

THE WESLEYAN

WINTER 2019-2020

Honey Brook United Methodist Church

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Pastor Ray Voran revoran@gmail.com 717-333-6939



SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

STARTING SUNDAY JAN 5 2020

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM

WORSHIP: 10:45 AM

FOOD AND CONVERSATION

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Pastor Ray has something to say...



CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES!

We recently received our Church Budget Report from the Conference Office which included our monthly apportionment amounts for the coming year. The grand total is a little over \$19,300 which is actually a slight decrease from 2019, as the EPA Conference has been trying to keep these costs as low as possible. It might sometimes seem like the money we send to the conference office in the form of Connectional Ministry Giving is an "unnecessary tax," but we need to remember that we are a Connectional Church. By combining resources and joining together with other United Methodist Churches we are able to accomplish more for the Kingdom of God than any of us would on our own.

Two examples: several years ago the ministry titled "Nothing but Nets" was begun by a member of the UMC. The goal was to provide mosquito nets to individuals living in areas prone to malaria. This ministry morphed into Imagine No Malaria as individuals and churches became involved and the scope widened to include other aspects of malaria prevention and treatment. Our church was included in this effort and the results are obvious as the infection rates have dropped sharply! God used our United Methodist Church to change the lives of those who were suffering!! And when there is some type of natural disaster in our country or around the world, the United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR) is consistently one of the first

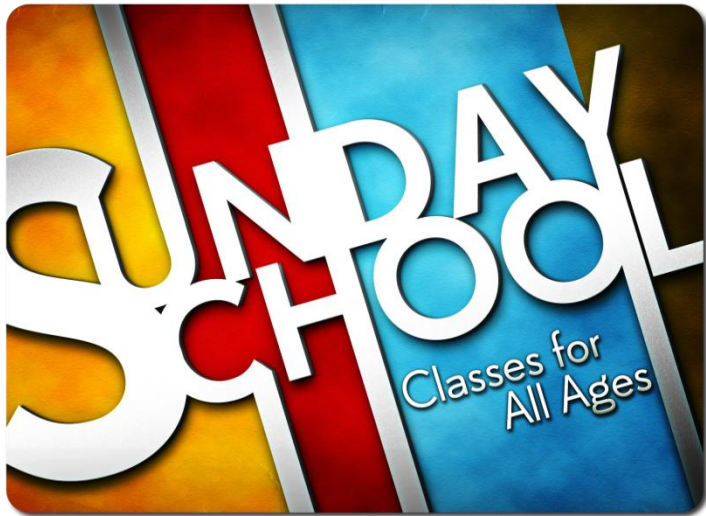
groups to arrive and begin providing and also one of the last groups to leave. I guess it is possible that we could do this on our own but when we join together, more is done!

And the money we send to the conference tangibly represents our joining together with other United Methodist Churches. These payments are divided into 11 different categories. The largest single line items go to fund the pensions and health insurance for retired clergy, followed by our property, liability and worker's compensation insurance. There are also funds for the retirement fund, life and disability insurance for the current pastor. And then there are the funds that go to UMC missionaries (such as the Kiers that we support separately) and other ministries around the world along with the budget for our district and conference.

And while we have been self-sufficient for a number of years, our church has in the past received connectional funds from the EPA Conference. Part of our witness to the world is the connected nature of the United Methodist Church. We all join together to minister to those in our neighborhoods and around the world.

Thank you all for making this possible!

And of course another aspect of being connected means that we are always praying for each other and for our denomination and sister churches around the world. May we all remain connected in prayer!



9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. We hope you can attend and be a part of our Sunday School Ministry as we learn about what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus. The time change will take effect on Sunday, January 5, 2020 when we start meeting at 9:30.




MUSIC NOTES



THANK YOU TO THE CHURCH CHOIR FOR LEADING US IN MUSIC AND SONG EVERY WORSHIP SERVICE. YOUR HARD WORK, TALENT AND DEDICATION ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS YOU ADD TO OUR EXPERIENCE OF WORSHIPPING THE LORD! MAY WE ALL LIFT UP OUR VOICES TO PRAISE THE NAME OF OUR LORD!

You're invited to

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE

Study

**2nd and 4th
Thursdays**
of the month
2PM
**Fellowship
Hall**

Check the bulletin for the actual dates as things tend to change.

We will be finishing our study of **“The Way of a Disciple” Walking With Jesus** by Don Cousins and Judson Poling in December. While we plan to being another study soon, this is the perfect time for you to join in. We have been meeting Thursday afternoons but would be happy to consider a different day and/or time. Please contact Pastor Ray if you are interested in being a part of the Bible study or with any questions.

