



Directions for the Trail

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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**Wednesday
 Prayer Group**
 Begins at 9:30 a.m.
 Church Prayer Room
 Come and Pray
 With Us!

**WEEKLY BULLETIN
 DEADLINE**
Wednesday
10:00 a.m.



The season of gifts is upon us. While we have many occasions throughout the year to purchase and give gifts, no doubt Christmas is the best known and most widely practiced. For me, it is a wonderful tradition responsible for many a special childhood memory as well as beautiful moments within my own family.

I am sure this year will be no exception in the practice of this fond tradition, but I also feel we all might experience a few very special gifts this year that in moments might not be quite so easy for us to recognize or celebrate.

We will finally experience the gift of an elevator under construction this year, that long awaited and much desired gift. We will enjoy abundance mess, dust and commotion as week by week we watch the slow but steady progress. Soon it will offer the gift of merry mobility, but first it will give us all practice in patience and tolerance.

I am also quite hopeful this special season will give each of us the gift of too many people and too little space. The gift of worshipping in a seat we typically do not use because some wonderful kind person took our seat to give us the gift of a new perspective. Or possibly we will have the privilege to offer our beloved location to a complete stranger, determined to expel the "no room in the inn" scene from our personal Christmas story.

This will be a season of many gifts; the question will be: will we be able to welcome them, embrace them and give God thanks for them.

Your servant in Christ,

Larry

DECEMBER 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 5 pm Hanging of the Green</p> <p>2 5:30 pm Relay for Life
6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>3 4:00 pm Decorate Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm Cub Scouts
6:30 pm Faithful Friends Christmas Party</p> <p>4 5:45 pm Choir Practice
6:00 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>5 6:00 pm Scouts Roundtable
6:00 pm Disciple II Study</p> <p>6 8:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation
10 am Staff Christmas Brunch
6:00 pm Daisy Troop
7:30 pm Brownie Troop</p> <p>7 9:00 am Hand Bell Practice
10:00 am AA Meeting</p> <p>8 5:00 pm Youth Groups</p> <p>9 1:00 pm Nurture & Care Team</p> <p>10 12:00 pm Young at Heart
6:00 pm Board of Trustees
6:00 pm Cub Scouts
7:00 pm Finance Committee</p> <p>11 9:00 am Staff Meeting
5:45 pm Choir Practice
6:00 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>12 4:30 pm Girl Scouts
6:00 pm Disciple II Study</p> <p>13 10:00 am Feeder of the Pack
7:00 pm Daisy Troop</p> <p>14 7:30 am UMM Breakfast
9:00 am Hand Bell Practice
10:00 am AA Meeting</p> | <p>16 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>17 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:00 pm Cub Scouts</p> <p>18 Meals on Wheels
5:45 pm Choir Practice
6:00 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm AA Meeting</p> <p>19 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:00 pm Disciple II Study</p> <p>20 Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:00 pm Daisy Troop
7:30 pm Brownie Troop</p> <p>21 9:00 am Hand Bell Practice
10:00 am AA Meeting</p> <p>22 6:30 pm Children's Christmas Program</p> <p>24 6:00 pm Cub Scouts</p> <p>25 Office closed</p> <p>27 6:00 pm Scrapbooking & Scripture</p> <p>28 9:00 am Hand Bell Practice
10:00 am AA Meeting</p> <p>29 12:00 pm Our Neighbor's Table Meal</p> <p>31 6:00 pm Cub Scouts</p> |
|---|---|

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

The Library Corner**The Journey: A Reader Review****by Kristi Miller**

We love Christmas, and almost everything about it. But have you noticed how hard it is in the hustle and hurry of the holidays to keep mind and heart fixed on the holiness at the center of this season?

Noted author and Methodist minister Adam Hamilton has written an Advent study that can bring us right back to where we need to be: walking the road towards a holy birth. Kristi Miller has written this review of his book for us:

Name of the book: The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem, by Adam Hamilton.

What is this book about? A fresh examination of the story of Jesus' birth.

What makes this book interesting or meaningful?

This book takes the story as we have known it since childhood and develops it further by introducing new information:

- Discussion of the geography of the towns involved
- Different thoughts on Joseph, including his age
- Information about Mary and her childhood
- Why Mary and Joseph weren't at Joseph's family home for Jesus' birth

Do you recommend this book to others? Absolutely. The author walks you through the story in a way that puts you in Nazareth and Bethlehem. Spend five hours reading this book and it changes Christmas!

