

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017 5:00 PM, Program Coordinator <ProgramCoordinator@columbusfumc.com> wrote:

First UMC / Email Blast

This Weekend in Worship...celebrate the season of Advent!

Sat @ 6 PM, Sun @ 8 AM & 10:30 AM – This weekend, the Advent sermon series “More” continues with “more peace” from Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13. In what ways do we experience the peace that passes all understanding?

Ignite on Sun @ 6 PM – As Advent begins, join Rev. Seong with the sermon series, “Return of the King” with a focus on Mark 1:1-8. Remember to stay afterward for snacks & fellowship!

Sunday School Christmas Program: We will be practicing our Christmas music over the next two Sundays in Sunday School. It is very important that your child be there to know the songs. The program will be **Sunday, December 17** during the 10:30 AM worship service. Our Children’s Christmas Program will include the Pre-K to High School Groups. Last Practice at 9 AM on Dec. 17. Please have children to church no later than 9 AM on this day!

Special Advent Studies & Activities:

Sunday School Classes, please check with your class leaders!

Mondays, Bible & Bag: Women’s Bible Study (*Pauses for Advent*) from 12 to 1 PM.

Tuesday Mornings, Bible Study (*Christmas Gifts That Won’t Break*) at 9:30 AM.

Tuesday Nights, Serendipity Group – all are welcome (*Because of Bethlehem*) @ 7 PM.

Starting **Wed. Dec. 6**, Wednesday Evening Line-Up at Outreach Center (*Christmas Gifts That Won’t Break* – three-week version) @ 7:15 PM.

Hearts & Stars for Missions – Pick-up your Hearts & Stars for Missions on the Christmas Tree located downtown in the Gathering Area and/or at

our Outreach Center in the back of the Wesley Room. You are also invited to bring all sizes & colors of mittens to place on the trees! Thank you! **Hearts** need to be returned by **Dec. 10.** / **Mittens** need to be returned by **Dec. 14.**

Nativity Pieces/Scenes – Children, nativity pieces will be handed out at each worship service during the month of December! *Previous years' Nativity Scenes* are available in the office for a small donation. Complete your sets!

Connections Trip to Omaha – Connections is sponsoring a trip to Omaha on **Friday, December 8.** They will be leaving the church parking lot at 8:30 am and returning by 5 pm. The trip will include the Poinsettia Tree at Lauritzen Gardens, Christmas at Union Station, lunch at Spaghetti works in the Old Market with a stop at Cheesecake Factory on the way home. For more information or to make a reservation contact Marilyn Zehring at 402-564-0756 or mbzehri@megavision.com.

Couples Christmas Party – “Couples” of all ages (engaged and/or married and/or just together) are invited to come celebrate the Christmas season on **Friday, December 8** from **7 to 9 PM** at the Outreach Center. Please wear festive sweaters and bring a snack to share!

AAA December Gathering - AAA (actively aging adults) will be celebrating the holiday season: **Sunday December 10 at 7pm** at Cecil & Janet Jones home – 3179 39th Ave. Please bring a snack to share. Retired or ”close to it” adults are encouraged to come and enjoy the fellowship, food, and Christmas Carols. Please RSVP to Janet and Cecil at 402-564-4280 or Martha Davidson at 402-910-8580.

Blue Christmas Service – For some, the holiday season is a lonely time for those who are alone and/or grieving the losses they have experienced in their lives. There will be a **Blue Christmas Service** held on **Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 PM** at Federated Church. This service is being sponsored by Federated, First UMC, Grace Episcopal & St. Luke’s UCC.

Youth Bake Sale – On **December 16 & 17** the youth will be doing a bake sale in chapel parlor after each service. The money raised goes to the holiday spirit co-op to help purchase gifts for children this holiday season.

Care Team Appreciation & Open House / Special Advent

Prayer & Healing Service: All who volunteer with our various caring ministries of the church are valuable to First UMC! The Care Team would like to invite all to a Care Team Appreciation & Open House on **Monday, December 18** at **7 PM** at our Outreach Center (spouses & guests are welcome to attend). *Please join us for a special Advent Prayer & Healing Service at 6:30 PM in the Wesley Room.*

CALENDAR:

December 6 / 5 PM Wednesday Night Youth Meal (OC-YU) / 6:30 Grow Men (FH) / 7 PM Worship (OC-WR) / 7:15 Youth Groups (OC-YU) / 7:15 Christmas Gifts that Won't Break (OC-MR)

December 7 / 7 PM Serendipity Group (Zehring House)

December 8 / 8:30 AM Connection's Christmas Trip to Omaha / 7 PM Couples Christmas Party (OC-CMR)

December 9 / 6 PM Worship / *Blood Pressure Checks*

December 10 / *Hearts ♥ Due* / 8 & 10:30 Worship / *Blood Pressure Checks* / 9 AM Sunday School / 10 AM Fellowship Time / 6 PM Children's Church / 6 PM Ignite! / 7 PM AAA @ Cecil & Janet Jones House

December 11 / 6:45 Program Committee Chairs / 7 PM Worship meeting

December 12 / 9 AM Quilters last meeting till February / 6:30 Serendipity Group (RM 207) / 7 PM Christian Social Witness (CP)

