

FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2017

The Value of a Friend

“Two are
Better than one,
Because they have a good reward
For
Their labor.
For if they fall,
one will lift up his companion.”
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NKJV)

When choosing a lifestyle that supports our faith, following through with exercise/activity and eating good nutritious foods, some people discover that many good things that happen during December can pull us away from our normal good choices. Additional family and/or work activities in our schedule can distract us from our prayer and meditation times and may tempt us to eat more food and to turn away from our exercise routine. A good way to cope with these temptations is to create a team we can check in with for encouragement and support and for whom we can offer encouragement and support. Consider asking a close friend, relative, or members of our church family to be part of your support team. We will include tips for putting your team together with the email newsletter and will have some paper copies of this tool available at church this Sunday. Let's pray for each other that this December will be a healthy one for all of us.

Thank you!

Scott and I feel blessed that our Friendship family understands better than we do the value of a day away from routine activities. The gift of a night away in beautiful accommodations was relaxing and refreshing, especially during this season of the time changing and shorter hours of daylight when it is tempting to hibernate. Thank you for your prayers, thoughtfulness, cards, grace, love, and generosity. We very much appreciate the Friendship Family.

I also want to thank the many people who are giving much of their time and service to make the worship services during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons meaningful. It is a gift to have the Hanging of the Greens Service the first Sunday in December. In addition, several persons are

preparing monologues for various people who were part of the waiting for the Messiah, and were also obedient to God's plan. One is even willing to portray the less than popular Herod. We will have worship at 11:00 a.m. on December 24, the last Sunday of Advent, and the beloved candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 11:00 p.m. Special appreciation is expressed to Joyce Newman who had the vision for many of the gifts in these worship services and to Pam Chapman and the choir for the music they have prepared, including a Cantata for the December 24th morning service. Be sure to invite family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to join you for these special services.

May the Advent wait be life changing and enriching for you,
Nellie



LADIES, join us as we celebrate Christmas with a meal, good fellowship, fun, and special Christmas music. This special time will be held in our fellowship hall, on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. Ladies, please see Brenda or Pam Chapman so we can get a count.



As you begin preparing for this very special season, please remember those who are facing difficult times. We hope to provide a 'little' gift bag for those participating in the meal ministry at the House of Agape in December. We are seeking donations of the following items to include in the bags. Final collection date will be *December 10th*.

- Hand cream (to fit in a small gift bag, some of the ladies would enjoy a scented lotion)
- Lip balm (Chap Stick)
- Hard candy
- Hershey Kisses
- Protein bars
- Gloves (men and women)



Angel Tree names will be available Sunday. I hope you will plan to pick up your names as soon as possible. All gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 17. Please make sure you attach the Angel Tree gift tag with child's name or number to the gift.

Thanks for your generous support for this program each year! Your gifts mean a lot to the children in our local community. We try to help families that are struggling to pay basic living expenses, yet they don't qualify for other outreach programs.

Theme: Isaiah cries out for God to show God's power revealing that God is greater than the gods of God's enemies. He cries out for God not to hold their sin against them. Has God hidden from the people or have the people used sin as a way of hiding themselves from God?

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

The acolyte should relight the first candle of the Advent wreath when the altar candles are lit. A **monologue** by **Zacharias** will be given, and then the second candle (purple) of the Advent wreath will be lighted by Zacharias.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon: *God Provides Comfort*

Theme: This message will remember that God desires for God's people to be comforted and protected. In a broken world where violence and hatred seem to be occurring daily, it is important to realize that God is with us, like a shepherd, tending to us and guiding us.

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

The acolyte will light the first two purple candles in the wreath when the altar candles are lighted. A **monologue** will be given by **Joseph**, and then Joseph will light the third candle (pink) of the Advent wreath

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: *Sparks of Joy in the Wilderness*

Theme: Sometimes people refer to times of tragedy and pain as "wilderness or desert times," but it is in these wilderness times that we experience powerful moments with God.

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Choir Cantata

The acolyte will light the first two purple candles and the pink candle. Then when **Mary's mother** completes her **monologue**, she will light the fourth purple candle in the wreath.

Scriptures: Romans 16:25-27

Sermon: *God's Secret Pours Out!*

Theme: Through the prophets, God has told His love for Israel. Now that love is revealed to the Gentiles so they too can know God's unconditional love.

December 24 Christmas Eve

Friendship 11:00 p.m.

The acolyte will light 2 purple candles, the pink candle, and one more purple candle. After **Mary's**

You and your family are cordially invited to join us for a Christmas Drop-in on Sunday, December 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please come and fellowship with friends and enjoy some food as we prepare for Christmas. We hope to see you there.

Calvin, Joyce, & Phillip
3315 Timothy Drive,
RHSC 29730
803-324-1756



If you are interested in being a worship leader or serve communion, please let me know. It adds so much to the service having laity involved. ~ Joyce Newman

Worship Worksheets December 2017

December 3 First Sunday of Advent

A **monologue** by **Elizabeth** will be used for the lighting of the first Advent Candle (purple).

Friendship will have a **Hanging of the Greens** service so Nellie's plan is to work the meditation based on Isaiah into The Great Thanksgiving.

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

monologue, we will hear the **monologue** of the **Shepherd** who will light the Christ Candle after he finishes speaking.

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

Mediation: *Endless Peace*

December 31 First Sunday after Christmas
The four candles should be removed from the advent wreath. The Christ candle should remain and the acolyte will light it this Sunday and next Sunday. We will hear the **Inn Keeper's monologue**.

Scripture: Galatians 4:4-7

Sermon: Sons and Daughters of God

January 7 Remembering the *Epiphany of our Lord*
The acolyte lights the Christ candle. **The monologue of Herod** will be shared this week.
Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12; Ephesians 3:1-12
Sermon: God Gives Grace

Happy Anniversary

Jonathan & Amy Sexton	12/05
Randy & Sara Thompson	12/05
Frank & Neala Caldwell	12/14
Scott & Debbie Allen	12/17
Jonathan & Lynn Johnson	12/24
Jerry & Jan Brown	12/31
Nathan & Ashley Lance	12/31

Happy Birthday to

Kendall Murphy	12/03
Gene Gardner Jr.	12/04
Brian Hurst	12/04
Wade Hoke	12/07
John Queen	12/08
Carol Sanders	12/08
Robert Sutton	12/09
Jamie Zimmerman	12/09
Jane Jackson	12/12
Sara Thompson	12/14
Todd Nichols	12/15
Roger Chapman	12/16
Patricia Cloninger	12/17
Jessica Cale	12/18
Rose Cale	12/19
Kimberly Ransom	12/22
Donna Williams	12/27



Worship Leader – Jim Ransom

Greeter – Sheila Sanders

Communion Servers-
Randy & Sara Thompson

Money Counters

December 3 Ethel & Sara
December 10 Elizabeth & Joyce N
December 17 Patsy &
December 24 Janis & Tony
December 31 Ethel & Sara

Cool Church –Leader-

December 3 Patricia
December 10 Pat Bowling
December 17 Frank Caldwell
December 24 Tony Jackson
December 31

Nursery Ministry

December 3 Ethel & Joyce T
December 10 Sara & Donna
December 17 Debbie A & Rose
December 24 Ashley & Angie
December 31 Janis & Barbie



*Loving God, Loving People, Serving the
World*