	Yoga		7:00 pm	Finance Committee			Service & Missions
	6:00pm	Cub Scots	13	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts			AA and Al-Anon
	6:30pm	Praise Team Rehearsal			Choir Rehearsal	21	7:00am	Yoga
6	9:00am	Nurture and Care		7:00 pm	Bible Journaling		6:00pm	Blue Christmas - DeUMC
	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts			AA and Al-Anon			GA
		Choir Rehearsal	14	7:00am	Yoga	23	9:00 am	Handbells
	7:00pm	AA and Al Anon		4:30pm	Stephens Ministers		10:00 am	AA
7	7:00am	Yoga		5:30pm	Daisies and Brownies	24	9:45am	Traditional Worship
	6:00pm	Boy Scout Roundtable		6:00pm	GA		5:00pm	Praise Christmas Eve Svc
	6:00pm	GA		6:30pm	Girl Scout Jrs and Cadets		7:00pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Svc
8	9:30am	Feeder of the Pack	16	9:00 am	Handbells	25	·	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
9	7:30am	United Methodist Men		10:00 am	AA		7:00pm	AA Big Book
	9:00 am	Handbells	17	4:00pm	Youth Group	26	7:00am	Yoga
	10:00 am	AA	18-	22	Meals on Wheels week		6:30pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	12:00pm	Private party					·	11 20.19. T
10	10:10am	Children's Program	18	7:00pm	Men's Book Study	07	7.00	Hospitality Team
	4:00pm	Youth Christmas Party		7:00pm	AA Big Book	27	7:00pm	AA and Al Anon
11	6:30pm	CYSF				28	7:00am	Yoga
	7:00pm	Men's Book Study					5:30pm	Daisies/Brownies/Girl Scouts Winter Party
	7:00pm	AA Big Book					6:00nm	GA
						30	6:00pm 9:00 am	Handbells
		BIRTA		A		30	9:00 am 10:00 am	
					*		10.00 am	AA



1	Cheryl Smith	12	Brandon Graeff	22	Todd Sievert
	Janis Crews		Connor Graeff	24	Bob Hall
2	Charlie McNitt		Lee Sullivan		Jon Lough
3	Kaitlyn Bitner		Rosie Wece		Carrie Swebel
4	Rene Doody	13	Holly Fletcher	25	Virginia Bowers
	Rosalie Winters		Kathy Ripley		Terrin Thies
6	Jerry Crews	14	Mike Clark		Travis Shands
7	Kellie Ellis		John Vallino		Samuel Sievert
	Mary Sllider		Gloria Barker	27	Aiden Jacobs
8	Nancy Tillettt	15	Cindy Presley		George Dietz
	Elisabeth Stewart	17	Terri Yates		Lisa Huppert
11	Myrrl Burroughs	19	Madison Jacobs		Nancy McNitt
	Derrick Hamilton	20	Mark Twenhafel	29	John Mills
		21	Carol Dreith	30	Trina Eaton
			Sylvia Carvell		



Brown/Gladson rehearsal

Brown/Gladson wedding

Our Neighbors Table

4:00pm

12:00pm

5:00pm

31

15	Jack & Sandy Herrin
17	James & Connie Boucher
24	Nathan & Dianna Smith
25	Cloyd & Susan Karnes



Ladies' Bus Trip Saturday December 2, 8:00 am



Josephine's Tea Room and Gift Shops

Josephine's located in historic Godfrey, Illinois, only 30 minutes North of St. Louis, has been in business since 1979 and offers a unique dining and shopping experience.

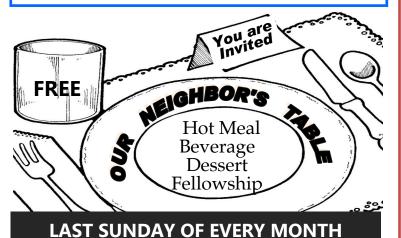
The Tea Room is always beautifully decorated for the holidays and the lunch menu includes a variety of soups, sandwiches, salads, and delicious desserts. No need to worry about the calories, because you will have the opportunity to burn them off shopping in the gift shop and specialty boutique filled with home decor, clothing, and jewelry.

