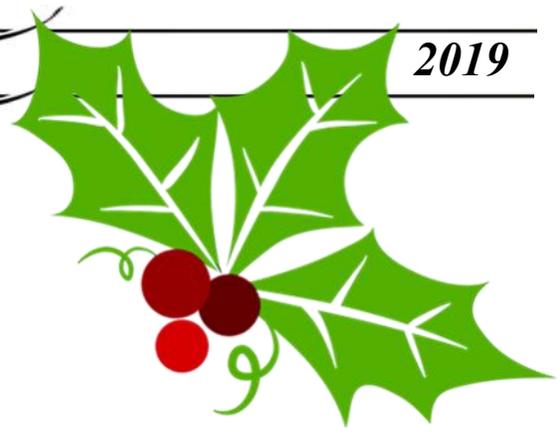




Jarrett's Jottings



Dear Friends,

Well, it's that time of year again. It's time to start stringing the lights, putting up the decorations, baking the cookies and other goodies, planning and/or attending the parties, going to the kid's / grandkid's school functions, and searching for *the* gift. In other words IT'S CHRISTMAS...at least in a cultural sense. I don't know about you, but every year, right after Thanksgiving, I tend to get a little melancholy. It's not that I don't enjoy Christmas—actually just the opposite—but it seems the cultural celebration of Christmas is about as artificial as a few of the trees that will soon populate our home; it pales in comparison to the real thing and leaves a lot to be desired, but it's more convenient and not as messy as the real thing.

Here is what I find fascinating, and a bit puzzling, though—every year, we say we're going to change. We say we are going to cut back, simplify, and remember and focus on “Jesus as the reason for the season”. But do we follow through on what we say? Do we cut back? Do we simplify? OR Are the marketing and advertising folks just that good at what they are paid to do? Please make no mistake—I'm not pointing any fingers here. I'm just as guilty as the next person when it comes to giving in to the “cultural Christmas” (after I've gotten over the melancholy and heard “The Christmas Song” three dozen times!). It seems to me that no matter how hard we try to free ourselves from Christmas as our culture dictates it, the ads still beckon, children plead, and it seems easier to give in to our wants and whims. Yet, through all of that, happiness escapes us—as individuals and as a society; overspending, overeating, busyness, and materialism rob us of the peace and joy God intends to give to us in the coming of Christ. It is enough to make us step back and ask how we can “compete” with culture and bring Christmas back to what God intends it to be.

My hope and prayer is that we might consider a different kind of Christmas this year. In a sense, I'm asking us to rebel against the wave of society and experience something new or different. To that end, here's a couple of ideas to help you out:

—**Find an Advent devotional**—Advent is that fancy name the church gives to the season immediately before Christmas. It is a time of hoping, anticipating, and ex-

pecting. It calls us to re-center ourselves. There a number of devotionals that are compiled especially for Advent, as a way to get us thinking about and reflecting upon the true impact of Christmas. There are devotionals available for just about every demographic we could fall into—older adults, families, young adults, those grieving, those looking for something different, etc. Many are available online; some are available only in print. If you need help locating one, I'd love to help!

—**Give presence, not presents**—I believe one of the greatest sins of our culture is the rampant materialism and worship of “things”. What I have learned and experienced is that there is no greater gift we can give to those we love than the gift of ourselves. Time spent with loved ones is far more precious than anything that can be bought. It is in that time together that memories are made, love communicated, fellowship shared. Those are things that stay with us long after the luster of the “thing” has worn off.

—**Make a special offering**—It's one thing to give to those we love, those who are like us; it is another thing to give to those who AREN'T like us or whom we might never know. Throughout Beardstown and Cass County, there are organizations who strive to serve those with a variety of needs. I would challenge each us of to consider purchasing one less gift this Christmas, and to take what would have been spent on that gift and give it to one of these organizations.

Friends, Christmas doesn't have to be all about busyness, materialism, and the things of our culture. We CAN make it about the greatest gift ever given. We CAN make Christmas all about Jesus! I hope you will join me, and one another, in celebrating a different kind of Christmas this year.

From the Wells family to you and your family—This Christmas, may you be filled with all the love, joy, hope, and peace of God that comes in Christ Jesus!

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Jarrett



The Mustard Seed



December

Ministry Team:

Pastor ~ Jarrett Wells

Office Manager ~

Maria Hymes

Pianist/Organist ~

Jill Roegge

Choral Director ~

Tim Bartholomew

Financial Secretary ~

Lynne O'Hara

Treasurer ~

Susan Treadway

Youth Director ~

Andrea Wells

Custodian ~

Tonya White

Sunday Services:

Worship Service ~

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School ~

10:30 a.m.