Some dates to remember

- November 30. 9 AM. Decorate for Christmas!!
- Dec 22 11:00 AM Children's Christmas program
- Dec 24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service
- Jan 5 Time change for Sunday School and worship service
- Jan 19 Connecting Team Meeting following the worship service
- January 25 5:00 PM Game/bingo Night. Stay tuned for details!



We hope you are able to attend all the worship service during this Advent and Christmas Season

DO NOT FORGET THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 22 AND OF COURSE OUR SERVICE OF MUSIC AND CANDLE LIGHTING AT 7PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

WE CELEBRATE EMMANUEL. GOD WITH US!

TRUSTEES NEWS:

You have probably noticed that our trustees have been busy the past few months. Our sanctuary ceiling looks wonderful with the new paint and we thank everyone who helped clear out the furniture and then set things back in place and get things cleaned up when the painting was completed.

We are also on the schedule to have an air conditioner installed downstairs in the café sometime before the weather gets too hot.

You are able to contribute towards the cost of these projects using your offering envelopes.

Thanks again!

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

-Delegates from around the world will participate in the next General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Minneapolis on May 5-15, 2020. While they will have plenty of items to deal with, the spotlight will be on the issues regarding LGBTQ individuals within the church. I realize that the news reports sometimes make it sound like the United Methodist Church has undergone tremendous changes in the past few years but the truth is that the Book of Discipline has not changed since the original statement was included in 1972. In fact, at the special General Conference earlier this year, the plan that passed was the most conservative of all the proposals.

At the same time, there are many within the denomination that disagree about how the Bible passages that deal with LGBTQ activity should be interpreted. Because of this, some churches and conferences around the country have chosen not to enforce the sections of the book of discipline that say that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, that same sex marriages should not be performed and that practicing homosexuals are not to be ordained. As a denomination, we continue to wrestle with this issue and have attempted for many years to find a way to coexist.

Since this continues to be difficult, many believe that some type of a split is inevitable. Depending on what takes place at this General Conference in May, the process of splitting could commence or maybe another proposal would be approved that would ask each congregation to have an official vote to decide where they stand on this issue. Of course, we will see what happens

Please join us in prayer for our denomination and also for wisdom for our congregation as we move forward and continue to represent our Lord, Jesus Christ

Community Outreach



“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.”

-Mark 9:36a

Be a part of sharing the love of Christ as we serve dinner to the children and youth at the Honey Brook Youth Center. We will continue to serve supper approximately one evening each month. We had a great time at the meal on November 9. This is an important and rewarding ministry as we reach out to provide delicious meals and also a caring face or two. Please contact [Karen Fellenbaum](#) if you would like to contribute your time or financial support. We ask that you pray for the children of Honey Brook. See church bulletin for dates and additional details.

THANK YOU ALL for the donations to Toys for Tots, Operation Christmas Child, Steeple to People, Meals through HBEC and the Mitten Tree. We are fortunate to be able to minister to folks in our neighborhoods and around the world. Thank you for your generosity and praise God for this opportunity. May each individual be blessed with His presence!

ADVENT!

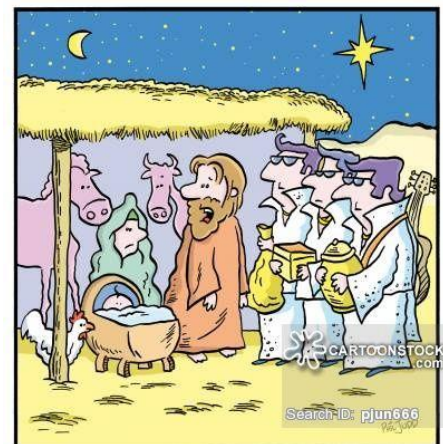
Last December we talked about Joseph. What made him a good man to serve as the earthly father of the son of God? And what might it have been like to raise the youngster, Jesus Christ? This year during the Sundays in advent (starting on December 1) we will talk about Mary. We could ask the same questions...why did God choose Mary and what was it like for her? We will address these issues by looking at some of the major events throughout the life of Jesus, including Christmas but other parts of His life as well. What was Mary thinking and going through and what can we learn?

One of the amazing things about God...he generally does His work through human beings...like Joseph and Mary....and me and you.

May you all have a blessed joyful Christmas time!

Blessings to all,

Pastor Ray



“They say they are three kings.”

