

The Messenger



**Eureka First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
December 2018**

First United Methodist Church
520 Del Norte
Eureka, CA 95501

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From Pastor Kathryn...

"you know that the kingdom of God is near." Luke 21:31

Dear Ones,

We are embarking on the season of Advent this Sunday, December 2. Advent is the beginning of the church year and runs from the first Sunday of Advent through December 24. Advent is defined as "the arrival of a notable person, thing or event." The "notable person" arriving at the end of the Christian season of Advent is the baby Jesus, but this season is about much more than the anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth. Advent is a time when we reflect on the arrival of Jesus the Christ in at least three ways: the historical birth of Jesus, Jesus' arrival into our own hearts or present time, and to Christ's eschatological coming at the end of time. Eschatology is a part of theology concerned with the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of humanity. Some Christians believe that the final or future coming of Christ will be at the end of time on earth as we know it thus establishing the kingdom of God, but I don't think that is how Jesus meant it or talked about it.

In the Gospel of Luke Jesus talks about a time that is coming following many calamitous events and that when we see these things we will "know that the kingdom of God is near." In every age of history since the time that Jesus walked the earth there have been events like Jesus described in Luke 21:25-26: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves." Certainly the recent fires in California and international unrest could be viewed as "signs" that signify "that the kingdom of God is near." Jesus made it clear that God's kingdom is one where the hungry are fed, prisoners are freed, strangers are welcomed and he calls his followers to do the feeding, the freeing and the welcoming. Following the devastating and deadly Camp Fire we have heard stories of overwhelming response to those in need. Could it be that such

responses to calamitous events are glimpses of God's kingdom here and now? I think so.

In this Advent season I invite you to contemplate what it meant for God to come to us in the form of a baby 2000 years ago, how we can welcome that Christ child more and more into our own hearts, and how we can be the true followers of the Way of Christ who demonstrate the reality and nearness of the kingdom of God.

In Love,

Pastor Kathryn

First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God †

Pastor Kathryn is leading a DVD based study, *First Light:*



Jesus and the Kingdom of God which was filmed on location throughout Galilee and Jerusalem. Featured in the DVD presentations are outstanding Biblical scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. Topics to be covered during this multi week study include the timing of Jesus coming to that

region, interaction with the Roman Empire and what were Jesus' priorities in talking about the Kingdom of God. This class is offered on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the Library (Room 16) in Christy Hall. There will be four sessions before Christmas and then following a two-week break classes will resume January 8th and 9th.

Annual All Church Conference and Potluck Dinner December 5

Each year every local United Methodist Church meets to celebrate and review the past year, look forward to the future, elect church leaders and adopt a compensation package for the pastor. This year's Annual All Church Conference for Eureka First United Methodist Church will again be a shared conference with two other of our Humboldt County United Methodist Churches: Arcata UMC and Church of the Joyful Healer UMC in McKinleyville. This year the conference will be presided over by our new District Superintendent Blake Busick – this will be a great opportunity for us all to meet Blake. All interested persons are invited to attend and all members have vote in the decisions being made for their own church. The Conference will take place on Wednesday, December 5th at 6:00 PM at Church of the Joyful Healer UMC in McKinleyville, 1944 Central Ave., McKinleyville. We will share a potluck dinner, so please bring a dish to share.



On the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, at 9:30 we will incorporate our traditional "Hanging of the Greens" as part of our worship service to begin the season leading up to the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The Poinsettia Project



You are invited to donate to our Poinsettia "Project" in memory or honor of loved ones. A limited number of poinsettias are purchased to adorn our sanctuary during Advent. Remaining contributions will be used to replenish the "Pastor's Relief Fund" which is a way of helping persons in

need in our local community. Forms for this purpose are in the worship bulletins and can be placed in the offering plates through December 16 with a contribution of \$8.00 per person being honored. If you have contributed to this project you may take a poinsettia home following the Christmas Eve service.



Monday December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 p.m.

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus at our Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24 at 7:30 PM with our traditional candlelight service.