UNITED METHODIST



The United Methodist Men will enjoy a breakfast on Dec. 9th at 7:30 am, in Rm 104N.

We will elect officers and collect dues of \$10.00 for 2018. After the meeting, we will set up the nativity scene on the front lawn of the Annex. Please contact Jay Graff at 618-967-9848 if you have any auestions.



December 12 **CHRISTMAS** 12:00 pm NOON Fellowship Hall

Menu: Ham w/Pineapples **Sweet Potatoes Peas**

Ambrosia Salad Bread Dessert (please

bring your favorite) Meals are \$6 a plate.

friends, fellowship, faith.

Program:

This Able Veteran Program which provides a trauma resiliency program and service dogs to our local veterans.

Please sign up on the attendance pad. If plans change and you cannot attend, please contact the church office by the Monday before. Otherwise YAH members must pay for the meal that was ordered for you. Thanks.

Young at Heart is a group of senior adults that meet monthly, on the second Tuesday, for food, fellowship and a program.

Communion servers needed for 2018.



Typically on the first Sunday of each month, the church participates in the sharing of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For the past two years, a

dedicated team has served the bread and juice to the congregations each month. It is now time to invite new servers to share in this wonderful ministry. If you are interested in learning more about being a Communion server for 2018, please mark the attendance pad and you will be contacted by Lacey Brown.

Precept Study on Acts

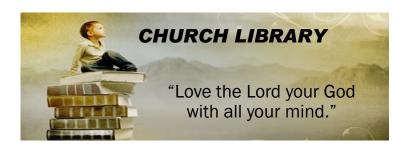
Tuesdays January 9-March 6 9-10:30am



Join ladies from different churches

and backgrounds for a study on Acts. In this book, we will stand in awe of the power of God and be encouraged by faithful servants who held to truth in a dark world.

For more information, contact, Angie Baughman, 618-201-0139, angie baughman@hotmail.com



The Library Corner: 'Tis the Season

'Tis the season to be aware of God at work in this world: Pastor Larry's sermon series for the month of December is entitled "Chosen by God: Discover how God uses the unlikely and unexpected to write His story." Who could be more unlikely to play important roles in God's story than Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and the young, unknown woman named Mary who became the mother of Jesus? In addition to hearing and reading their stories as written in the Bible, you can read fictional accounts of their lives as told by Francine Rivers in her series "A Lineage of Grace: Five Stories of Unlikely Women who Changed Eternity."

'Tis the season to be thoughtful. The library also has Advent studies and other resources designed to help us walk more faithfully on the spiritual journey of Advent. Interesting studies include The Journey by Adam Hamilton and The Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren. These and other resources can help enhance the meaning of the season.

'Tis the season to enjoy! The library also has a variety of fun and interesting books and movies for adults, families, and children during the Christmas season. Children will enjoy (and learn from) DVDs such as Max Lucado's The Crippled Lamb, or The Fourth King: A Christmas Film for Anybody Who's Ever Been Late. VeggieTales titles include The Toy that Saved Christmas, It's a Meaningful Life: A Lesson in Being Content, and Christmas Sing- Along Songs.

Let's acknowledge, however, that for some people Christmas may be just be a season to "get through." For a variety of reasons-- the loss of a loved one, or perhaps some other life situation-- it is hard to view Christmas as "merry." If you or a friend or family member is undergoing feelings of grief and loss, there are some resources in the library that may be helpful. A Passage through Grief: a Recovery Guide uses writings from people who were able to address their sorrow through writing—keeping a journal—and gives suggestions and questions to help others do the same. This book includes a leader's guide, but also works for individual use.

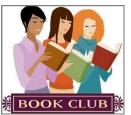
Another resource is A Group I Never Wanted to Join: Practical Advice and Stories of Hope and Recovery for Grieving People. But what if it is not you, but a friend or family member who has experienced the loss, and you are struggling with what to say and how to help? Try one of these resources: Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart, by Kenneth Haugk, or When Your Friend is Grieving: Building a Bridge of Love by Paula D'Arcy.

