

The Kedron Connection

Kedron United Methodist Church
6650 Kedron Church Road Smyrna, TN 37167

Phone: (615) 223-7858

Website: www.kedronumc.org Facebook: Kedron UMC

Reverend Barry Culbertson, Pastor

Phone: (931) 217-8841

Email: pastor-barry@KedronUMC.org

Volume 16

December 2017

Issue 11

From Our Pastor

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.” 1 Corinthians 13:12a

“And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had spit on his eyes and laid hands upon him, he asked him, ‘Do you see anything?’ And he looked up and said, ‘I see men; but they look like trees walking.’ Then again he laid his hands upon his eyes; and he looked intently, and was restored, and saw everything clearly.” Mark 8:23-25

Odd isn't it, that as Advent and Christmas approach we actually have less daylight as the month proceeds! There is less light in each day until December 21 and then.....the days begin to lengthen. I always remember work days in December as a time to drive home in the dark. I remember as a child I worried about my father getting home dark December nights especially as he drove that twisty road of 30 miles from Gate City to Pennington Gap (Virginia) as he left one of his furniture stores coming home on a Saturday night. What kind of a Christmas would we have if he didn't make it!!

And shadows: just enough light to throw objects into shadows early or late in the day. Shadows are often misleading and cause uncertainty about what is actually up ahead. People of faith long for the Light but much of our life is both shadows and dark. We simply don't see God the Father of all Goodness as much as we would hope for. As the preacher/writer Frederick Buechner says, “Advent is like the hush in a theatre just before the curtain rises. It is like the hazy ring around the winter moon that means the coming of snow which will turn the night to silver. Soon. But for the time being, our time, darkness is where we are.”

He could have said shadows just as much. We get some light but not enough to see really well. Candles in church in both day and night services are reminders that they do give light but cast shadows as well. The promise, however, is that the Light Of Christmas WILL be there for us both now and Forever in spite of the darkness and shadows we each will encounter on our way Home. And then all will be Light, the Light of the world!

If you can't “see” as much as you would like regarding your faith, ask the Lord to “touch you again,” a second or third or.....whatever time once more during this Advent 2017. May you be blessed through your Advent waiting and praying as much as your Advent activities.

Blessings!

Pastor Barry

Men's Breakfast – All Invited

The December Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, December 2. The men are inviting all in our congregation. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Thank you, men.

Christmas Program Practice

Children and Youth, we will practice for our Christmas program after breakfast on Saturday, December 2. The choir will practice with us.

Fellowship Supper

There will be no First-Wednesday Fellowship Supper in December. Join us the first Wednesday in January.

Choir Notes

We will practice after the breakfast on Saturday morning, December 2. Let's practice at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16.

Handwork Ministry

The Handwork Ministry meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. to knit and crochet. The group will meet on Wednesday, December 20 at the home of Ernestine Clark, 2414 Gauphin Lane, Smyrna. The group is buying Christmas gifts for a child who might not otherwise have gifts. If you would like to donate to help them with this project, please see Ernestine Clark.

Bible Study

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at the home of Lytle Hodge on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. The address is 507 Hazelwood Drive, Smyrna.

Laity Meeting

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will not meet in December. Meetings will resume in January.

Psalm 100 from the Book of Psalms was the quote in the November newsletter.

December 17 at Kedron

Our children and youth will present their **Christmas Program** during the morning worship service on December 17.

There will be a time of **snacks and fellowship** following worship service; please bring snacks to share.

Make plans to join us.

Christmas cards may be brought for the church family; they will be distributed during during fellowship. If you would like to donate to the church what you would have spent on postage, there will be a basket for the money.

Christmas Eve Service

We will gather at 6:00 p.m. at Kedron for our Christmas Eve Service. This is an inspiring evening to be in church.

Food Bank

You may bring food donations for the Nourish Food Bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month. Place the food items on the pew in the narthex. The food will be delivered to our local food bank. The suggested items for December are sugar-free foods. All non-perishable foods are accepted and appreciated.

Bucket Offerings

In December our bucket offerings at Sunday morning worship will be donated to the Good Shepherd Home for Children in Murfreesboro.

Recital at Kedron

Lindsey Benedict, a local piano and voice teacher, asked if she could have her Christmas recital at Kedron. She has been given permission to use our building. The recital will be at 7:00 p.m. on December 14.

Who Said This?

"She will bear son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

--NRSV
(hint – Book of Matthew)

Happy Birthday to:

Charles Sprinkle	December 3
Kristy Fraley	December 6
Martha Fraley	December 8
Marc Fraley	December 11
Linda Pagello	December 11
Lawrence Alfred Elam Rhodes	December 12
Danny Fraley	December 14
Jane Watts	December 24

Happy Anniversary to:

Ricky & Lynn Fann	December 22
-------------------	-------------



Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

— Oren Arnold



A Prayer

Thank you God, for loving our world and us so much that you sent Jesus to share your love with us and show us how to love one another. Help us to celebrate Christmas every day by sharing your love all year 'round. Amen.

Let the liberating joy of God shine forth in our lives!

December Calendar

Saturday, December 2:

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Congregation Invited

After Breakfast Children, Youth & Choir

Christmas Program Practice

Sunday, December 3:

First Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 p.m. 20 minute Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 5:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, December 10:

Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. 20 minute Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 12:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, December 16:

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, December 17:

Third Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Christmas Program

After Worship Snacks, Christmas cards

10:30 a.m. January newsletter

information due. Email:

lf_fraley@prodigy.net

or phone: 615-459-2618.

