

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 18, No. 12

December 2022

Don't say you haven't been warned; Christmas is right around the corner. Three times in Revelation chapter 22 (verses 7, 12, 20) Jesus is recorded as saying "I am coming soon." It will certainly feel that way during this Advent season as we prepare for the coming of Christmas. We know the weeks will pass quickly. We also suspect that there will be disappointment if we arrive at December 25th feeling that the season has slipped away from us. With that in mind, consider a few suggestions that could help provide a sense of fulfillment during this brief season of preparation.

- Plan something by which you can serve the community. It might just be you, your family, or a group to which you belong. Non-profits often have seasonal needs that require extra volunteer help. Maybe you could talk to your Sunday School class about volunteering a day or an evening to serve an agency of your choice. This is especially helpful for children and youth as a reminder to keep focus off of self and on others.
- Rethink your approach to gift-giving. Have you ever stressed over what to get some person on your list? Remember that expressing love and thoughtfulness can take various forms. Giving a missional gift in someone's name is a worthy alternative. A relatively small gift translates into a significant blessing for families in other countries. Our friends at GFA World provide many options for impacting people living in poverty. (Go to www.gfa.org/gift/order for more information). There are many other approaches to gift-giving. Just remember that a gift doesn't have to appear under a tree or fit into a stocking.
- Make a list (and check it twice!) of fun activities you want to do during the season. Is sending Christmas cards your thing? Maybe it is a trip to see some impressive Christmas lights. It might be a night of watching your favorite Christmas movie while sipping hot cocoa. Put it on paper; declare that you want to do it! Celebrate the things that you accomplish, and make a promise to yourself that you will not stress over things that don't get done. Stress does not lead to holiday cheer!
- Keep Christ in your Christmas. You hear this year after year, and for good reason. The deep meaning and wonder of Christmas can be easily buried under busy schedules. Stay connected to your place of worship. Find a new Christmas story to read, or pick up a new Advent devotional. RightNow Media offers several good Advent-themed lessons to watch.

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(And remember, your unlimited subscription to RNM is the church's gift to you.)

Make sure your faith, not the culture, is your guide through these short weeks.

May God bless you in this Advent season, that your heart will be ready once again to embrace Jesus—the greatest of all gifts.

Pastor Dave



Murder Mystery

The youth performed a 3 act dinner murder mystery play. The camp leader, Peter Stein was accidentally poisoned by one of the camp attendees. Detective Sam Cumming played by AJ Galope interrogated Langley Weaver played by Andrew Hammons, Kevin Spicer played by Joseph Hammons, Donna Glover played by Frances Groover, Renate Bevis played by Sophie Nychka, Kitty Raymond played by Marguerite Groover, Kennie Rosie played by Robby Groover, and Pamela Marras played by Johanna Cartwright. Roland O'Connor played by Frank Groover was witness to many of the goings on at the camp where he helped detective Sam Cummings. In the end justice was served for Peter Stein as we discovered who accidentally poisoned him.

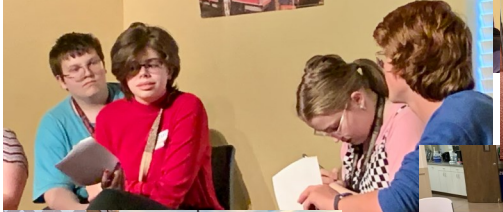
Hallelujah Night

Members of the church and the youth helped with 3 booths for Hallelujah Night. It was fun to see the excitement on the children's faces that participated in the night's festivities. Those in attendance were Sophie Nychka, Johanna Cartwright, Sarah Cartwright, David Cartwright, Jana Davis, Lynn and Sherri Rowe, Theresa Turner, Fritz Gilbreth, and Jerry Don Huff.

Skating With Cheatham

Our youth joined Cheatham's youth for a skating outing. They spent time skating and some time falling down. Once they got their "skating feet" they played a skating game called Shoot the Duck. Then to close out a fun evening a few games of Dodgeball were played. Those in attendance were Andrew and Joseph Hammons, AJ Galope, Sophie Nychka, Johanna Cartwright, Frances Groover, Frank Groover, and Robby Groover. Invited friends were Seth Sturgill, Carson Maddox, Robert Odom, and Landon Strong.

Check out the pictures through out this issue.



Calendar of Events for December

Dates to Remember for December



Sunday, December 4, Empty the Angel Tree Loft after Worship
 Sunday-Friday, December 4-9, Angel Tree in Deen Building
 Wednesday, December 7, 2:30 p.m. Youth Group
 Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. White Gift Service at WPHS
 Saturday, December 10, Christmas on the Bricks
 Saturday, December 10, 11-4, Deen Building in use
 Saturday, December 10, Seekers Class Party at the George's House
 Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 p.m Youth Christmas Cookie Baking
 Sunday, December 18, 2-6pm, Deen Building in use
 Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 Sunday, December 25, NO Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 Monday, December 26, Church Office Closed in Observance of Christmas Day

Happy Birthday!

