

**ADVANCE MEMORIAL
United Methodist Church**

1007 Bellefonte Road
Flatwoods, KY 41139

Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!
advancemethodistchurch.net

Follow us on Facebook

Pastor: Sean Shroll
606-836-4822
606-831-1244
advancerev@yahoo.com

Co Youth Minister: Brian Gross
606-831-6803
braygross@gmail.com

Co Youth Minister: Christy Lemaster
606-615-3589
clemaster273@yahoo.com

Children's Minister:

Secretary: Kristin Adkins
606-836-5634 advancesecretary@yahoo.com

Church Office : 606-836-5634

To submit newsletter/bulletin information:
Email to advancesecretary@yahoo.com



**Advance Memorial
United Methodist
Church**

THE MESSENGER

1007 Bellefonte Rd.
Flatwoods, KY 41139
606-836-5634



January 2021

Epiphany

This Sunday we will celebrate Epiphany. The actual day of Epiphany, or the Feast of Epiphany, is January 6 – twelve days after Christmas. This is where the concept of the twelve days of Christmas comes from. The word epiphany means “manifestation” and speaks to a revelation of something. In the case of the Feast of Epiphany, the manifestation or revelation being celebrated has had three prongs to it over the years. The incarnation of God the Son - Jesus taking on human flesh - was God revealing Himself to us in the clearest way possible, by becoming one of us (while still remaining 100% divine). The Epiphany also celebrates the coming of the wise men as God revealed Himself to the gentiles along with their incorporation into His plans for salvation. And lastly, the Epiphany celebrates Jesus’ baptism and the manifestation of His divine identity as God calls down, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased (Luke 3:22).”

Christmas, Epiphany and Easter were the three earliest high holy days of the Christian Church. The Season of Advent began

the Christian year and led up to Christmas Day and finally culminated in Epiphany which came twelve days after Christmas. Then the Season of Lent served as preparation for Holy Week and Easter. The majority of the rest of the year is what the church has called “ordinary time.”

This pattern of following the life and ministry of Christ through our yearly celebrations is significant for a number of reasons, but one that I think gets overlooked frequently is this preponderance of “ordinary time.” We spend the majority of the year in “ordinary time” with a sprinkling of special high holy days. This is how I have found the average Christian life to be. We are called to maintain certain disciplines as followers of Jesus Christ: bible study, prayer, worship, fasting, communion, baptism, tithing, Christian fellowship, Sabbath, etc. As I have tried to live out these spiritual practices in a disciplined way over my daily life as a Christian, I have found that a lot of the time there are no deep revelations or spiritual highs. My scripture reading, prayers, worship, etc. is pretty “ordinary” from day to day.

*Pastor Sean Shroll
Continued ...*

Musical Notes



CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS – CHRISTMAS and Welcome 2021

We're still working and worshipping within social distancing mandates and following the best practices for choir ministry according to our bishop and United Methodist Church leadership, our commonwealth and our nation's health authorities. Keep all these folks in your prayers as they provide guidance and make decisions to keep us safe and respect each other during these COVID-19 days by following guidelines. That doesn't mean you can't still worship in song and I share this lovely article about some of our favorite hymns that will inspire you to keep singing!

Sing Them Over Again To Me...

...One reason why so many hymns touch Christians so deeply is that the songs themselves are testimonies — very personal testimonies by the writer, but also, by extension, applicable for all Christians. Such as...

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I
had sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!¹*

And this one....

*What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our
sins and griefs to bear!*

*What a privilege to carry everything to
God in prayer!*

*O what peace we often forfeit, O what
needless pain we bear,*

*All because we do not carry everything
to God in prayer.²*

There are songs of the Christian's desire to experience God and His truths more fully....

*Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.³*

And that story celebrates God's grace....

*Wonderful the matchless grace of
Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea; ...
Broader than the scope of my
transgressions,
Greater far than all my sin and shame,
O magnify the precious Name of Jesus.
Praise His Name!⁴*

Hymns, just as is the case with Southern Gospel songs, have a lot to say about the Christian's joyous expectation of heaven....

*When we all get to Heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!⁵*

...and the assurance of salvation....

*When the trumpet of the Lord shall
sound and time shall be no more,*

Mary Beth Caudle

Continued.....

Handbells Notes

Even though this has been a challenging year, we have much to be thankful for and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our handbell choir for their love, gifts, support and willingness to make the adaptations needed to keep our ministry alive and well during these past months. As we close this year, the following poem expresses my thanks to you and to the One who provides everything we have and need:

Blessings!