There will be a Blue Christmas service in December that can serve as an acknowledgement that Christmas is not merry when the heart is heavy. This service offers a good space in which to acknowledge those feelings while remembering the loved one.

"Grief is not a problem to be cured.

It is simply a statement that you have loved someone" Barbara Baumgardner, "A Passage Through Grief", p. 1





NO DECEMBER BOOK CLUB

Join the discussion on:

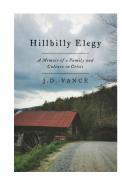
Hillbilly Elegy:

A Memoir of a Family and

Culture in Crisis

By J.D. Vance

Saturday, January 20th,
at 10:15 am, Library, Rm 110



From a former Marine and Yale Law School Graduate, a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town, that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class.

Part memoir, part historical and social analysis, J. D. Vance's Hillbilly Elegy is a fascinating consideration of class, culture, and the American dream. At times funny, disturbing, and deeply moving, this is a family history that is also a troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large portion of this country.

YOUTH GROUPS

Questions? Contact a leader for your group:

CYF: Children's Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)

Leaders: Sage Lintner 618-889-7320 and

Scarlett Pierson 573-587-9106

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, in

Room 104N from 3:00 - 3:45 pm.

JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)

Leaders: Diane Schingel 618-303-3757 and

Laurie Nehring 618-303-2777

Meets every Sunday from 4-6pm in Room 100.

SYF: Senior High Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)

Leaders: Stephanie Finke 618-713-4059 and

Shannon Vincent 618-525-4183

Meets every Sunday from 4-6pm in Room 100.



Chili Cook-off and Variety Show!

January 14, 2018 5pm-7pm N. and S. Fellowship Hall

Are you ready for a night of fun?!

Join us for our Chili Cook-off and Variety Show!

The Chili Cook-off is open to all interested people.

A \$5 entry fee is due the day of the event.

Sign-up in advance using the attendance pad.

You be the judge of the Chili Champ by monetary donations. A variety show featuring members of our congregation will immediately follow the chili cook-off.

All proceeds with go to MUMC Youth Groups and their spiritual development.



Agape House welcomes youth for fellowship, study, and a light meal every Wednesday from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Agape House is a ministry of DeSoto United Methodist Church.





Youth Christmas Party

December 10th, 4pm-6pm Fellowship Hall

Come and celebrate the holiday with your friends.

Enjoy food, games

and a Dirty Santa Gift Exchange.

Each youth is asked to bring a \$5-\$10 gift.

Youth Trip to Lady of the Snows Shrine Belleville, IL

Dec. 3, 1pm-7:30pm

Jr. and Sr. High youth are going to The Lady of the Snows Shrine and outdoor ice-skating. The bus will leave the church at 1pm and return that evening around 7:30pm. Youth need to RSVP with \$2 to attend.

If interested please complete an RSVP slip, which is located on the youth bulletin board. Place completed slip in the youth mailbox below.

For information, contact Sage Lintner, 618-889-7320, mumcchildrenyouth@gmail.com.





Melba is a Murphysboro native who joined our staff as Church Secretary on November 15th. She came to us from SIU where she was very highly regarded for her work as Administrative Clerk for the Acting Provost. Prior to employment at SIU, Melba was Office Manager/Sales Agent, Aldridge Insurance Agency (2002-2009).

Melba is mother to four daughters. In this role she's been involved in various organizations such as 4-H, Sunday and Bible Schools at Immanuel Lutheran, PTA, and Devil Dazzlers. She's also assisted with our community Apple Festival.

Melba and husband, Jay, own and operate Mudline Lodging—
Cabin and RV sites.

Be sure to extend a warm welcome to Melba if you call or drop by the church office.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

ANTICIPATED JOB OPENING - Murphysboro United Methodist Church, Discipleship Coordinator

Murphysboro UMC anticipates there will be an opening for a Discipleship Coordinator position, approximately 20 hours/week, early 2018.