Kelles Miller 12-6
 Nelda Currie 12-6
 Judy Dodd 12-10
 Kay George 12-11
 Clair Huff 12-19
 Brett Marley 12-20
 LaNell White 12-23
 Gaybrie Malone 12-24
 Jim Lamb 12-25
 Jennifer Ross 12-27
 Jared McDonald 12-28

Jerry Don Huff 12-28
 Nancy McDonald 12-28
 Margie Aston 12-30
 David Berry 12-30
 Patt AuBuchon 12-31



Right Now Media



Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.

Our Presence and Our Gifts

	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27
Worship	97	92	73	64
Giving	\$6,064.50	\$6,913.00	\$4,298.00	\$4,452.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Upcoming Study: CS Lewis - Mere Christianity book study will start sometime in January 2023, TBD. We will be utilizing materials from The CS Lewis Institute. If interested, get the book now and start reading. More details will be provided later this year.</p>				1	2	3
				<p>Communion Rail offering will go to Christmas gifts for Crestwood residents.</p>		
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Empty Loft after Worship	5 6:00 pm Trustees	6	7 2:30pm Youth 7:00pm White Gift Service 7:15pm Choir Practice	8	9	10 Christmas on the Bricks 9:00 am UWF Meeting, Deen Building 11-4pm Deen Building in Use Seekers Party @ the Georges'
<p>Angel Tree in Deen Building All Week</p>						
11 8:30 am UMM Meeting 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	12 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance Meeting	13	14 6:00pm Youth 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 2-6pm Deen Building in Use	19	20	21	22	23	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service
25 Merry Christmas! No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31
				<p>The Methodist Men will be serving our community this year at the Christmas on the Bricks event on Saturday, December 10. If you are not currently an active part of the group, this would be a great opportunity to connect with other men as we work together. Contact Pastor Dave (304-654-2150 or rmumcpastor@gmail.com) if we can count on your service that morning. The work will be fun—and warm!</p>		



Holiday Worship

Christmas always brings special opportunities to worship. As usual, we will gather in worship on Christmas Eve. This year's service will be at 4:00 in the afternoon. Though the time may be different, the experience will be much the same as we center our hearts upon Christ on this holy evening. We will then invite you to return the next morning, as this year brings a Christmas Day that falls on Sunday. We will not be having Sunday school class that morning, but we will welcome people at 10:00 for a VERY relaxed, joyful time of Christmas celebration. Please plan to come with family or friends as we offer our praise to the Lord this Christmas.

Remember in Prayer:

Family of Lynn Mullins
Family of Helen Tapp
Family of Emily Ross
Family of Barbara Grimes
Petty
Family of Prater Monning
Family of Patricia West
Family of Paco Dominguez
Art Galope, Jr
Alice Kolb
Andy Anderson
Angie Smith
Betty Manning
Billie Cade
Bobbi Smith
Chad Ash
Charles & Wynona James
Cheryl Bradley
Cheryl Shaw
College Students

Crestwood Nursing &
Assisted Living
David Cartwright (not Pastor
Dave)
David Shaw
Denny McCormick
Dianna Perry
Eric Johns
Evan Mayone
FG Hardy
GR Culpepper
Harrison Mayone
Helen Liston
Herschel LyBrand
Isaac Bullard
James Brown
Jared McDonald
Jeff D'Amico
Jim & Sandra Smith
John Buffington
Katie McDonald
Kay & Benny Mitchell

Karl & Keeta Lybrand
LaNell White
Laura Bates
Marigrace & Mike Lang
Margie Evers
Mark Brown
Marty Mitchell
Mary Bullard
Maxine Page
Mike Tolin
Nelta Pirtle
Patsy Aulich
Randy Daniel
Richard Anderson
Richard Briley
RMUMC Staff
Robert Butts
Roy Rogers
Students, Teachers, & Admin
Sunday School & Church
Travis Deen
Virginia Cockerham



Memorials

In memory of
Priscilla West
Given by
Fritz Gilbreth.

In memory of
Prater Monning
Given by
Fritz Gilbreth, Pat Mitchell,
Wills Point Chamber of Commerce.

In memory of
Lynn Mullins
Given by
Larry & Theresa Turner,
Linda & Tommy Malone.

In memory of
Helen Tapp
Given by
Linda & Tommy Malone,
Larry & Theresa Turner.

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Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
John Ross, Minister of Music
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Kelli Huff, K6 Kids Coordinator

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

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P. O. Box 335
Wills Point, TX 75169

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED