



# From the Pastor's Desk

Table of Contents	Page
Calendars	2,7
Church Library & Book Club	4
Opportunities for Growth , Service and Announcements	3, 5
Youth	6
Worship Participants, Birthdays & Anniversaries	7

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

  
Reminder There is no  
January Compass. Calendars  
will be available in the  
Sanctuary!

  
**Noisy Mission  
Offering  
In December is  
going to  
Community  
Christmas Dinner!**

Welcome to December! As I sit here I find myself deep in a season of last. A few days ago it was my last church Thanksgiving dinner and today it is my last Christmas letter to this congregation. I cannot say that it is all horribly sad. I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life but I must also admit it is not all filled with joy either.

In many ways I do feel that a season of mixed emotion is an appropriate feeling to have during the Christmas holiday; a season that was filled with mixed emotion from the very beginning. Take Mary for example! What an incredible blessing for Mary to be pregnant with the Christ child, but pregnant out of wedlock. To have given birth to a beautiful baby boy, but she had to give birth to him in a stable and place him in a manger far from family and home. To have his birth celebrated by strangers, but those strangers being shepherds, which were not exactly members of high society. We all have our own emotions about this season and wherever you are in your life's journey, Christmas probably holds both joy and sadness for you. You are not alone in these feelings it was most likely the same for Joseph and Mary.

As I thought about this and our Christmas offering this year, I realize that there is another family somewhere feeling some of the same things I am currently feeling about their home and church. So I would like to ask you to join with me in giving a gift of love to this person that we do not yet know.

In just a few months you will welcome a new pastor into this church and as a part of that welcome, I would like this year's Christmas offering to be set aside for the new pastor to use. To bless them in a time that is sure to hold both Joy and Sadness for them as they start out at a new home and church. For them to have this fund available to support a new ministry or program they want to begin - funds just waiting for their new energy and vision for this church.

Please unite with me in a step of faith to give birth to a new future for our congregation in this season, which is truly about new birth and hope.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Larry

1	9:00 AM	Handbells	11	7:00 AM	Yoga	20	6:00 PM	Blue Christmas
	10:00 AM	AA		Noon	Young at Heart	21		
	4:00 PM	Private Event		6:00 PM	Cub Scouts	22	9:00 AM	Handbells
2	4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship		6:00 PM	BOT		10:00 AM	AA
3	7:00 PM	Men's Book Study		6:30 PM	Praise Team	23	4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship
	7:00 PM	AA Big Book		7:00 PM	Finance Committee		6:30 PM	Executive Council
4	7:00 AM	Yoga	13	7:00 AM	Yoga	24	Noon	Office Closes - Christmas Eve
	11:30 AM	A-Team		4:00 PM	Stephen Ministries		5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Praise Serv
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		6:00 PM	GA		7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Traditional Serv
	6:30 PM	Praise Team	14				7:00 PM	AA Big Book
5	9:00 AM	Nurture & Care	15	9:00 AM	Handbells	25		<b>Christmas Day</b>
	6:00 PM	Choir		10:00 AM	AA			Office Closed
	6:00 PM	Boy Scouts	16	4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship	26	6:00 PM	Choir
	7:00 PM	AA & Al-Anon			Meals On Wheels Week		6:00 PM	Boy Scouts
6	7:00 AM	Yoga	17	7:00 PM	Men's Book Study		7:00 PM	AA & Al-Anon
	6:00 PM	GA		7:00 PM	AA Big Book	27	7:00 AM	Yoga
	6:00 PM	Scouts of the Roundtable	18	7:00 AM	Yoga		4:00 PM	Stephen Ministries
7	8:30 AM	Adult Spiritual Formation		6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		6:00 PM	GA
	9:30 AM	Feeder of the Pack		6:30 PM	Praise Team	28		
8	7:30 AM	UMM Breakfast	19	9:00 AM	Nurture & Care	29	9:00 AM	Handbells
	9:00 AM	Handbells		6:00 PM	Choir		10:00 AM	AA
	10:00 AM	AA		6:00 PM	Boy Scouts	30	Noon	Our Neighbors Table
9	4:00 PM	Youth Christmas Party		7:00 PM	AA & Al-Anon		4:00 PM	Jr/Sr Youth Fellowship
10	6:30 PM	CYF Spiritual Formation		7:00 PM	SPRC	31	7:00 PM	Men's Book Study
	7:00 PM	Men's Book Study	20	7:00 AM	Yoga		7:00 PM	AA Big Book
	7:00 PM	AA Big Book		6:00 PM	GA			<b>Happy New Year!</b>

**Coming Soon to A Church Near You!**

**Advent 2018**



*IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE*



*Sermon Series*

*Hope \* Love \* Joy \* Peace*  
*Christ Candle*

**MURPHYSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Christmas Season Events**

- Dec 9th 10:15 am Children's Christmas Program
- Dec 9th 4:00 pm Youth Christmas Party
- Dec 16th Both Services March to the Manger
- Dec 20th 6:00 pm Blue Christmas
- Dec 24th 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Praise Service\*
- Dec 24th 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service\*
- Dec 30th Both Services Celebration Sunday

Please join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season!

