

First United Methodist Church of Dexter, Missouri

## Give Thanks

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's a time to be thankful for all that God has done in our lives. But maybe it's pushing the idea too far when we read in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Rejoice always? Give thanks in all circumstances? Most of

us have times in our lives when we struggle to be thankful. Jeff Lambert certainly has had such a time. But we serve a mighty God, who in His wisdom allows us to go through some tough times in our lives in order for us to be drawn closer to Him. Jeff has such a story...



*My testimony,*

*(I don't like attention, but I hope my testimony will benefit the church.)*

*I had a life changing accident 6 years ago that caused brain damage which doesn't let my body respond as it should. Before the accident, I was very active, running half and whole marathons and cycling on long road rides and through the mountains of Colorado. I had a job working mostly outdoors. I was always going somewhere; my home was just a place to store my stuff.*

*After the accident, unable to participate in former activities, I found myself sitting on the couch a lot. I began reading and surfing the internet for an activity. After some news story caught my attention, I started researching peaceful resistance by groups of people. I would read about Gandhi, Thoreau and MLK Jr. Eventually I made it around to Jesus.*

*Previous to then, I never had any problems with the Bible or God, they were not a concern of mine. It was something I didn't think about very often. But the more I seriously read about Jesus, his teachings, his miracles, him being a leader that was servant to all, not doing anything for earthly gain and his sacrifices for others, the more I thought this is someone I could respect, love and follow.*

*Reading about the Apostles drove it home for me. Mankind has a way of screwing everything up. But the Apostles served, witnessed and*

*learned from the Christ while he was on earth. After his death, they could have forgotten all about Jesus or tried to monopolize on his legend for personal gain. They did neither. Instead, they were instrumental in beginning the largest religion the world has known all while living lives of poverty and being martyrs. Why would someone give their lives unless they truly believe in a cause.*

*So, with a head full of new beliefs and more questions than answers, I began to consider church. Being the engineer that I am, I observed and researched in search for the best fit church for me. One option was the UMC. In December of 2017, I showed up at Dexter FUMC without a friend or family member to guide me. I haven't missed a Sunday yet.*

*Pastor Ron was only too happy to engage me every chance he had and the congregation was welcoming. Soon, Ron and I discussed baptism and on April 8, 2018, Ron poured water over my head to cleanse me, Jesus accepted me into his church, I professed my sins and believe to have repented in prayer to our Lord. That was the proudest, yet most humbling day of my life.*

*Church has been beneficial in many ways. At first, I just worshiped and praised God every Sunday and at special services. Then I joined our growth group where I learned about the Gospel and my new church family members. Before I knew it, I was volunteering in our Bethany program, Sharefest, participating in Methodist Men, attending informational meetings, and working audio and video services for Crossover. I write this not to boast, but to offer that for me, church is more than an hour on Sundays. Sundays are vital, but if you only attend some or even most Sundays, it's easy to attend less and less over time. Our love and desire to celebrate God should suffice in reason for constant attendance, but as I said before, man will screw everything up given time. My solution was to be involved and participate in as many church activities as I could. I feel a part of something and I have a second home at church. My wish is that others might feel this way.*

*Now, we have the privilege of working with and learning from Pastor Larry. I look forward to new possibilities. Thank you for considering my ramblings... May God bless all believers and show patience and tolerance for those who will follow Him.*

*Jeff Lambert*

The Gospel is still changing lives and God's kingdom is expanding! Jeff is now part of God's story. If you have a testimony to share, I would love to hear it. I hope you have a very blessed Thanksgiving! See you on Sunday,

*Pastor Larry*



First United Methodist Church  
501 South Walnut Street  
Dexter, Missouri

Sunday, November 24, 2019  
6:00 p.m.

Dexter Ministerial Alliance

# COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

*Everyone is welcome!*



*It's Time to  
Decorate*

We need men to stay after the worship services to help put up the Christmas trees in Wesley Hall and the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 24.

A volunteer is needed to take charge of decorating the tree and the altar in Wesley Hall. Please contact the church office or the pastor if you would be willing to serve.

Decorating in the Sanctuary will begin on Sunday evening, November 24. We will continue on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday or until everything is completed. Come out and help us or contact Donna Keller for more information.

# THE GIVING TREE



Stop by Wesley Hall and pick up one or more ornaments from The Giving Tree. All gifts are for needy students from the Dexter School System. Place your name on half the ornament and put it in the box. Keep the other half and attach it to your wrapped gift. Please place your gifts under the tree by December 15.

## *Glory in the Highest*

Christmas Cantata 2019

Sunday, December 15  
10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.



The Chancel Choir will present "Glory in the Highest" on Sunday, December 15, at 10:30 a.m. Our 8:15 and 9:15 worship services will not be held that morning. After the performance, we will gather in Wesley Hall for a Christmas Potluck Dinner. Meat, bread, and drinks will be provided. Bring casseroles, salads, vegetables, and desserts to share. (Please bring enough sides for your family and guests.)