Ending 2018 with a Praise Block Party



Once again Pastors Kathryn Dunning, Cassie Wyland (Eureka First Baptist) and Steve Berti (Eureka First Nazarene) are planning a "Praise Block Party" to be held at 10:30 AM at the Nazarene Church (corner of Humboldt and E Streets) on the last

Sunday of the year, December 30. We will share praise, worship and communion together as a way of ending 2018 and preparing for 2019.

Eureka First UMC will begin the morning at 9:30 in our sanctuary to share in a Wesley Covenant Service until 10:15, and then we will proceed to the Nazarene Church to join together there with our Baptist and Nazarene neighbors at 10:30. Don't miss this opportunity for a meaningful and ecumenical ending to 2018.

Altar Flowers

There is now a sign up board in the Narthex for people to sign up for altar flowers. Sign up for a month, a week, or one day!



Sunday December 9th

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

In Fellowship Hall

Everyone's welcome!

Free will offering (\$5 suggested donation) to cover expenses

Third Saturday Supper

On Saturday, December 15 at 5:30 PM you are all invited to *Third Saturday Supper* at Eureka First UMC. This month's menu will feature Turkey soup. Dinner will be served at 5:30.. The meal will conclude by 6:30 and be followed by clean-up by volunteers present and board games or other fellowship activities for those who wish to stay until 8 or 8:30. This will be a good time of food, faith and fun for all!

Eureka First United Methodist Church's 59th Annual Advent Tea!



The 59th Advent Tea will be held on Friday, December 7, 2018 at 1:00 pm. The Advent Program will be held in the EFUM Church. All are welcome! Following the Program a Tea will be held in Fellowship Hall. Reservations

for the Tea are currently being taken. Please call the church office to see if Reservations for the Tea are still available. A free-will offering opportunity will be available to benefit a community organization that helps others to see God at work. The following help is still needed. Acolyte, Kitchen helpers for the Tea, and Fellowship Hall-Wesley Chapel set up and clean up volunteers for Thursday morning December 6th 7:30-9:00 and Friday, December 7th following the Tea about 2:30-3:30 pm. If you can of assistance, please contact Carol Miller at 845-2927 or carol2624@sbcglobal.net



Church Family News

Please hold the following persons

in prayer for health concerns:

Sadiki Koo's who is recovering from surgery and will start radiation treatments

Nancy Quintrell

Shirley Peterson

Joshua Ruch

Diane Mettam

Galeladi Runningbrook

Sally Upatisinga

Jonathan O'Keefe

Rodney VanderSluis

Irene Hedgecock

Neal Sligh

Mark McKinney

Wayne Palmrose

Art Lewis

Marty Johnson

Silas Morrison

December Birthdays

1	Katie Quintrell	17	Marjorie Johnson
1	Carol Goodwyn	18	Tim Ryan
2	Kelby Ross	23	Travis Morgan
4	Beverly Strubinger	24	Mary McLean
6	Silas Morrison	25	Larry Johnson
7	Ginny Hedgecock	25	Connor Bowser
11	Thi Samelson	26	Jim Welsh
13	Hilda White	27	Lori Green
14	Margie O'Keefe	29	Heidi Quintrell
15	Pat Leahy	29	Liam Taylor
16	Glenn Cannon	30	Bob Green
17	Jade Powers	31	Kellan Churchill

and anniversaries....

December 17

Catherine & Michael Moore

December 22

Greg & Carol Goodwyn

Congratulations! -- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year.

Financial Summary

October 2018

General Fund Revenue: \$17,514.36

General Fund Expense: \$15,964.43

2018 YTD (Oct. 31)

2018 General Fund Revenue: \$142,814.18

2018 General Fund Expense: \$153,489.25

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--10,675.07

Thank you for your generous giving to God through the church.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER 4 TOTAL - 65

NOVEMBER 11 TOTAL - 69

NOVEMBER 18 TOTAL - 76

NOVEMBER 25 TOTAL - 73

MUSIC AT EUREKA FIRST

Praise Band

Would you like to sing or play an instrument with the worship team? Join us for rehearsals on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.



