

December 2015

TOWER NOTES

353 E Vienna Rd Clio MI 48420

www.cliobethany.org

Bethany United Methodist Church

Bethany's Christmas Bazaar And Craft Show

Sat Dec 5th 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Luncheon served 11:00 – 1:00

Craft Items, Stitchery, Baked Goods, Toys,
Books, Attic Treasures, Silent Auction,
something for everyone!



*Don't miss these big events
More info inside!*

December 6th 12:00
Men's Soup and Salad lunch to benefit Clio
Community Services Fund

December 10 7:00 p.m.
UMW Christmas Tea

December 13th 3:00 p.m.
Crossroads Christmas Cantata

December 17th 7:00 p.m.
Flint Concert Band

Advent Small Group Studies:

Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Lounge with Jerry Bradow

Prayer room with Pastor LuAnn and Pat
or

Wed evening at 5:00 p.m. in the lounge with
Pastor LuAnn



December Worship

December 6 Prepare the Way
Matthew 3:1-6 Holy Communion

December 13 While We Wait
Luke 1:39-45

December 20 God is With Us
Matthew 1:18-22

December 24 Celebrate the Light
7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Featuring candle lighting and communion

December 27 Guest Preacher: Leah Caron

Pastor's Page

Wonder.

I believe the ability to wonder is almost a lost art. To wonder is “to think or ponder curiously” according to Dictionary.com. Any more, no sooner to the words, “I wonder how...” escape my mouth than someone says, “Google it!” And I usually do. We don’t allow ourselves to wonder, or to use our imagination for that matter. Our brains are saturated with images. Back in the good old days (I’m a dinosaur, you know) we used to read books. I read about a pony named Misty of Chincoteague; Pod, Homily, and Arrietty who borrowed things; and Fiver, a runt rabbit with a prophetic gift.

I read and used my imagination to enter their worlds. No one had yet made a movie out of them to show me what they really looked like, or how the places they lived really looked. I carried their stories with me because the words on the page engaged my emotions and I entered their world in my imagination. This is an art that is worth keeping alive, this ability to wonder and imagine.

We have to fight for it, though. Why spend weeks reading a book when a 2 hour movie will give is a zip line overview of the cast of characters and resolve the tension before we really get too closely engaged? Honestly, many folks don’t even buy books anymore. (I know, I know, I am a dinosaur!) We download them onto electronic devices. Soon, many phrases will lose their ability to convey meaning, like “turn the page” or “don’t judge a book by its cover.”

I am caught up in this idea of the loss of wonder as we approach the Christmas season. Something about this time of year invites me to settle down – to slow down. To stop and look around and wonder. Wonder about the man on the corner with the cardboard sign. What happened in his life to get him to that place? Wonder about the mom with three kids all laughing together in the grocery store. What makes them so cheerful? Wonder about the angry customer berating the cashier over a simple mistake. Wonder at the snow fall, the starlight, the break of day.

God met Zechariah and Elizabeth in wonder – what if they really could still in their advanced age know the joy of parenthood? God met Mary in wonder as she pondered in her heart all that was said to her. God met the shepherds in wonder as they were just keeping their sheep on a hillside when an angel appeared among them. God met the travelers who came from a distant land in wonder as they followed a star. It makes me wonder – what have I missed because I am hustling and bustling through jingle-bell jolly-days. Resist the urge to allow the Hallmark channel, the History channel, the cover of a Christmas card, or even your favorite Christmas movie (mine is White Christmas, by the way) to define Christmas for you. Listen, explore, wait, watch, and wonder your way through the scriptures and the season.

We have enjoyed a time of Thanksgiving and reflecting on the goodness of God, and now it is Advent. Advent means the coming or arrival of something or someone that is noteworthy. In the church, Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Immanuel, God-with-us. These weeks prior to the celebration of Christmas are *critically important* to Christians. We must give attention to preparation, to wonder, to engaging the Word of scripture with our emotions, to carrying with us tension experienced by the people in the stories. We must – or we lose.