Diana Williams



Thank You Notes

Thank-You Notes

The Christmas season is almost over—we have opened our presents, written our thank-you notes, made our New Year's resolutions.

Now, as we begin the first rehearsal of the New Year, we pause to thank you, divine Source of all joy, for the blessings you so generously give to us each day.

We especially thank you for the wonderful gift of music and for the delight it brings to this bell choir.

As children thank their parents for their gifts and promise to take good care of them, so we also thank you for the gift of music and resolve to care for it with renewed diligence.

Help us repair ragged rhythms and polish rough chords to a smooth blend of sound so that every note we ring is a "thank-you note" to you.

We offer this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

*From Ringing True-Prayers for Handbell
Ringers by
Linda Stahelin*

Attendance & Offerings

December	S.S.	Oakmont	11:00 am	6:00 pm FLC Service	6:00 pm Traditional Service	Offerings
6			7	12		\$4,205.00
13			7	14		\$7,255.00
20			58	30		\$6,869.00
27			10	14		\$11,860.00
Average			21	18		\$7,547.25

Building Fund Donations: December \$8,995.19

If you would like to make a donation to the general fund or the building fund (FLC center) you can mail in a check, stop by the church office or use your pay pal.

Drama

ADVENT DRAMA MINISTRY 2020

ACTING UP!

Twelve Plays of Christmas

We hope you enJOYed this year's drama ministry offerings from The 12 Plays of Christmas. Our Advance drama ministry team made merry with excerpts from this humorous series based on the familiar carol with a modern twist to the verses of the story. I appreciate all of you who were caught up in the holiday action for Advent 2020!

Rehearsals via Zoom Meetings and in small groups allowed us to work out the kinks before getting together to record the skits to celebrate the spirit of the season! It was fun for our drama team to ACT UP and the messages provided gentle reminders of the reason for the season.

If you missed any of the skits, here's a recap:

1. Up a Tree – A family searching for the perfect tree show Christmas kindness and share some joy with one lonely old farmer.

2. Four Calling Birds – Four telephone company co-workers realize that celebrating the true spirit of Christmas is more important than work.

3. Give 'Til It Hurts – Five bell ringers at the mall are confronted with the importance and joy of giving to others. The picture of these characters was a highlight of this series!

4. Stable Duty – Tending to the daily chore of milking the cows provides a surprising moment to recognize our blessings in less than ideal circumstances. Thank you, Riley! We're blessed! We're blessed! We're blessed

5. Time and a Half – A housewife meditates with a handyman working on pipes whether Christmas provides the perfect time for forgiveness and repairing relationships.

I pray the skits brought you some hope, peace, joy and love for the season!



Drama Mama

Mary Beth Cordle

Methodist Women

The Advance United Methodist Women

want to include our whole church in this project. In January we will begin collecting the items below to donate to **Child Protective Services in Greenup**. We are doing this project with the United Methodist Churches in Greenup, Sunshine and Louisa as a pilot and hope to have it grow to the whole Kentucky East District. If you would like to donate to this just drop your items at the church office by **January 15th**. We will continue this through the year but we would like to get some donated items to CPS around the holiday season.

- Toiletry size bag
- Diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5)
- Underwear (new-any size)
- Socks (new-any size)
- Juice Boxes/Capri Sun
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Hair Brushes/Combs
- Blankets
- Small Stuffed Animals
- Gift Cards to area Fast Food Restaurants

Thank you for your loving contributions.

Kay Smith

(for more information 606-836-4347)

Gift Certificates

We sell Gift Certificates:

Food Fair	Bob Evans
Cheddars	Chick-Fil-A
Giovanni's	Moe's
O'Charley's	Penn Station
Texas Roadhouse	Subway

The Proceeds go to the Building Fund. To purchase gift certificates, please see Ninette Amis, Melisa Thompson, or Kristin Adkins. We have plenty of certificates on hand!

Kroger's Plus Card

Many of our church members are Kroger's Plus Card members. This service is free, and customer's receive discounts on fuel, as well as online coupons.

Our Church Organization is registered with Kroger's. Anytime a registered church member shops with Kroger's, our church can receive a portion of the sales, which goes to the church Building Fund.

If you have a Kroger's Plus Card you can go into the customer rewards on the Kroger's website and select Advance.

This service will not cost you a penny!