Ring into the holidays!

Our performance of *Spirit Wind at the Community Thanksgiving Sing* was a great success! Thanks to all the church members who turned out for that amazing event. We are now working on holiday music, taking our bells out into the streets for the Salvation Army and other venues. Come by to hear us play!

MISSIONS

Clothing for the Homeless



We will be collecting new items (socks, gloves, rain ponchos etc) for the homeless throughout the winter months. There will be a basket in the Wesley Chapel to put the items in. Socks should be new, but other items can be gently used. It's getting very wet out there, as well as

cold, so all help for those outside is deeply appreciated!

Little Free Pantry

You are invited to leave items directly in the *Little Free Pantry*, or in the church office to be added during office hours. Any kind of food items that will not perish quickly in the enclosed box can be donated, but especially appreciated by the youth that walk by are healthy snack foods like granola bars, packaged dried fruit and nuts, apples, fruit cups, crackers, applesauce cups, fruit juice, etc.

Little Free Library on the way!

Now that we have our pantry, let's give folks something to read while they're eating! I'm sure you've seen Little Free Libraries around town. Their motto is "Take a Book, Return a Book." Ours won't look exactly like this picture—but since our master woodworker Carrol Newquist is building it, it's going to look wonderful!

Angel Tree Prison Ministry



New at EFUMC this year is our participation in *Angel Tree Prison Ministry*. This non-profit program helps incarcerated parents stay in contact with their children in a special way. It helps

bring healing to the lives of these children and their parents, along with introducing our church and its activities. Thank you to those who have agreed to sponsor a child with an incarcerated parent and are purchasing a Christmas present for the child on the parent's behalf. Please bring your wrapped gifts with tags attached to the church no later than Sunday December 9 so they can be delivered in time for Christmas.

Luci Lights to Gaza—making a difference

Your birthday and anniversary pennies are going to purchase Luci lights to help the people in Gaza during blackouts. And they are making a big difference in people's lives!

CALLING ALL COOKIES!!

Cookie Platters



This year we thought that in addition to putting together cookie platters to deliver to some of our shut ins, we would like to send cookies plates of home baked cookies to

those families of the children who will be receiving the Angel Tree gifts. This would be a simple way (and hopefully nonthreatening way) for our church to reach out to these families and let them know we care. This means we will need MORE cookies and that we will want them earlier. Please bring you cookie donations to the church before or on the morning of December 16 so that I have time to get plates together and ready for delivery on that day. We hope to put together about 30 platters in all. So get into the holiday spirit and bake some of your favorites quilt free. You will enjoy the wonderful smells and some one else will enjoy the calories. Probably a small child with the metabolism of a squirrel.

Just the Facts:

I need lots of cookies by Sunday morning, December 16.

The cookies will be delivered to the households of the children receiving Angel Tree gifts.

Some platters will also go out to church members who might be alone for the holidays.

--Angela Cameron



Cookie Santas Needed!!

Even if you don't bake, you can help out by delivering several plates of cookies to their recipients. Don't

worry, you are allowed to ring the doorbell! Entering via the chimney is totally optional. Your visit, however short, will be appreciated. Please help us include everyone in our church family in our Christmas celebration and joy.

Food Donations for November –155 pounds!

Food placed in the basket in the narthex is distributed to the Food Bank, the Rescue Mission or kept in the church office for people who fall between the cracks of services available. Food is weighed by our children on the first Sunday of each month. Our goal is to collect one hundred pounds of food each month.



Food Donations will be weighed on Sunday December 2nd.

DRUMM STICK SUNDAY 12/16



The Drums are in South Asia! As their home church we raise funds to support their project. One Sunday a month we sell DRUMM STICKS (ice cream cones) -- \$2 each. So, treat yourself to ice cream and support this exciting project.



Submissions to the Messenger

If you have anything you would like included in the Messenger, please sent submissions directly to your friendly editor, Dan Dionne, at [added link net](mailto: added link net).