Job Responsibilities:

- Coordinate and lead discipleship ministries for participants of all ages
- Lead and/or assist in launching new ministries in the life of the church
- Assist pastor with development of semi-annual leadership retreats
- Supervise and mentor program and ministry staff

Qualifications:

- A deep and abiding love for Jesus Christ, and a desire to serve others.
- Prefer Bachelor's degree and 5 years' experience working in a faith-based organization in a leadership capacity.
- Currently active in a United Methodist church.
- Basic knowledge of the United Methodist denomination and structure.
- Good organizational, project management, and detail-oriented skills
- Good communication and people skills.
- Basic computer skills, including internet, email, facebook, Excel, Word.
- Valid drivers' license; ability to travel locally and occasionally long distance

Submit resume and letter of interest to:
SPRC Chair, Murphysboro United Methodist Church
1500 Pine Street, Murphysboro, IL 62966
or email to nancy.vallino@yahoo.com

Adult Bus Trip to Yoder's Kitchen & The Great Pumpkin Patch, Arthur, IL

A group of 10 traveled to Yoder's Kitchen and the Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur, Il just in time for harvest and Halloween. Here are some highlights from the trip.



Trunk or Treat a success!

Over 2000 individuals shared in the fun at Murphysboro and DeSoto Trunk or Treat.

Here are just a few special moments, in pictures







Rice Nativity December 10, 1:00~4:00pm

Come and enjoy this annual open house event featuring Fontanini displays,

cookies and punch. 501 Pump House Rd., Murphysboro.

Yard Sale

Fall/Winter Yard Sale A Success!

The recent Fall/Winter Yard Sale was a wonderful event. The items we received were of

excellent quality. To those who donated items, to those who worked before and during the sale, and those who came to shop -- a huge THANK YOU!!. Nearly \$2,000 was raised for the Murphysboro Food Pantry. This will definitely help with providing muchneeded food during the holiday season. The unsold clothing and bedding items were taken to the Lighthouse Shelter in Marion, the books were taken to Sallie Logan Library, and misc. items were taken to Senior Citizen Thrift Store. What a great opportunity to serve our community.



Retirement lunch: Lacey Brown, Christine Nolan, Jennifer O'Donnell, Sage Lintner, Barb Hughes, Rob Williams, Nancy Fager, Nancy Vallino; Pat Sullivan, Sally Moutardier, Deb Severa, Debbie Chapman, Judy Williams

Many thanks to everyone at MUMC who made my four years as your secretary so enjoyable! I will miss working with the dedicated staff, office volunteers, Holy Folders, and everyone else who gives so freely of your time and talents. I am looking forward to retirement, but will always treasure the friendships I formed during my time with you.

Deb Severa

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS					
	TRADITIONAL	PRAISE			
	Worship Leaders mumcministries@gmail.com				
	Jon Lough	Allison Vandenberg			
<u>DEC</u>	Welcome Hostesses				
3	Marcia Butler and Barb Hughes				
10	Marcia Butler and Barb Hughes				
17	Thelma Pierson and Terri Yates				
24	Thelma Pierson and Terri Yates				
31	Patti Shields and Nancy Tillett				
DEC	<u>Acolytes</u>				
3	Harper Ellermeyer and Justin Maynor				
10	Phoebe Heller and Brianna Carnes				
17	Landrie Green and Harper Geis				
24	Caroline Guthman and Eli Guthman				
31 Maya Jenkins, Tiara Bradford					
	Steward	<u> s</u>			
	Bob Eaton, Jay Graff an	d Ron Moutardier			

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS					
	TRADITIONAL	PRAISE			
DEC	Prayer Request Reader				
3	Gene Schwebel	Allison Vandenberg			
10	Wilma Westerfield	Allison Vandenberg			
17	Gaye Auxier	Allison Vandenberg			
24	Lou Anr	ne Lough			
31	Nancy Fager	TBN			
DEC	Children's Cl	nurch Leaders			
3	Tonya Walker	Patti Thrailkill			
10	Cheryl Smith	Ben & Jennie Snyder			
17	No children's church	No children's church			
24	No children's church	No children's church			
31	Diane Schingel	TBN			
DEC	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Music Leaders</u>			
3	Lou Anne Lough	Angie Baughman			
10	Mary Jane Williams	Lacey Brown			
17	Mary Slider	Brian Vincent			
24	Gaye Auxier	9:45 Joel Kirby			
31	Wilma Westerfield	Lacey Brown			
<u>Ushers</u>					
Rick Runge, Kyle Quigley, Jim Hughes, Bob Eaton, Trina Eaton and Jay Graff Will Thomas and Don Abbadusky					
Recycling: Gaye Auxier					