It doesn’t matter how many presents you get for Christmas. The only thing that matters is the presence you get when you allow the Word to dwell richly in you as you wonder at the beauty and humility of our God who has come to us. May you be graced with the gift of wonder in this season of preparation.

Happy Advent, Pastor LuAnn

pastorluann@gmail.com 810-730-1443

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

6-Dec	Jerry Mowl
13-Dec	Karen Nichols
20-Dec	Ron Lemmon
27-Dec	Otis Stout
3-Jan	Leslie Randall
10-Jan	Tom Hendricks
17-Jan	David Martin
24-Jan	Jerry Mowl
31-Jan	Jane Fuller

Lay Reader schedule for November and December.

If you have a conflict with the date you are assigned, please trade with someone, and then contact the church office to let us know who will be serving on a particular date. Thank you for your service in the name of the Lord.



News and Notes

UMW Christmas Tea Thursday December 10th 7:00 p.m. (note the time change!)

The program will be "Women of the Manger." Join us in the fireplace room for food fellowship and singing! Looking forward to seeing you there.

WHINE AND DINE December 8th

15 ladies were filled with Hope at the junction of Hope restaurant. As always good food and conversation. We shared where we have seen God in our lives. We also had 2 new ladies join us for the first time. We are looking for a Fortune, as we head to the Fortune Buffet in December. Hope you can join us the 2nd Tuesday of the month.



**I Heard
the Bells on
Christmas
Day**

Flint Concert Band December 17th We are pleased to host this concert event as a part of our holiday festivities. All are welcome to attend. We will gladly receive donations of cookies to share with the band and our guests. Contact Jana Doolittle or Judi Lewis.

Welcome Marc Middleton! We are so pleased to welcome our new director of youth ministries. We are grateful to have Marc join us from Mt. Morris UMC. Make sure you take some time to greet Marc and introduce yourself. He will be leading the youth Sunday School and our CORE program after school. Amy Dickinson remains director of children's ministries, and Wednesday Night Live.

A PRAYER BASED ON JOHN WESLEY'S SERMONS

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 4:31)

Wonderful God of Word and Promise, To be filled with your Spirit is such an inexpressive gift; to have the mind of Christ and to bear the fruits of the Spirit is what being a Christian is all about. The very essence of our faith is a sure trust and confidence in your love, and because of that confidence, my soul, like Mary's glorifies you, and my spirit rejoices in you. Lord, I want to be humble and gentle, patient and generous; save me from passion and pride, lust and vanity, ambition and envy. Feed me from the twin tables of your Word and sacrament and meet me there as you have promised, so that I might refrain from evil and have a deep longing in my spirit always to do good. Lord, I pray that my faith in you and my love for you will be both visible and contagious. I want my light to shine for you. I want people to see your love in me in such a way that they will turn to you again. I long for the time when all people will know you and claim their place in your family. What a glorious world that will be –filled with wonder and peace, reconciliation and justice; everyone looking out for each other, all malice, envy, and revenge removed; no unkind words, no deception or bitterness. All things will reflect your reign, and hearts will be filled with your Spirit of love. Help us to be truly loving people, for only you can plant the seed of your love in our lives. Amen.

-Taken from *Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit* by Paul Wesley Chilcote