A performance for the community will be held at 5:00 p.m.



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30 Choir, 3	2 Pairs & Spares, 8:30 a.m. at Airport Café  Boy Scouts, 7	3	4 Praise Band, 6:30 Choir, 7:00	5 GG 2, 6:30	6	7
8 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30 Choir, 3	9  Boy Scouts, 7	10  Bethany, 4-5 pm	11 Praise Band, 6:30 Choir, 7:00	12	13	14 Wesley Hall Reserved
15  <b>Christmas Cantata</b> , 10:30 Potluck after Cantata Deadline for Giving Tree Presents	16  Boy Scouts, 7	17	18 Praise Band, 6:30 Choir, 7:00	19	20	21
22 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	23  Boy Scouts, 7	24  Christmas Eve Worship, 6 pm	25 	26	27	28
29 Morning Grace, 8:15 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	30  Boy Scouts, 7	31				

## December Birthdays

12/1 Terry Crowley, Gracen Hampton  
 12/3 David Williams  
 12/5 Weston Jarrell  
 12/7 Jim Currie  
 12/8 John Fisher  
 12/10 Victoria Bess  
 12/12 Tammy Freeman  
 12/14 Chandler Crowley  
 12/16 MaryRuth Boone  
 12/18 Barbara Duckworth  
 12/19 Brooklyn Goodman, Sandra Clark  
 12/21 Margie Elam  
 12/23 Jim Baker  
 12/28 Debbie Riggle  
 12/31 Carl Hill

## December Anniversaries

12/23 Mark & Sherry Snider  
 12/27 Brad & Sarah Jarrell  
 12/28 Dean & Carolyn Carroll

# OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

## Current Prayer Requests

Family of Mike Kennedy, Carl Hill, Wanda Nolan, Maxine Hedrick, David Horne, family of Jesse Reddick, Donna Sutton, Kent Newton, Jimmy Dale Reeves, Fred & Alberta Zmarzly, Rick Kelley, Wayne Freeman, Linda Collier, Wayne Mays, Olivia Tind, Alma Smith, John Barge, Sr., Michelle Walker, Darryl Orr, Larry York, Debra Sharits, Joe Miller, Terri Hall

## Nursing Homes

Wes Eskew, Marie Quinn, Louise Stevens, Elmer Wilson, Elsie Buttry, Bea McKillip, Mildred Miller, Wanda Roberts, Bonnie Merritt, Kitty Kandalraft, Barbara Sanders, Karen Tippen, Gerald Jackson, Carolyn Montgomery, Eloise Conner, Gracie Smith, Kenneth Minton, Peggy Matthews, Joy Watson, June Manlove, Donna Gregg, Bob Mayer, Pat Evans, Annabeth Miller, Joy Evans, Caryl Clippard, Barb Coons, Vera Almond, Bobby Robbins, Wanda Nolan, Max Summers, Jane Robertson, Patty Williams, Bob & Yvonne Keathley, Ivan Lee, Ron Pearson, Susan Aslin, Judith Perkins

## Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of Michael Kennedy who died on November 8.

## Special Giving

In memory of Wilma Quick - Peggy Palmer, Marie Quinn, Peggy Matthews, Judy Rimel. In memory of Yewell Lawrence - Larry & Carol White. In memory of Betty Branum - Larry & Carol White. In memory of Michael Kennedy - Judy Rimel. In memory of Lawrence Holt - Judy Rimel. In memory of Tiffany Kyle - Judy Rimel.



*Congratulations to Cam & Cathryn Williams upon the birth of a son, Deacon Ross Williams, on November 14 weighing 7 pounds and 7 ounces. Proud grandparents are Dan & Connie Heil.*

## In Our Mailbox

Thanks to all for your support, cards, and gifts to the church during the loss of my brother, Lawrence. Your expression of kindness has been uplifting to our family and is stored in our cherished memories. Tom Holt and family

## Support the Memorial Fund

Our old commercial refrigerator in Wesley Hall stopped working this week. Thanks to your generous support of our Memorial Fund, we were able to purchase a new one. When you make a contribution to the fund in memory of someone who has died, the church office sends an acknowledgement of the gift to the family and also lists it in the prayer ministry box of our monthly newsletter. Funds are allocated by the Memorial Committee for special needs of the church. In the past the fund has purchased new carpet, computers, copiers, and many other items for the church.

## Thanks For Your Help!

Nineteen units were collected at our October blood drive in Wesley Hall. We hope even more of our church members will turn out to give the gift of life at our next drive.

Our church is collecting cups of applesauce for the Meals on Wheels program this month. The applesauce will be used in emergency food kits this winter. Currently we have 65 cups and we need 60 more to reach our goal of 125.



Tuesday, Dec. 10  
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In November we will be collecting feminine pads, baby wipes, and shave cream. Of course monetary donations are always welcome. Please consider signing up to help deliver items to the elderly and homebound citizens that we serve each month. Please note the time change.