Library Notes: The church library has two copies of "The Journey", and you can find one either upstairs in the hall on the library table, or downstairs in the library.

Pastor Larry's Sunday School class has been studying this book and viewing the accompanying DVD, which is set in the holy land. The DVD will be in the church library after the completion of their study.

Other DVD / book studies for Christmas are also available. We have "**The Advent Conspiracy**", "**A Different Kind of Christmas**", and "**The Purpose of Christmas**".

For inspiration and uplift there are a number of other adult and children's books and DVDS focused on Christmas. We recommend "**In the Dark Streets Shineth**" a unique historical and musical remembrance by historian David McCullough, and **The Nativity Story**.

**We're on the Map!**

What map? **THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY** map, that's what. We are listed on the website www.littlefreelibrary.org. You can look it up. Go to the website, click on "map," and go from there. If you do, you'll be able to confirm a little known fact: Trina Eaton is officially Steward #5564! When you see her, congratulate her!

YOUTH CALENDAR

- Dec. 1:** 4 P.M. Decorate Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 8:** Youth Meetings at 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- Dec. 22:** Christmas party from 5:00-6:30
- Dec. 22:** Children's Christmas Program, 6:30

- *CYF: Christian Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)
- *JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)
- *SYF: Senior Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)



**Check out MUMC
YOUTH GROUPS**



Saturday Book Club
NO meeting in December



Welcome, youth!

OUR NEIGHBORS' TABLE

12/29

FREE
MENU

Chicken & Dumplings
Dinner
with dessert & beverage

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Advent Schedule

Hanging of the Green	Dec 1
Potluck	5:00pm
Carols Sing Along	5:45pm
Advent Worship Services	9:00am
<u>CHRISTMAS OFFERS PEACE</u>	Dec 1
<u>CHRISTMAS CANTATA</u>	Dec 8
<i>Chancel Choir "sings" Christmas to life in "The Living Light"</i>	
<u>CHRISTMAS OFFERS DIRECTION</u>	Dec 15
<u>CHRISTMAS OFFERS A CALLING</u>	Dec 22
<i>Includes MARCH TO THE MANGER</i>	
Children's Program	Dec 22, 6:30pm
Christmas Eve Worship	Dec 24
<u>CHRISTMAS OFFERS NEW LIFE</u>	7:00pm
<i>Candlelight Communion Service</i>	



December 10th, 12 noon
Fellowship Hall

MENU

- Turkey & Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Broccoli with Cheese
- Cranberry Salad
- Desserts by YAH

PROGRAM

Earl Renshaw to present a special program to honor Liz Ridgeway and her late husband Bill as Liz plans to move to Texas soon.

worship leader

Ed O'Donnell
eod@edodonnell.com



December 1

Drake Rogus & Cadence Brown

December 8

Aiden McNitt & Maggie Williams

December 15

Ben Barringer & Conner Twenhafel

December 22

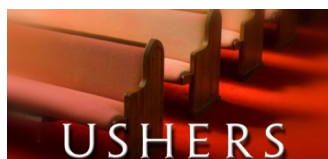
Alex Baughman & Ethan Finke

December 29

Maddie Bean & Caitlin Doody

Sunday Stewards

Bob Eaton
Ralph Bastien
Andy McNitt
Bill Quigley
Dave Auxier



Rick Runge—Captain
Kyle Quigley
Erin Mileur
Bob Eaton
Trina Eaton



December

Church Leaders



Prayer
Request
Readers

December 1

Mary Jane Williams

December 8

Emily Hargraves

December 15

Adrienne Will

December 22

Wilma Westerfield

December 29

Kristi Miller

Ministers.....The Congregation
Pastor.....Larry A. Gilbert
Coordinator of Ministries.....Earl R. Renshaw
Discipleship Coordinator.....Teresa Gilbert
Financial Secretary.....Christine Nolan
Church Secretary.....Mimi Rice
Custodian.....Pat Sullivan
Organist.....Micah Mayes
Choir Director.....Ricardo King