**Remember our Homebound in prayer.
Send a card and say hello!**

Ralph Hoppe
11460 Colonial Woods
Clio MI 48420

Bud Labby
704 Cherry Street
Clio MI 48420

Mary Ellen Morse
3052 W Wilson Rd
Clio MI 48420

Emma Wagner
Marie Orvis
Gross Assisted Living
5286 E Vienna Rd
Clio, MI 48420

Marge Schoeppach
Independence Village – #360
255 Mayer Rd.
Frankenmuth MI 48734

Jean Stinson
Angel Manor Assisted Living
9219 Elms Rd
Clio MI 48420

Della Sutton
Birchwood Meadows
2304 W Frances Rd
Mt Morris MI 48458

Junis Wildfong
3062 Field Rd
Clio MI 48420

Louise Weiss
12125 Neff Rd
Clio MI 48420

Don Hutchinson
Cranberry Park
1354 W Vienna Rd
Clio MI 48420

Scripture Study Plan for December

1 st	Amos 3:1-11	Matthew 21:12-22
2 nd	Amos 3:12-4:5	Matthew 21:23-32
3 rd	Amos 4:6-13	Matthew 21:33-46
4 th	Amos 5:1-17	Matthew 22:1-14
5 th	Amos 5:18-27	Matthew 22:15-22
6 th	Amos 6:1-14	Luke 1:57-68
7 th	Amos 7:1-9	Matthew 22:34-46
8 th	Amos 7:10-17	Matthew 22:34-46
9 th	Amos 8:1-14	Matthew 23:1-12
10 th	Amos 9:1-10	Matthew 23:13-26
11 th	Haggai 1:1-15	Matthew 23:27-39
12 th	Haggai 2:1-9	Matthew 24:1-14
13 th	Amos 9:11-15	John 5:30-47
14 th	Psalms 40	Matthew 24:15-31
15 th	Psalms 85	Matthew 24:32-44
16 th	Psalms 53	Matthew 24:45-51
17 th	Psalms 126	Matthew 25:1-13
18 th	Genesis 3:8-15	John 3:16-21
19 th	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Luke 1:1-25
20 th	1 Samuel 2:1b-10	Luke 1:26-36
21 st	2 Samuel 7:1-17	Luke 1:39-48a
22 nd	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Luke 1:57-66
23 rd	Jeremiah 31:10-14	Luke 1:67-80
24 th	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 1:18-25
25 th	Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4	John 3:31-36
26 th	2 Chronicles 24:17-22	Acts 7:59-8:8
27 th	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28	Luke 2:22-40
28 th	Isaiah 49:13-23	1 John 4:7-16
29 th	2 Samuel 23:13-17b	John 2:1-11
30 th	1 Kings 17:17-24	John 4:46-54
31 st	1 Kings 3:5-14	John 5:1-15



M and M All church Fellowship Events for 2016

January: Movie Night

February: Flint concert Band

March: Aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing and out to eat

April: Game Night at the Church

May: Baseball Game or Cast and Crew

June: Progressive Dinner

July Yard Sale

August : Putt – Putt

Watch for more info regarding dates TBA!

A note from Ad Board Chair – Jerry Stadler:

“Standing Firm”

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. We live in a time of great struggles. If is a time where we must ask ourselves, “Where do I stand?”

Political leaders and church ministers cannot answer this question. Let me note down a few questions that need an urgent answer today: tomorrow may be too late.

Do I have a personal relationship with my Lord and Savior?

Do I trust my Lord in all matters?

When was the last time I called him Father?

Am I ready to join my heavenly Father at any moment, even today?

Depending on your answers, you may need to do some house cleaning. Cast away all items that you do not need and that obstruct your passage. It is most likely that these unneeded items occupy your time and prevent you from serving the Lord. Maybe it is time to take a personal inventory of all the items you plan to take with you to your new home in heaven.

December 2015

		1 6:30 Skating 7:00 Intercessory Prayer	2 2:45 CORE 5:00 Wed Night Live	3	4	5 Christmas Bazaar 9:00 – 2:00 District party 5 – 8 at Holly Calvary
6 8:30 Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	7 10:00 UMW Exec Board 7:00 Trustees	8 6:30 Skating 7:00 Intercessory Prayer	9 2:45 CORE 5:00 Wed Night Live	10 UMW Christmas Tea 7:00	11	12 10 – 12 Cantata practice
13 8:30 Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 3:00 Christmas Cantata	14 7:00 Finance	15 6:30 Skating 7:00 Intercessory Prayer	16 10:00 Tabitha Cir 2:45 CORE 5:00 Wed Night Live 6:00 Ruth Cir	17 Flint Concert Band 7:00	18	19
20 8:30 Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	21 10:00 Esther Cir	22 6:30 Skating 7:00 Intercessory Prayer	23	24 Worship at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	28 10:00 UMW Exec Board	29	30	31		

