All is Calm, All is Bright

8 Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. 9 The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. 11 Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:8-11 Common English Bible (CEB)

Our world is not in a calm and bright place right now. 200 years ago, when Silent Night was written it was not a calm place either. 2000 plus years ago when Jesus was born it was not calm or bright, but God chose to act in a way to bring light into the world. This light is what we wait for in the season of Advent.

This Advent we will celebrate the 200 anniversary of the writing of one of the most popular and well-loved Christmas carols ever, Silent Night. What is it about this carol that fills us with hope, brings us to tears, and is a MUST for every Christmas Eve candlelight service? I think it is what it points to in the chaotic and dark world—a Savior born to give light, peace, and joy to the world.

Look at the Scripture again from Luke. It was a dark night when the angels appeared to the shepherds, they were terrified. But, God’s glory shone around them with the angels’ presence, and the angels calmed them by telling them Good News: a Savior was born!

In our chaotic and dark world, we who believe in this Savior, are the ones to shine God’s glory and bring a message of calm and peace. We get to deliver this Good News and have the chance to bring peace with this message. This Advent, will you take time to hear the Good News: A Savior is Born!? Will you take time to offer peace and grace in your relationships and in your conversations with strangers? Will you take time to bring hope to those who find this time of year depressing?

We can bring the words of this carol alive in our actions and in our conversations! We can bring the peace that helps others sleep well. We can bring the light that allows others to shine in a radiant glory. How will this Advent and Christmas season be different because you have heard the Good News?

See You Sunday,
Pastor Amy
Advent and Christmas Eve Worship

December 2—First Sunday of Advent; Sleep in Heavenly Peace; Holy Communion
Isaiah 2:1-4; Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

December—2nd Sunday of Advent; Glories Stream
Psalm 86:9-11; Luke 2:8-20

December 16—3rd Sunday of Advent;
Children’s Christmas Program; ONE SERVICE @ 10:00 am

December 16—Agape Puppets @ 6:00 pm with reception after

December 23—4th Sunday of Advent; Let Us Sing
Isaiah 9:6 CEB; Matthew 2:1-12

December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship; Calm & Bright; 9:00 pm
Luke 2:1-20

December 30—1st Sunday after Christmas; Is Born
Revelation 21:1-6
As you are making out your Christmas gift lists, please remember our staff at FUMC. They do an awesome job for us! Staff Parish Committee will be collecting money for gifts through December 16. Contributions can be given to any member of the committee below.

Mike Boyd Vicky Koning
Ann Andrews LeAnna Noble
Elaine Plew Sarah Wolfe
Tony Myers Scott Porter

Happy Holidays!
from the Staff Parish Committee

December Birthdays
12/01 Rich Collier
12/01 Ashley Elzey
12/01 Robin Everett
12/02 Payton Boyd
12/02 Jon Stevens
12/03 Sawyer Boyd
12/03 Unity Gower
12/04 Kate Brickley
12/04 Barb Minnich
12/04 Brooke Noble
12/04 Gerald Ulman
12/05 Kyliann Myers
12/05 Nancy Thompson
12/07 Scott Basset
12/07 Cathy Diehl
12/10 Scott Porter
12/11 Jessica Jones
12/11 Lowell Martin
12/11 Jon A. Stevens
12/15 Michael Clark
12/15 Nancy Collier
12/16 Mandy Andrews
12/19 Geri Sudduth

12/20 Rod Simon
12/22 Ryan Brune
12/22 Bob Gent
12/22 Alex Lee
12/23 Grant Porter
12/23 Luke Snyder
12/24 Mary Jean Meyer
12/26 Kevin Cook
12/27 Adam Eichhorn
12/28 Greg Andrews
12/29 Kathy Howe
12/29 Libby Miller
12/31 Jacob Briede
12/31 Ian Gilbert
12/31 Carol Grimm
12/31 Brandon Pickens

December Anniversaries
12/11 Greg & Ann Andrews
12/14 James & Nancy Laucks
12/16 Doug & Penny Hinsky
12/18 Joe & Sarah Heller
12/22 Scott & Shelley Porter
12/27 Justin & Jessica Grant
12/28 David & Tammy Smith

Thank You Notes...
Thank you for your prayers and concerns, I am blessed to have so many friends and prayer warriors at First UMC!

Thank You!
Eldon Habegger

First UMC,
Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, and words of appreciation during October’s Pastor Appreciation Month and my birthday!! Our family enjoyed the many gift cards for restaurants and your kind words have carried me in some difficult weeks. May you continue to know and share God’s peace and love with all you encounter!

In Christ,
Pastor Amy

Happy Holidays
FUMC Children Present Symbols of Christmas

Agape Express Puppets Present "Wise Guys & Starry Skies"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

First United Methodist Church
502 W. Monroe Street in Decatur

Children at 10am & Puppets at 6pm
Cookies after both
The Christmas Jar program is in full swing. We will have the Christmas Jars in various businesses in the city until December 12th. Money collected will go to families in the community who are less fortunate to help them have a nicer Christmas. Last year we were able to help several families with your help. Thank you.
Tana’s Colorful Words

Pack Your Suitcase Carefully

You may be one of the many people planning to travel over the holiday season. You probably have a list of the things to pack for your trip. This thought made me think of what many of us have to take with us each and every day.

Patience  Love  Caring
Dedication  Smiles  Consistency  Knowledge
Motivation  Boundaries  Enthusiasm  Kindness

Remember as you handle your special suitcase take care of yourself, staying strong enough to carry, and share with those you meet. Especially during this Blessed Christmas Season share with your friends, co workers, and strangers your caring ways.
Our wish for you and yours is a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Until the CRAYONS come out again!

That’s A Fact

Improvements Means Changes

Monday, October 29th the playground gray garage, that served as family garage, church storage, but now in much needed repair was razed.
Thank You to Fleming Excavating who did an excellent job razing the garage, removing the debris, and cleaning up the area.

Recipient of the Registered Ministry Capital and Quality Improvement Grant, KFCCM has a year to accomplish improvements mean change.
Keep watching!
# December 2018

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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship</td>
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<td>11:15-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>9 am-MamaTalk</td>
<td>5 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 5 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope</td>
<td>7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>5 pm-Youth, 5 pm-Hope Chest &amp; Kids First Christmas Party</td>
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<td>3 pm-Bible Study at Woodcrest 7 pm-A.A.</td>
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<td>11:15-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>6 pm-Finance Committee 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>5 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope</td>
<td>7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>10:00-Worship-one service</td>
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<td>11:15-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>Christmas Eve 9 am-12 noon-Church office hours 9 pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</td>
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<td>Church office closed 8 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sunday, December 16
10:00 am—One Service
Children & Youth Christmas Play

Agape Express Puppets
Presents “Wise Guys & Starry Skies”
6:00 pm In the Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 24  9:00 pm
9:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service