

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER
Meadowview United Methodist Church
Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

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December 2019 Edition

Volume 2, Issue12

The Pastor's Pondering:

Growing the Church

Philippians 4:13- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

We must, if we can, then we must. If God gives us strength then we must do His will. "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Why not? If *we* can and *God* can: then why *not* do it? "For with God nothing is impossible."

There is a commercial on TV: one guy asks the other guy if he knows a contractor who can build him a bar. The other says yes. Then the original guy says, okay, find out all you can about the contractor, the price and everything and let me know. That is the way congregations are today. They want someone else to do the work *they* need to do.

Something for us to ponder for the holiday season is: "What can I do for my church to help it grow?" During the Christmas season, we make every effort to be extra careful with caring for people. Our elderly and children have never had so many people interested in their well-being as they do at Christmas. Then after Christmas, none of those caring people show up again.

Christmas should go on *every* day of the year. Loving and caring and just being there for someone never get old. God's love is never ending. When we walk in his love, others see us and want to follow. "Come follow me", Jesus said. Following Jesus includes following Him every day of the year, not just at Christmas.

Mark 10:46-52: ⁴⁶ *Jesus and his disciples went to Jericho. And as they were leaving, they were followed by a large crowd. A blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting beside the road.* ⁴⁷ *When he heard that it was Jesus from Nazareth, he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, ^[a] have pity on me!"* ⁴⁸ *Many people told the man to stop, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"* ⁴⁹ *Jesus stopped and said "Call him over!" They called out to the blind man and said, "Don't be afraid! Come on! He is calling for you."* ⁵⁰ *The man threw off his coat as he jumped up and ran to Jesus.* ⁵¹ *Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man answered, "Master, ^[b] I want to see!"* ⁵² *Jesus told him, "You may go. Your eyes are healed because of your faith." Right away the man could see, and he went down the road with Jesus.*

It is my prayer and hope that all will be cared for and shown the love of God this holiday season and through the coming New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Pastor Barbara is hosting a **Christmas Open House** for the members/attendees of Shady Grove UMC and Meadowview UMC. Please try to drop by to join her for a time of fellowship and food!!

Where: at her home (parsonage – 335 Gillespie Drive, Abingdon)

When: Sunday, December 22 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Calendar for December 2019:

- 05 5:00 p.m. Meadowview Community Christmas
- 8th -13th Pastor Barbara on vacation
- 11 ??? a.m. Half Century lunch at General Morgan Inn (Greenville, TN)
- 15 4:30 p.m. Cantata @ SG
- 22 3:00 p.m. Open House @ the Parsonage (until 6:00 p.m.)
- 24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service
- 29 11:00 a.m. Joint Worship service @ MV
12:00 p.m. 5th Sunday Fellowship meal @ MV

Normal (repeating) schedule:

- Sunday: Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School @ 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday: Choir practice @ 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday: Cantata Choir practice @ 6:00 p.m. @ SG

Meadowview Community Christmas

The Meadowview Community is having a singing and tree lighting event in Town Square on Thursday Dec 5th. Food (chili and mac & cheese; adults \$10, kids \$5) from 5:00-8:00; singing and tree lighting @ 5:30. Proceeds go to Meadowview UMC's Mary's Lunchbox Program (that provides weekend food to students at Meadowview Elementary).

Santa Pals Volunteer Information (MV)

Gift drop dates: Friday, Dec 6th, 6 to 7:30 p.m. & Saturday Dec 7th from 10:00-12:00. Volunteers are needed at the church to receive gifts from sponsors.

"The First Gift" program for children / Gift pick up - Friday, Dec. 13th from 6-8 p.m. Volunteers of all ages are welcome and needed in many areas: food prep and serving, nursery, child buddies, helping to carry gifts and many more. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We will have a brief volunteer meeting on Wed. Dec. 11th at 7 p.m. Please plan to attend to learn more about the night. Please contact Becky with any questions or for more information.

Christmas Cantata – Sunday, Dec. 15:

This will be at 4:30 p.m. at Shady Grove UMC.

Sunday, December 29:

This is **Evangelism Sunday**. *This is a joint worship service with Meadowview UMC and it will be at MV.* The 5th Sunday Fellowship meal will follow the Worship service.

Older Adult Outing – Meadowview

There will **not** be an outing in December.

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers are needed to teach the children's sermon.

Prayer Concerns for Our Church Family

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Anita Coulthard | Joanna Dennstaedt |
| B Neese | Skeeter Yeatts |
| Peggy Bolling | Doris Quintana |
| Wade Blevins | Judy Briscoe |
| Lily Mehl | Georgia Moore |
| Wanda Kealey | Malcolm Nutter |
| Susan Rasnick | Tony Smith |
| Mack Boyd | Christine Puttock |
| Jeremy Weaver | Beulah Stringer |
| Haley Charlton | Lynn Baggett |
| Adeline Littleton | Diane Mash Jones |
| Christina Reynolds | Nairn Family |
| Linda Martin | |

*If you need to add someone to the prayer list or are ready to have someone taken off, please contact Annette Sumrell at shadygrove_umc@yahoo.com or 276-206-3243 (call or text).

Drivers needed for Meals on Wheels:

Runs are on Monday starting at 9 or Thursday afternoon starting after 12. If you have time to give back to your community and are interested call Abingdon Community Center at 276 628 3911.

Half Century Group

General Morgan Inn in Greenville, TN. The buffet is open from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on our Dec. 11 meeting day. Neel Rich reports that it is an excellent meal. We have talked about the distance: about 1-1/2 hours drive from Emory. Now I have more news: the buffet is \$15.00/person plus 20% gratuity and tax bringing it to \$19.46 per person. I need to know how many of you are interested!!!! If we don't have many takers, I will try to find an alternative location so I need replies quickly! Please take a moment to let me know your wishes, Nancy.

Scripture Readers for December:

- 12/01: Susan Pennington; Matthew 24:36-44
- 12/08: Randy Pennington; Matthew 3: 1-12
- 12/15: Susan Hayter; Matthew 11:2-11
- 12/22: Michael Hayter; Isaiah 7:10-16
- 12/29: _____; Isaiah 63: 7-9, Hebrew 2:10-18

Bible Study – 2 choices

Pastor Barbara is leading a Bible study on Wednesdays (10:00 – 11:15 a.m.) and on Sundays (4:00 – 5:15 p.m.) Both are being held at Shady Grove. ***There will be NO Bible study in December.***

NOTE:

Pastor Barbara will be on vacation from Sunday, Dec. 08 through Friday, Dec. 13.

Contact info for Pastor Barbara:

Email: pastordoyle1209@gmail.com
Phone: 276-525-1637 (home); 423-341-2198 (cell)

NOTE: When referencing the pastor, please use "Pastor Barbara" or "Pastor" or "Pastor Barb."