\* Includes Communion



### Murphysboro Food Pantry

As we gather around the table during the Christmas season to share meals with family and friends, let us not forget those families who don't have room in their food budget to provide the extras that most of us enjoy during the holidays.

Please take this opportunity to create a holiday season that generates joyfulness for all of us this year by donating to the Murphysboro Food Pantry.

**Donation envelopes and information sheets may be picked up in the Welcome Center.**

Decorated coffee cans provided by our children and youth will also be available for receiving donations on Sunday,

December 23.



### December 11th 12:00 - NOON Fellowship Hall Celebrating Christmas



friends, fellowship, faith.

**MENU:** Ham w/Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes, Peas, Ambrosia Salad, Bread and various Deserts

**PROGRAM:** Celebrating Christmas with Holiday Music, Games, and Prizes. Please bring a dessert for all to share.

Please sign up on the attendance pad. If plans change & 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.*

### THE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY



Annual open house Sunday, December 9, from 1-4 pm.

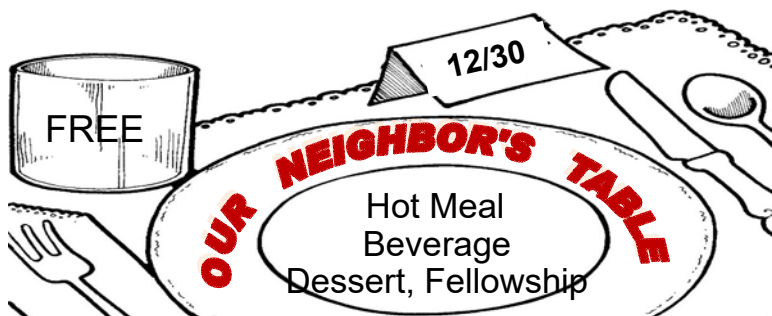
Mimi Rice's,  
501 Pump House Rd.,  
Murphysboro

Cookies and punch will be served. Hope you can come!



Saturday, December 8th at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, men of the church will gather for breakfast, devotional, and maybe a work project.

**All men of the church are invited to attend.**



**LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

# THANK YOU!

So very thankful to everyone that contributed items for the Winter Yard Sale to benefit the Murphysboro Food Panty. **Your generosity enabled us to give \$2,278.67 to the pantry this year!**

Those that worked to prepare for the sale enjoyed great fellowship and I appreciate all their hard work. On Sunday after Our Neighbors Table dinner, guests were invited to take leftover items.

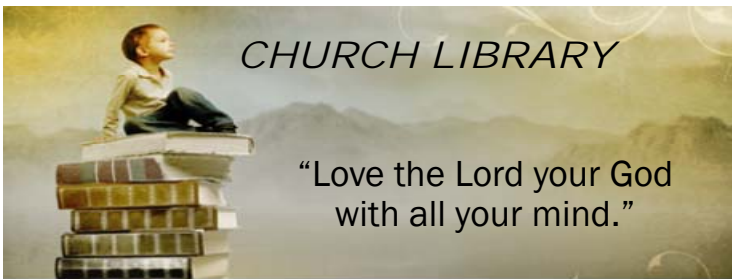
The remaining items were taken to the JR Center in Anna, which is similar to the START program in Murphysboro.

May those who are served at the Murphysboro Food Pantry feel God's blessings in their lives.

Lynn Pierson







## The Library Corner: Ready for Christmas?

If you are like me the answer to the question above is “uh, no.” But some of you are ready, and good for you! Ready or not, Christmas will soon be here, and perhaps what we all want most is to have within us a true Christmas spirit. The Church Library may be able to help with that! We have a variety of Christmas books and DVDs—including some for children and youth. Here’s a sample:

**Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here** by Max Lucado. Max loves Christmas, -- the carolers, the trees, the movies, even the crowded stores. But the real reason he loves Christmas is because Christ’s birth began the story that led to the cross and a Savior. He urges us to rekindle our connection to Christ-- and find hope for a lifetime. Lucado says: *“Christmas presents from Santa? That’s nice. But the perpetual presence of Christ? That’s life changing. God is always near us. Always for us. Always in us. . . . He called Himself “Immanuel” (which means, God with us.)”* p. 6.