December 1 & 8

Jennifer O'Donnell

Terri Yates

December 15

Adrienne Will

Barbara Hughes

December 22

Adrienne Will

Barbara Hughes

Janis Crews

Carolyn Sauer

December 24

To Be Arranged

December 29

Arlene Bitner

Carolyn Pederson

Sunday Morning Announcements Guidelines

- Announcements should be e-mailed to the Worship Leader, with a copy to the Church office, by 11:00 a.m. on Friday. The names and email addresses of the Worship Leaders will be printed in the Compass monthly.
- In *emergency situations*, announcements must be hand-delivered to the Worship Leader no later than 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.
- The Worship Leader has the right to edit announcements as necessary, especially if it is particularly lengthy or there are numerous announcements on a given Sunday.
- The Worship Leader will make the announcement no more than two times, unless an exception is approved by the Publicity and Promotions Team in advance.
- Announcements will be made by the Worship Leader. Pastor will make announcements on an exception basis when an item warrants special emphasis. These exceptions should be submitted to the Publicity and Promotions Team for prior approval.



- 15th- Jack & Sandy Herring
- 17th- Jim & Connie Boucher
- 20th - Gene & Sandy Schwebel
- 24th - Nathan & Dianna Smith
- 25th - Cloyd & Susan Karnes
- 28th - Larry & Rindy Eisenhower

If your anniversary or birthday does not appear in the *Compass*, please contact the Church Office at 687-2317.

1	Justin Smith	14	Gloria Barker
	Janis Crews		15
2	Charlie McNitt	17	Terri Yates
3	Kaitlyn Bitner	19	Madison Jacobs
4	Rene' Doody	20	Mark Twenhafel
	Rosalie Winters		21
6	Jerry Crews		Sylvia Carvell
7	Mary Slider	24	Carrie Schwebel
8	Nancy Tillett	25	Virginia Bowers
			Travis Shands
10	Cindy Abbadusky	27	Lisa Bustos
11	Meryl Bourroughs		Aiden Jacobs
12	Lee Sullivan		Nancy McNitt
	Rosie Wece		George Dietz
13	Holly Fletcher	28	Sandy Schwebel
	Kathy Ripley		
14	John Vallino	30	Trina Eaton



dreamstime.com

HANGING OF THE GREEN

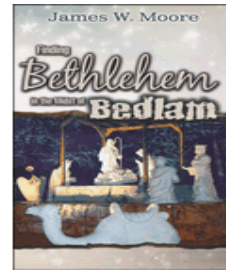
Sunday December 1

Early Afternoon Chancel Stewards & Assistants Decorate the Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Light potluck (sandwiches & finger foods). Everyone welcome--even if you don't decorate!

5:45 p.m. Christmas carols in the sanctuary

"Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam" begins December 1, Faithful Friends Class
8:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.; Room 204
Teresa Gilbert, Class Leader, Teresa@teresagilbert.com



Advent Study in Upper Room Sunday School Class

"The Christmas Experience"

by Kyle Idleman

begins November 17 for 6 weeks. (open to all)

If you would like more information contact Trina Eaton at trna.eaton1@gmail.com



We want to share the blessed news about your new baby with our church family. Please contact the church office to get the information about your new child or grandchild in the Sunday worship bulletin.

**December's Noisy Offering
contributions go towards the
Community
Christmas Dinner**

Psalms 16:11

You make known to me the path of life;
You will fill me with joy in Your presence,
with eternal pleasures at

Murphysboro United Methodist Church
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, Illinois, 62966

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

Return Service Requested

MUMC OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

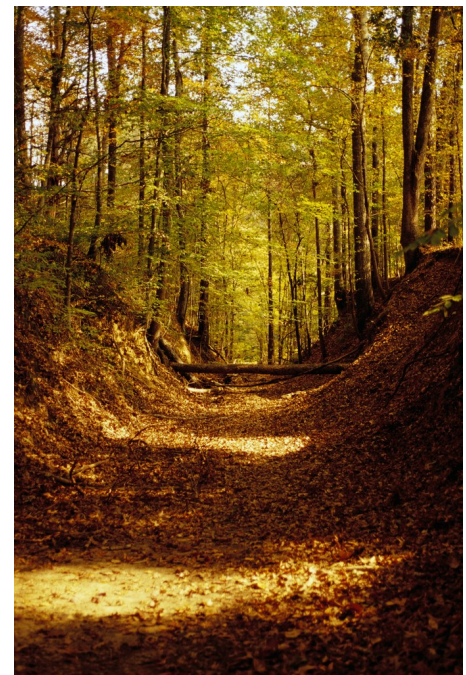
Phone: 618-687-2317 Fax: 618-687-2604

E-Mail: murphysboroumc@frontier.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:10 a.m.



We're On The Web!
www.MurphysboroUMC.com