Tuesday, December 19:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, December 20:

10:00 a.m. Handwork Ministry at

Ernestine Clark's home

Sunday, December 24:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. 20 minute Choir Practice

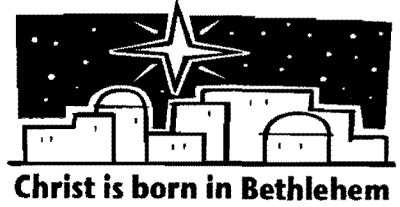
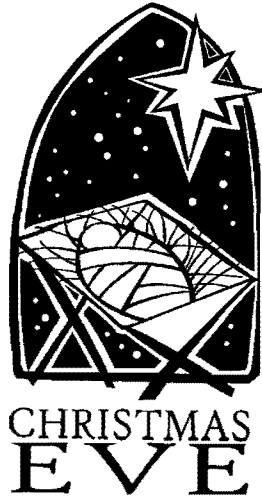
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day

Sunday, December 31:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service



Finding Bethlehem

Can you help Joseph and Mary find the way to Bethlehem?

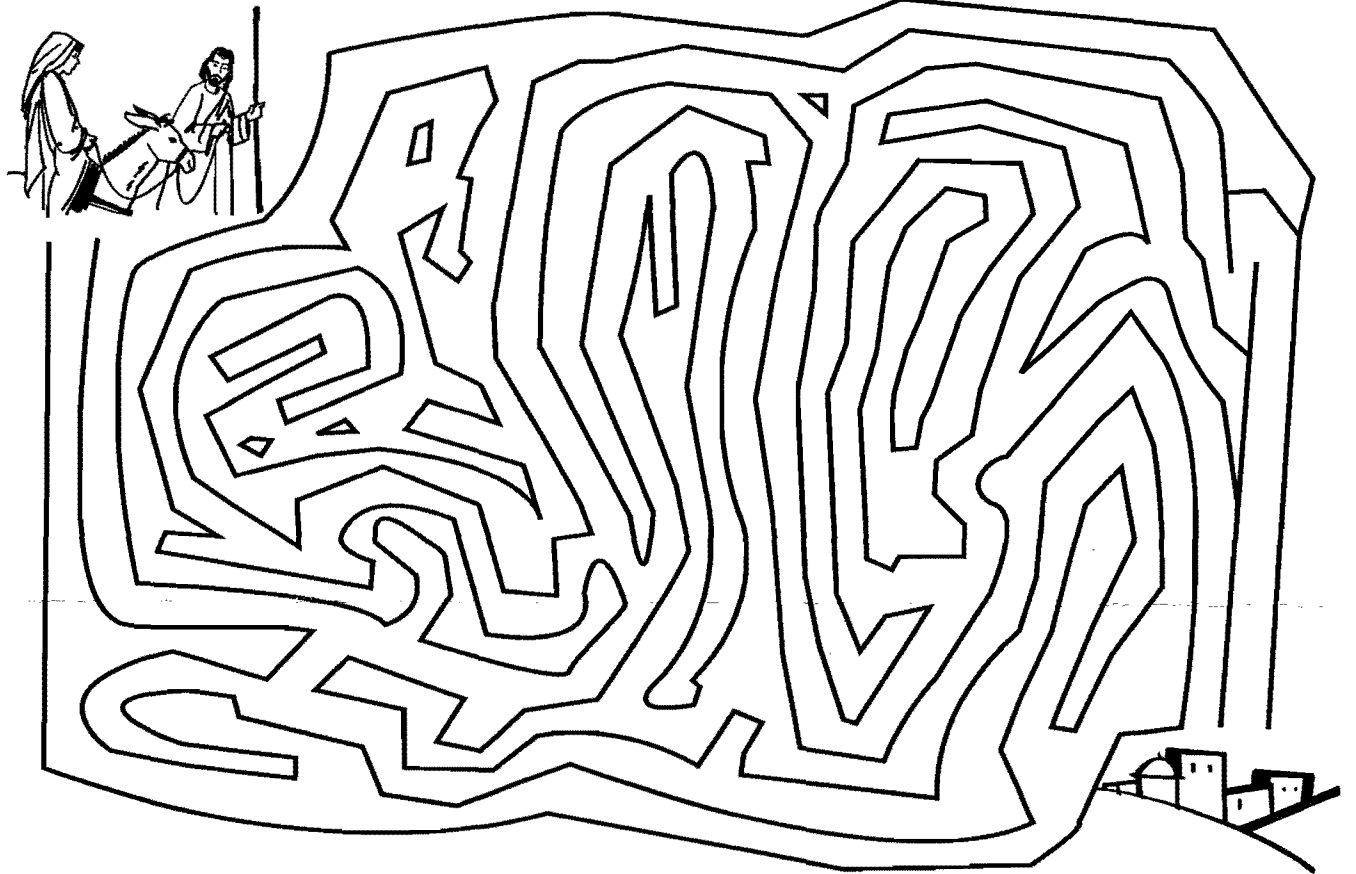


Table Grace

In this holy season
join our hopes, dreams, and prayers
for peace in our world
with those of all humanity
Bless us and this food we eat
and strengthen us to serve others. Amen.