For an inspiring fiction book, try **Shepherd’s Abiding** by Jan Karon. This slim book tells about Christmas in the little town of Mitford. And the dedication page reads “To the honor and glory of the child Emmanuel *God With Us.*”

Or try **Christmas in Harmony** by Phillip Gulley. In the small town of Harmony, a member of Pastor Sam Gardner’s church has an idea for a progressive Nativity Scene (like a progressive dinner) that involves the whole town. How does this wacky idea work out? Well, you’ll have to read the book!

In **Christmas Cake** by Lynn Hinton, the ladies of Hope Springs plan a cake cookbook hoping to distract themselves and their friend Margaret from the fact that her cancer has returned. But Margaret needs something else entirely, and her friends find a way. *Warning: this book contains many delicious cake recipes—read at your own risk!*

We also have books for the kiddos in your life, ranging from board books to books for older children. Here are a few:

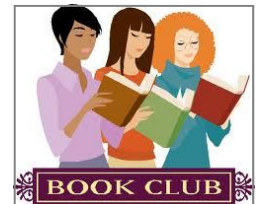
\***The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving.** The Bear cubs are focused on what they will get for Christmas—until they learn a valuable lesson about the joy of being givers.

\***Merry Christmas Mr. Mouse.** When Mr. Mouse and family take up residence in a new home they hear about Christmas and a child born long ago, and decide that they too should celebrate.

\***Great Joy.** A Christmas pageant, a little girl, and an organ grinder and his monkey. In the end, there is reason for great joy!

\***The True Gift.** Lily and Liam are happy to be at their grandparents’ farm for Christmas. But everything changes when Liam sees the lonely white cow in the barnyard. What can they do? He finds an answer, and they find out the meaning of a true gift.

MUMC  
Saturday  
Morning



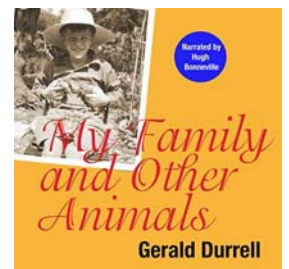
## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from the  
MUMC Saturday Morning Book Club!

### REMINDER NO DECEMBER BOOK CLUB

Join the next Discussion  
Saturday, January 19th  
10:15 a.m., Church Library

**My Family and  
Other Animals  
(Corfu Trilogy #1)  
by Gerald Durrell**



## FALL 2018 WOMEN'S BUS TRIP

NOV 8TH - 10TH

TO P. ALLEN SMITH'S MOSS MOUNTAIN FARM  
ROLAND, AR (NEAR LITTLE ROCK)



## Get a head start on your New Year's resolutions! Join the Wesley Walkers

Friday, December 7, 2018, at 10:00 am in the Church Library. Participants will gather each Friday morning for a devotion, a 20-30 minute walk (indoors during incimate weather), and a time of prayer and reflection. Step counters and devotional books with be provided. Bring your walking shoes and a desire to improve your physical and spiritual well being.



### WHAT ARE THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES UP TO?

Faithful Friends, is a class for women of all ages with rotating leaders. During the month of December, Janet Porter will be sharing with the class a variety of Advent themed devotionals. The class will not be *meeting* on Sunday, December 23.

Helping Hands, led by Donna Horniacek, is a traditional Bible Study Class for men and women. During the month of December they will begin their Winter series entitled **Our Love of God**. The first unit offers five lessons – **God Commands Our Love, Respect, and Obedience**. The quarter's second unit also offers five lessons – **Loving God by Trusting Christ**. The final unit offers three lessons from Psalms – **Love Songs That Glorify God**.

Pathfinders, led by Michelle Parker-Clark, will celebrate the Advent season with *The Gospel of It's a Wonderful Life Bible Study*. This video series brings to life the characters of Bedford Falls, in this 1946 Christmas Classic, with the following study titles and discussion themes: 1) Be Good, Do Good (Goodness), 2) A Bridge to God (Godliness), 3) Wings and Prayers (Prayers), and 4) Ordinary Miracles (Miracles).

Seekers, led by Susan Patterson, will turn their focus to Advent with the study "SENT: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas" by Jorge Acevedo and four other pastors and church workers. Based on a Bible verse – John 17:18, "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them . . ." this group of dedicated people in faith use story and discussion to illustrate what it means to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus on earth.

Trailblazers, led by Rick and Scarlett Pierson, is a class for young adults that focus on studies about fitting Christ into the big picture. Join them on Sunday morning in Room 108.



### YOUTH GROUPS

Questions? Contact a leader for your group:

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

Leaders: Diane Schingel 618-303-3757

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

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

Leaders: Stephanie Finke 618-713-4059

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

## Children's Christmas Program

### December 9th



Please join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 9th as the children will be performing their annual Children's Christmas Program during the Sunday School hour. It's guaranteed to put a smile on your face!



## Volunteer Opportunity!



We are currently in need of Children's Church volunteers for Praise service. It will be one Sunday a month. Any questions contact Sage Lintner, 618-889-7320, [mumcchildrenyouth@gmail.com](mailto:mumcchildrenyouth@gmail.com).