Epiphany Sunday School Study Sundays, Jan 7-Feb 4

All adults and teens are invited to join together during the Sunday school time for an Epiphany study written and

taught by Angie Baughman. The title is "A Journey Worth Taking" and the content will focus on the significance of the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus. Books will be distributed at the first session and will cost \$10. For more information contact:

Angie Baughman, 618-201-0139 angie_baughman@hotmail.com

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule MUMC

Dec 24th Sunday morning service

Single combined service at 9:45 am (includes communion)

*No Sunday school classes before or after service.

Dec 24th Christmas Eve services

5 pm Service - music provided by Praise Team (includes communion)

7 pm Service - music provided by organ, special music by Handbell Choir (includes communion)

DeSoto UMC

Dec 24th Evening worship service of carols

SERMON SERIES DEC 3 - 24

CHOSEN BY GOD

Discover how God uses the unlikely and unexpected to write His story.

Dec 3 - "The Burden"

Matthew 1:3; Genesis 38

Dec 10 - "The Disgrace"

Matthew 1:5; Joshua 2

Dec 17 - "The Tagalong"

Matthew 1:5; Selections from Ruth

Dec 24AM - "The Distraction"

Matthew 1:6; 2 Samuel 11

Dec 24PM - "The Embarrassment"

I CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL

Matthew 1:16; Luke 2

CELEBRATION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

This year's Celebration Sunday is scheduled for December 31st.



As we worship on the last Sunday of 2017, we would like to spend some time reflecting on the life of our church over this past year.

But we need your help. If you have pictures from the various church events, please get them to Troy Brown. Either send your digital copies by email to laceywasright@gmail.com or put them on a USB drive and bring to church by December 17th.

See you on Celebration Sunday!

I If you wish to order a poinsettia for our church sanctuary I please fill out the form below and return it to the church office or mail it to the church. Orders must be received by I noon on Sunday, December 10. Please enclose payment with your order. Please make checks payable to MUMC.
The cost of each is \$10.00.
IN MEMORY OF:
I IN HONOR OF:
FROM:
Enclosed is: Yes, I would like a poinsettia

No poinsettia, donation only

MURPHYSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1500 Pine Street Murphysboro, IL 62966



DESOTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 211 W Lincoln St DeSoto, IL 62924

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE: MUMC:

Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School:10:10 a.m. Praise Service: 11:15 a.m.

DeUMC:

Worship Service: 5:30 pm

Agape House: 5:30 p.m. Each Wednesday

OFFICE HOURS at MUMC

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-687-2317 Fax: 618-687-2604

E-Mail: murphysboroumc@gmail.com Website: www.crossandflameministries.com

Find us on: facebook.

Cross and Flame Staff

Ministers	The Congregations
Pastor	Larry A. Gilbert
	Michelle Parker-Clark
Financial Secretary	Christine Nolan
Technology Coord	
Webmaster	
Custodian	Pat Sullivan

MUMC Site Staff

Discipleship Coordinator	Teresa Gilbert
Church Secretary	Melba Ziegler
Ministry Support Asst	Lacey Brown
Children/Youth Coord	Sage Lintner
Pianist/Organist	Jenny Kirby
Choir Director	Joel Kirby
Nursery Attendant	Caitlyn Boyd, Megan Gale

DeSoto Site Staff:

Program Assistant	. Jessica Seals
Children/Youth Coord	. Jennifer O'Donnell
Ministry Support	. Tina Nimmo
Nursery Attendant	.Tara Taborn
Caretakers	. Mike & Casey Johnstone

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Murphysboro, IL Permit No. 63

Cross and Flame Ministries DeSoto & Murphysboro 1500 Pine Street Murphysboro, IL 62966