December 13 / 1:30 PM Brookestone Chapel / 5 PM Wednesday Night Meal (OC-YU) / 7 PM Worship (OC-WR) / 7 PM Friendship Bible Study (FH) / 7:15 Youth Groups (OC-YU) / 7:15 Christmas Gifts that Won't Break (OC-MR)

Mark Your Calendars:

December 22 – 12 to 6 pm First United Methodist Blood Drive @ OC

December 23 – 6 PM, Regular Worship Service (Fourth Sunday Advent)

December 24 – 8 AM, Regular Worship Service (Fourth Sunday Advent)

December 24 – 10:30 AM, Family Christmas Eve Service @ Church; 6 PM, Ignite Christmas Eve Praise @ OC; 11 PM, Candles, Carols & Communion @ Church

More Announcements

Harold Ritter's 90th Birthday! The family of **Harold Ritter** would like to invite members and friends of the Columbus First United Methodist Church to celebrate his 90th Birthday on **Saturday, December 9**, from **2 to 4 PM** in First United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall! No gifts, please!

“Piece by Piece” Capital Campaign – The Capital Campaign Team wants to challenge the church family members to **PRAY @ 3:12 PM/AM** each day for the Church and the Campaign. The time is from 2 Corinthians 3:12, *Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.* Please pray for hope, courage, boldness and faith! For more information about being a part of the “Piece by Piece” Prayer Team, talk to Lois Smith and/or Rev. Cindi Stewart.

Call to Action – Attention, Congregation! **Have you ever wanted to take action regarding issues but were unsure how to make your voice heard?** Or wondered if it does any good? Every voice counts and matters. The Christian Social Witness Team is compiling a list of people's email addresses that would like information on how to take Action. The **“Call to Action” list** will provide you with information on how to contact organizations, or law makers, to voice your opinion on topics. Emails will contain information regarding topics and explain, when, how and who to contact. If interested in receiving information and being part of the “Call to Action” list please contact Delanie Hudnall, djhudnall@columbushosp.org.

WANTED: Chancel Choir Accompanist – The Chancel Choir of the Church is looking for an accompanist to rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM, and to play for choir presentations on the first & third Sundays of the

month. This is a paid position. For more information, please contact Rev. Cindi and/or Chancel Choir Director Sarah Cunningham. *Feel free to forward this information to others.*

Blood Drive: First United Methodist Church Blood Drive is on **Friday, December 22** from 12 to 6 PM @ our Outreach Center. Call Connie Jensen at 402-563-4123 to schedule a time. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Taste Of Alpha: First UMC has a great tradition of hosting the Alpha Course to strengthen & to renew your faith as well as to get to know others in the church family. A Taste of Alpha will be held on **Thursday, January 11, beginning at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.** At that time, you can enjoy a home-cooked meal and to watch a video that will introduce you to the Alpha Course. Please watch for more information in the bulletin & on our church's website.

Discipleship & Leadership Opportunities: – Want to **VOLUNTEER / SERVE** in the Church? Watch this ***newly added*** section for opportunities! Email Erin Landon for more info: ProgramCoordinator@columbusfumc.com

Care Team needs a few more Caring People to serve in a variety of ways: provide transportation to & from worship on the weekends and/or to medical appointments; make hospital visits and/or visits to homebound members; help to coordinate health & wellness activities. Care 101, 202 & 303 trainings available as scheduled. Talk to Rev. Cindi, Dee Kinkaid and/or Martha Davidson for more info. Trainings are open to all church family members & friends who want to develop their caring skills. Sign-up in the Church Office with Rev. Cindi. Thank you!

Sound Techs serve in weekly worship services and/or special events as scheduled (funerals, weddings, etc). **Training available!** Expectation would be to serve once a month (if we have enough volunteers). Talk to Jim Hanna or Kevin Whited for more info!

Community Connection!

Center For Survivors- The center is now in its 27 year of serving our families and individuals in six counties. We have served over 1,000 individuals in 2016. One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, and one in seven men will experience severe physical violence by their partner. Churches have been vital in providing our center resources for families and individuals impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. We have many families and individuals on our Christmas wish lists that are in need of new winter clothing. If you would like to adopt a family, for our Christmas wish list program, please call 402-564-2155 or email outreach@centerforsurvivors.net. Our need list is in the office at First United Methodist Church. Some of the items include garbage bags, laundry detergent, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, cereal, soups, diapers, Ziploc bags, and gift cards.

Prairie Rivers District Mission Trip Opportunity – PLEASE SIGN-UP ASAP!!! The Prairie Rivers District is forming a district wide missions team to go to Texas this coming January to help with the recovery work from Hurricane Harvey. Please join Pastors Russ Anderson and Martin Leeper **January 28 – February 3**. The exact location is yet to be determined. This mission opportunity is for laity and clergy alike. Call Pastor Russ at 308-382-1952, or Pastor Martin at 402-741-2362 for more information. The Prairie Rivers District will help with some of the expenses keeping the cost per person low. The expected cost per person is \$200 (housing, food budget, fuel cost sharing, ect.). Volunteer in Mission (VIM) team training events will be held throughout the district for those wishing to join the mission team. Please look for information on when and where they will be held. **PLEASE SIGN-UP ASAP!!!**