Health Ministries:

In the Chinese culture, the New Year is the time dedicated to finish with the old and to start with the new. Their traditions include visiting friends and family to re-establish relationships, cleaning the house to prepare for the coming year, stocking cupboards with household provisions, settling all old debts and putting forth their best behavior. All of these activities are to make the New Year better and healthier.

I'm sure everyone is ready to put the year 2020 behind them but have you considered what you're going to do to make 2021 a better, healthier year? Are you going to keep all of your old habits and ignore healthier ones? For example, have you considered limiting your meals at fast-food restaurants? Can you develop healthier choices at the grocery store? Will you improve your exercise habits by walking or joining a health club? Have you considered the health benefits of practicing self-care and a well-balanced lifestyle? Any and all of these will guide you to a healthier 2021.

The New Year is a good time to look at your life and determine what you need to change or improve:

- What pain or baggage is holding you hostage? Forgiveness is a wonderful way to begin the New

Year. "Letting go" gives you a sense of well-being that translates into healthier relationships and less illness.

- Every six months or 15,000 miles, a car is taken in for a checkup and regular maintenance, so why not do the same for your body? God gave you one body and the responsibility of keeping it healthy and strong.
- This year, make a vow to become healthier. Change your dietary choices, add movement and exercise to your day, and ask God for the strength to follow your plan.
- Besides improving your physical health, what can you do to improve your mental and spiritual health? Good health is more than eating right; it is sharing the love of Jesus Christ by sharing your time and talents. Giving of yourself benefits the recipient as well as you. Focusing on others rather than yourself improves your mental health and grows your spiritual life as you demonstrate your faith.

Source: *Seasons of Wholeness*, Vol. VI

"Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!" (I Samuel 25: 6, NIV)

Diana Williams

Epiphany

But at any point God could, and occasionally does, show up in exciting, heart-stirring ways.

Our daily walk through the spiritual disciplines is not about coming away from EVERY Bible study, worship service, or time of fasting on a spiritual high. That just isn't how it happens. They are called the spiritual disciplines because they are about a consistent, obedient practice of meeting God in these places He has given us. What I have found is that the more consistent I am in showing up in God's presence through the disciplines, the more frequent are the times when He shows up powerfully or speaks clearly. And even when it seems like I am just trudging through "ordinary time" with no major spiritual highs, I have found that God has been transforming me even through those "unexciting" times in ways I did not immediately recognize. Often the big revelation or manifestation comes because of what He has been doing in me under the surface through my obedient, daily, disciplined walk with Him.

Pastor Sean Shroll

Drama Ministry



DRAMA MINISTRY

Advent 2021

and Looking Ahead

Featured skits: I hope you were blessed with the character monologue/carol skit for our Christmas Eve program featuring Betsy Douglas. Thank you, Betsy, for providing the lovely moment combining drama and music ministries.

Even in these days of quarantine and social distancing, it's amazing how God works in our lives, reminding us to share His gifts – each of you are blessed with talents and abilities that can be used to uplift, to encourage, to minister, to share His love! I hope you join us for new opportunities to ACT UP in church in 2021!

Drama Mama



Mary Beth Cordle

Musical Notes *continued.....*

*And the morning breaks, eternal, bright
and fair;*

*When the saved of earth shall gather
over on the other shore,*

*And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be
there.⁶*

The writers of such grand old hymns were clearly steeped in Scripture because so much of the wording is so obviously Scripture-inspired. Biblical truths permeate the very fiber of these songs. That surely is a key to why they remain so loved, even now, more than (in some cases) hundreds of years after their composition.

I would encourage you to read the words of the great hymns of the church. Witness the testimonies, the joy, the Christian hope that the writers put to paper, often born out of devastating personal experiences.

But I would also strongly urge you to sing these hymns, even, if necessary, all by yourself when no one's around. There's something about actually singing these words that is amazingly powerful — a blessing that those who don't (or won't) sing are clearly being denied. I believe God speaks through hymns, just as He does through Scripture (upon which the great hymns are based). That's why, in a moment of personal crisis, a verse of Scripture may come to mind that touches your soul's need of the moment. But an old hymn may come to you as well — and singing it, even to yourself, just gives life to its truths and addresses your most personal need. I know — it's happened to me many times.

But to benefit, of course, you need to know both Scripture and the hymns. That's why the Apostle Paul says both Scripture and Scripture-based hymns are beneficial: "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord*" (Col. 3:16). Pastors in generations past were known to say they required two books for the spiritual health of their congregations — the Bible, of course, and the hymnal.

