



*From the Pastor:*

Dear Church Family,

The busy Christmas season begins!

Last evening, I sat down to take a look at our family Christmas tree and soak it in for a moment. This season is usually a whirlwind of days and it is very easy to miss Christmas - family, friends, moments, and proper reflection on the coming of the Son of God to save sinners.

Our church family has a few events that you should be sure to include in your observance this year:

- Saturday, December 3 at 9 AM come help hang the greens and get our building decorated for the Christmas days ahead.
- Sunday, December 4 at 6 PM in the Sanctuary will be our annual Lessons and Carols Service. There will be nine Scripture Lessons that show us the span of redemptive history in the Bible. We will sing Christmas Carols, hear from our Choir as they sing Christmas Songs and our instrumentalists will perform various sounds of the celebration of Christ's incarnation. There will be a reception following the service in the Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, December 18 at 6 PM is our annual Christmas Caroling venture to our loved ones in the church who are homebound. Gather just prior to our 6 PM departure from the Fellowship Hall and we will make our rounds, returning for cookies and hot drinks!
- Each week in worship, we will consider the great themes of Scripture that give us meaning in life and service to Jesus. These passages will also help us see that from creation in Genesis to fulfillment of creation in Revelation, God is at work on the stage of creation, showing his glorious plan of redemption for sinners. We will also sing through the hymnal's Christmas selections to help our hearts and minds focus on Jesus our Redeemer.

Joyce Payne coordinated our Operation Christmas Child project this year and reports: "Thanks to everyone, we collected 107 Operation Christmas Child Boxes. Thanks to those who gave monetary donations. Our elves were able to create 24 more boxes. Look for information about our program starting in January....OCC all year long!"

I hope that our church ministry opportunities will help you celebrate the coming of Christ!

See you on Sunday,

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The Session has called the annual business meeting of the congregation for Sunday, December 11, 2016 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the 2017 Budget and hold elections for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Congregational Chair and Treasurer. Copies of the budget and the final ballot for officers will be distributed prior to the meeting by mail.

## NOVEMBER OPPORTUNITIES!

- **DENOMINATIONAL OFFERING.** Each year at Thanksgiving time the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. This offering will be collected through Sunday, December 4.
- **LESSONS AND CAROLS.** Mark your calendars for the Sunday, December 4 Lessons and Carols event. This event is one to mark, invite your friends to it and dig out your festive wear (plaid pants and sweaters!). The service will be the read Word of God and the best of sacred Christmas music. There will be readings from the Bible that show God's wonderful plan of redemption (the Lessons) and wonderful selections of Christmas songs (the Carols). This will be a wonderful event to involve the whole body and to get our minds centered on the Christ of Christmas! There will be a reception following. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring a finger food treat: Vegetable, Fruit, Salty, or Sweet! Contact Fran Haynes if you have any questions.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE/BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Ladies *Weekly Bible Study* meets in the Conference Room at 11 AM to study Galatians for You by Timothy Keller. We will have Christmas luncheon on December 7.

### YOUNG AT HEART Christmas Luncheon

Young At Heart will be Tuesday December 6 at 11:45. Turkey, dressing and gravy will be furnished. Please bring vegetables, fruits, salads and desserts. Tim and Lynn Robinson will present the program.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Be sure to turn in your request of a memorial/honorarium poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary. The last day for turning the form in is December 4. The cost will be \$8 per plant.

## DECEMBER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Lunch. December 5  
Men's Evening Gathering. December 15

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

#### December

- 3 Hanging of the Greens
- 4 Lessons and Carols
- 5 Men's Lunch
- 6 Young at Heart Luncheon
- 11 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 15 Men's Evening Gathering
- 18 Treat Bags and Christmas Caroling
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day

## DECEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

John Young	12/5
Breten Chrismon	12/7
Mary Renegar	12/9
Carol Erb	12/13
Rick Erb	12/14
Jimmy Smith	12/14
Donna Wolff	12/15
Cynthia Ward	12/16
Shauneen Roy	12/19
Andre White	12/24
Caroline Baird	12/27
Kathryn Crotts	12/27
Maggie Mendiola	12/28
Dot Hutelmyer	12/28
Mandy Crotts	12/30
June Little	12/30
Matt Erb	12/31

### ANNIVERSARIES

Bennett & Janice Richardson (38)	12/16
Graig & Carolyn Pulley (55)	12/17
Glenn & Margaret Owens (53)	12/20
Lonnie & Catherine Mangum	12/21
Larry & Kathy Isley (53)	12/22
Ben & Natalie Wright (13)	12/27

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Please remember the family of Helen Parks in your prayers.

### Nursery:

Dec 4: Carol Erb & Jimmy Smith  
Dec 11: Fran Haynes & Macon Baird

### Counter:

Dec 4: John Robinson  
Dec 11: Glenn Owens

### Deacon Duty:

Dec 4: Stephen Robinson  
Dec 11: Glenn Owens

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