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First UMC / Email Blast

Before we worship this weekend –

Blue Christmas Ecumenical Worship Service / TONIGHT, Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 PM at Federated Church, we will gather together to remember those who need an extra measure of the gifts of the season: hope, peace, joy & love. If you are grieving and/or are feeling lonely this season, come and experience Emmanuel, *God with us*, with our ecumenical partner churches. All are invited and welcome to participate.

This Weekend in Worship – *We are called to Prepare the Way for Jesus in this season. Just like the time we spend to prepare our homes, we need to prepare our hearts!*

Sat @ 6 PM (OC) and Sun @ 8 AM & 10:30 AM (Church) – As we continue in the Advent season, “**Prepare the Way**” with a focus on *Peace* and what it means to *Refine* from Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6.

Ignite on Sun @ 6 PM (OC) – This weekend join @ Ignite reflect on how we can get pulled away from what the true meaning of Christmas through “**Advent Conspiracy.**” This week’s **Spend Less** is focused on Matthew 6:19-24 and Psalm 24:1-6. **Remember to stay for a light meal & fellowship in the evening.**

Fair Trade Items For Sale – Christmas Edition / This weekend (rescheduled from last week), there will be Fair Trade items for sale – just in time for the holidays! Check out the Gathering Area to find that special unique gift!

Hearts & Stars / THANK YOU for your dedication to this year's **Hearts & Stars for Missions** projects! **STARS** are going toward supplies for UMCOR Cleaning Buckets. **HEARTS** represent children in our community who are in need – on each heart is the age & gender of the child and the items their parents have suggested for gifts (total for the gifts should be \$30 to \$35). Gifts need to be wrapped & returned to the Church by **Sunday, December 9**. This is important: SIGN the tablet next to the tree with the number that you have taken. Each family unit will receive a Gift Card for groceries, Golden Book Christmas Story and a bag of Cuties! Thank you for your support! **P.S. We have ONLY TWO HEARTS left on the tree as of 12/06/18**

PBJ4JC / **Peanut Butter and Jelly for Jesus Christ Holiday Giving Drive for the Food Pantry and Backpack Program**. As a way to honor Baby Jesus, the Lamb of God, we are extending an invitation to our Sunday School children, youth, and entire congregation to help feed the hungry children in our community by bringing offerings of Peanut Butter and Jelly as gifts to Baby Jesus during this Holiday Season. These gifts will be shared with the Backpack Program and Food Pantry. (There will be gift boxes or bags in Sunday School rooms or near the Sanctuary) **FYI: The Backpack program requires plastic jars.** *Jesus commanded us to feed his lambs; and He also informed us that whenever we give to those in need, we have given to Him.*

Sunday School Christmas Program / This year's Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 16** at the **10:30 AM** service. MYTT will practice on **Wednesday evening during the meal time**. Parents, please plan to have your students in Sunday School classes to participate this year! **NOTE: all Sunday School students & MYTT members are invited to rehearsal on Sun. Dec. 16 at 9 AM in the Sanctuary.**

Actively Aging Adults (AAA) / Plan to go to Cecil & Janet Jones' house on Sunday evening, **December 9** at 7 PM for caroling & refreshments!

Advent Bible Studies / As the **Advent Season** is upon us, **Prepare the Way** by participating in one of our many studies!

- **Sundays**, 9 to 10 AM – Sunday School Classes
- **Sundays**, 4 to 5:30 PM @ OC – starting on 12/2 – *Characters of Christmas*

- **Mondays**, 12 to 1 PM @ OC – Bible & Bag – Studying Christmas story in Matthew & Luke
- **Tuesdays**, 9:30 AM @ Church – Tues Morning Bible Study (studying Esther, started on 11/27)
- **Tuesdays**, 11:30 to 1 PM @ El Tapatio - Taco Tuesday (Advent reflections)
- **Wednesdays**, 7:15 to 8:15 PM @ OC – Kidz Korner, Youth Groups, Advent LIVE (for adults in Meditation Room, starting 12/5)
- **Thursdays**, 8 to 9 PM @ OC (and/or off-site location) – Men’s Bible Study

Prayer & Healing Service / The monthly **Prayer & Healing Service** is returning to the **Third Monday at 6:30 PM at our Outreach Center** in the Meditation Room. The next service will be held on December 17. *All are invited & welcome to come, to pray & to receive an optional anointing of oil.* **Then stay for the Care Team’s “Handling the Holidays” Open House** from 7 to 8:30 PM for some pampering, holiday tips for handling difficult situations & some goodies too!

CALENDAR: <https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/74025457/month/2018-12-01>

Mark Your Calendars:

December 6 – *Blue Christmas Service @ Federated Church* / College-Age Students FREE Meal @ OC (7 PM)

December 7 – *Clark-Hash Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner*

December 8 – *Clark-Hash Wedding in Sanctuary*

December 9 – *Christmas Tree Hearts & Stars Due / Fair Trade Items – Christmas Edition* (located in the Gathering Area) / AAA (Actively Aging Adults) Caroling @ Cecil & Janet Jones House

December 14 - **Circuit Rider Articles Due**

December 16 – Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17 – First UMC Blood Drive

December 17 – Prayer & Healing Service / Care Team Open House & “Handling the Holidays”

December 23 – ‘Christmas Eve’ Eve Celebration at Ignite Service

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Services at Church: 5 PM Children and Family Service, 7 PM Carols & Candles Service, 11 PM Carols, Candles & Communion Service

January 3 – *NE Wesleyan Choir performance @ 7 PM in the Sanctuary*

Community Connection! – *Please check-out the Community Bulletin Board located outside of the Church Office! Click on the hyperlinks to go to learn more about the events listed below.*

- [Blue Christmas Service](#) – December 6
- [Here We Come a Waffling](#) – December 10
- [Gallery Gift Gala](#) – Nov. 26 – Jan. 4