I feel so blessed to have grown up with the old hymns of the church. They continue to touch me in ways that no other form of music can. - *Paul Heil*

1. "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," Rufus McDaniel & Charles Gabriel (1914).
2. "What a Friend We Have In Jesus," Joseph Scriven (1855) and Charles Converse (1868).
3. "Tell Me The Story of Jesus," Fanny Crosby (1880).
4. "Wonderful Grace of Jesus," Haldor Lilienas (1918).
5. "When We All Get To Heaven," Eliza E. Hewitt (1898).
6. "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder," James Black (1893).

Excerpted. Copyright 2020 Heil Enterprises. All rights reserved.

Keep singing!

Mary Beth Cordle

Schedules & Meetings

Van Drivers Schedule for January

January	Driver's Name	Home Phone
3	Mickey Williams	836-2645
10	Bobby Crager	836-6069
17	Mickey Williams	836-2645
24	Bobby Crager	836-6069
31	Mickey Williams	836-2645

Trustees will meet Saturday, January 9th, at 10:00 am (This is a Zoom meeting)!

Members are: Terry Frazier, Thomas Frye, Dale Wyant, Nannette Stevens, John Hardy, Linda Wyant, Don Harvey, Mike Carter, Paul Underwood, Linda Thompson, Charlotte Dowling, Martha Osborne, Bill Tindall, & Pastor Sean Shroll.

- **Susannah Circle** will not meet in **January!**
- **Methodist Men** will not meet in **January!**
- **Methodist Women** will not meet in **January!**

Administrative Board will meet **Tuesday, January 19th at 7:00 pm.** (This is a Zoom Meeting!) Members are: Sam Atkins, Nick Cloyes, Ron Andrews, Jane Thomas, Kathy Clayton, David Thomas, Anita Elliott, Kay Smith, Brittnany Hoback, Joyce Smith, Johanna Meyer, Carrie Fraley, Ruth Ann Highley, Allan & Melisa Thompson, Debby Atkins, James Lyon, Mary Beth Cordle, Diana Williams, John Mings, Brian Gross, Christy Lemaster, Kristin Adkins, Mike Carter, Carol Stevens, Don Young, Ron Zastwaniak, Marc Berry, Mike Dowling, Jenny Frazier, Patty Sennett, Peggy Carter, Bill Tindall and Pastor Sean Shroll.

Fellowship Nurture and Outreach will meet **Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 pm.** (This is a Zoom Meeting!) Members are: Sam & Christy Atkins, Peggy Carter, Kristin Adkins, Kathy Clayton, Shirley Cloyes, Betsy Douglas, Irene Fisher, Cora Frailie, Becky Harvey, Carol Highstone, Irwina Kiger, Bob & Annie Miller, Kay Miracle, Tom & Lorna Saylor, Scott & Patty Sennett, John & Edie Shroll, David Thomas, and Pastor Sean Shroll.



January 2021

January

Birthdays

4	Jonathan Williams	30	Irene Fisher
6	Allan Thompson	30	Diana Williams
7	Gabriel Douglass	30	John Lynd Floyd
8	Harold Dillow		
8	Debbie Lemaster		
8	Don Young		
9	Emily Crum		
13	Heather Greene		
14	Phyllis Mosby		
16	Cristi Chaffins		
16	Janet Hogg		
17	Noah Thomas		
18	Laura-Rae Gross		
19	Samantha Roark		
20	Virginia Bingham		
20	Kristy Gross		
20	Carol Highstone		
25	Beth Melvin		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

					1	2
3 Traditional Service 11:00 am Evening Service 6:00 pm	4	5	6 Youth Group 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm	7	8 <i>Trustees 10:00 am (Zoom meeting)</i> 	9
10 Building Fund Traditional Service 11:00 am Evening Service 6:00 pm	11	12 <i>Fellowship, Nurture & Outreach Committee 7:00 pm (Zoom meeting)</i>	13 Youth Group 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm	14	15	16
17 Faith Promise Handbell Sunday Traditional Service 11:00 am Evening Service 6:00 pm	18	19 <i>Administrative Board 7:00 pm (Zoom meeting)</i> 	20 Youth Group 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm	21	22	23
24 Traditional Service 11:00 am Evening Service 6:00 pm	25	26	27 Youth Group 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm	28	29	30
31 5th Sunday Methodist Home for Children & Youth Traditional Service 11:00 am Evening Service 6:00 pm						