## Youth Christmas Party

### December 9th,

### 4-6pm



MUMC Fellowship Hall for CYF, JYF, SYF  
Dirty Santa gift exchange (\$10 max).  
Please bring one food item to share.  
Christmas pjs, costumes,  
& ugly sweaters encouraged.



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.

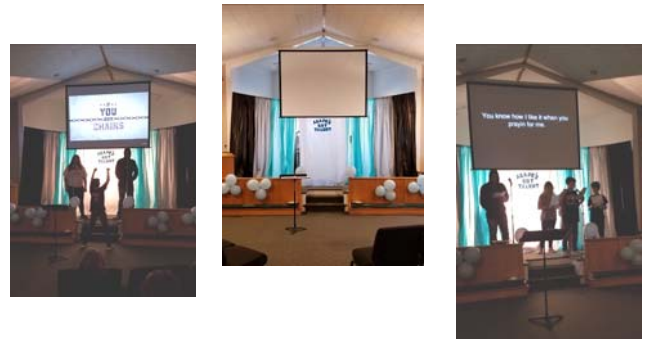


# Trunk Or Treat



## Some highlight from..... "Agape House has Talent"

### Hosted, Wednesday, November 14



**DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

TRADITIONAL		PRAISE
<u>Worship Leader</u>		
Jon Lough	Ed O'Donnell	
<u>Choir/Music Leader</u>		
Brianna Sitton	Lacey Brown	
<b>Dec</b>	<u>Prayer Request Reader &amp; Liturgist</u>	
<b>2</b>	Gaye Auxier	Ed O'Donnell
<b>9</b>	Lou Anne Lough	Ed O'Donnell
<b>16</b>	Nancy Fager	Ed O'Donnell
<b>23</b>	Gene Schwebel	Ed O'Donnell
<b>30</b>	Wilma Westerfield	Ed O'Donnell
<b>Dec</b>	<u>Children's Church Leaders</u>	
<b>2</b>	Sage Lintner	Julie Wachtel
<b>9</b>	Cheryl Smith	Scarlette Pierson
<b>16</b>	Lacey Brown/ Rene Doody	Ben Snyder
<b>23</b>	Diane Schingel	Patti Thrailkill
<b>30</b>	Diane Schingel/ Sage Lintner	Julie Wachtel
<u>Ushers</u>		
	Rick Runge, Kyle Quigley, Jim Hughes, Bob Eaton, Trina Eaton, Jay Graff	Will Thomas, & Don Abbadusky
<b>TRADITIONAL SERVICE</b>		
<b>Dec</b>	<u>Welcome Hostesses &amp; Greeter</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
<b>2</b>	Sally Moutardier Patti Shields	Caroline Guthman Eli Guthman
<b>9</b>	Kathy Bratton Sharon Graff	Phoebe Heller Charlie Pierson
<b>16</b>	Kathy Bratton Sharon Graff	Briana Carnes Harper Ellermeyer
<b>23</b>	Arlene Bitner Thelma Pierson	Landrie Green Justin Maynor
<b>30</b>	Arlene Bitner Thelma Pierson	Maya Jenkins Harper Geis
<b>STEWARDS:</b> Bob Eaton, Jay Graff, Ron Moutardier		



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



<b>15</b>	Sandy & Jack Herring	<b>24</b>	Dianna & Nathan Smith
<b>17</b>	Connie & James Boucher	<b>25</b>	Susan & Cloyd Karnes

**MURPHYSBORO  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1500 Pine Street  
Murphysboro, IL 62966



**CROSS & FLAME  
MINISTRIES**  
DESOTO • MURPHYSBORO

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

**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](mailto:murphysboroumc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.crossandflameministries.com](http://www.crossandflameministries.com)



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

**MUMC:**

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

**DeUMC:**

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

**Cross and Flame Staff**

Ministers..... The Congregations  
Pastor..... Larry A. Gilbert  
Minister of Visitation..... Michelle Parker-Clark  
Financial Secretary..... Christine Nolan  
Technology Coord..... Anne Johnson  
Webmaster..... Amanda Wingerter  
Custodian..... Pat Sullivan

**MUMC Site Staff**

Ministry Director..... Michelle Parker-Clark  
Church Secretary..... Melba Ziegler  
Ministry Support Asst..... Lacey Brown  
Children/Youth Coord..... Sage Lintner  
Pianist/Organist..... Cameron Taylor  
Choir Director..... Brianna Sitton  
Nursery Attendant..... Ashlee Sander and Caitlyn Boyd

**DeSoto Site Staff:**

Children/Youth Ministry..... Sage Lintner  
Caretakers..... Mike & Casey Johnstone

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Desoto & Murphysboro  
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