Phone ~ 217-323-1257

E-mail ~

beardsumc@sbcglobal.net

Website ~

beardstownfumc.com

"Like" us on Facebook ~

Beardstown First UMC

Birthdays

- 3 Kirk Cowen
- 5 Donald Lew Barker, Jr.
Lane Sommers
- 6 Bibi Cline
Andrea Elliott
Isabela Ruiz
- 7 Marilyn Ritter
Ann Morrow
- 8 Carol Robeson
- 9 Tasha Johnson
- 10 Isaac French
Jennifer Korsmeyer
Katie Starkey
- 11 Nancy Cowen
Kyle Taylor
- 12 Cindy Farmer
- 15 Mitzi McClenning
- 16 Jacqueline Rodriguez
- 18 Jamie Kight
Randy Simpson
- 19 Emma White
Brian Humphrey
- 21 Dan Robertson
Riley Jo Clements
- 22 John Quigley
Marc Blakeman
Nathan White
Dawnelle Hammon
- 23 Erwin Krumwiede
- 24 Paula Kloker
Keaton Taylor
- 25 **JESUS, OUR SAVIOR**
- 26 Rick Kight
Ryder Hamlin
- 27 Breanna Stocker
Jacob White
Cole Huey
Jack Fearneyhough
- 31 Sydney Force

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed December 24th -January 1st; it will reopen on January 2nd. If there is a need, please call the parsonage (323-2420)



Anniversaries



- 16 Frank & Gena Sommer
- 26 Dennis & Cynthia Hack
- 27 Terry & Jeanette Barker
- 29 Trevor & Sadie Courson

Advent Readers / Liturgist

- 1 Dan & Mitzi McClenning
- 8
- 15 Rohn Family
- 22 Roegge Family
- 24 Joe & Bree McClenning, Ryan & Addi
(Christmas Eve Service @ 9:00 p.m.)
- 29 Julie Looker

Greeters

- 1 Virginia Thompson & Chris Taylor
- 8 Evelyn Lawson & Virginia Thompson
- 15 Evelyn Lawson & Virginia Thompson
- 22 Beverly Hauschildt & Amy Sommers
- 24 Lynne O'Hara & Kathleen Quigley
(Christmas Eve Service @ 9:00 p.m.)
- 29 Mary Deaton & Chris Taylor

Communion

DECEMBER 1 & 24: Julie Looker

Servers: Dan & Mitzi McClenning
Leigh Lamb

JANUARY: Rob & Maria Hymes

Servers: Christy Bley,
Jerry & Donna Rohn

Longest Night Service

For some, the holidays are a time of pain, rather than festive celebration. In acknowledgement of that, we will be holding "Longest Night" worship service on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. This service is designed to create a sacred space for those who might be living in difficult times. It will be a reflective time of worship to acknowledge even the most painful of realities, and to hold out for hope and healing. This service is open to all, including those who not part of this, or any, congregation. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jarrett.

Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: **Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup.** You can bring your donated items to the church or directly there. Hours are: Tuesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you for donations. If you would like to contribute but don't have time / remember to shop, you can give money to Lynne O'Hara and she will pick up the items.

Local Missions

The Local Missions met in November and voted to donate \$750 to each of the following: *Beardstown Music Boosters—Elite Choir and Samaritan Fund—Grand Ave. Parental Advisory Committee.* Local Missions will meet again on December 1st. Those scheduled are: *Kathleen Quigley, Peg Burgett, Julie Cordell, Paula Kloker, Jill Roegge & Virginia Thompson.*

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- **Local Missions:** Sunday, December 1st at 10:30 a.m.
- **Sound System:** Sunday, December 1st at 10:30 a.m.
- **UMW Meeting:** Sunday, December 1st at 11:30 a.m.
- **Board of Trustees:** Sunday, Dec. 8th at 11:30 a.m.
- **Church Council:** Sunday, Nov. 15th at 11:30 a.m.

Cass County Food Pantry

The Cass County Food Pantry is another place that helps Cass County residents in need of food. To help with their mission, they are asking churches for donations for the month of **DECEMBER: Egg Noodles, Soup, Crackers, Beef Stew, Chicken & Dumplings, Tomato Juice, Chili Beans and Mixed Vegetables.**

They are always in need of: **Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Cereal, or Non-Perishable Food Items.** They have a walk in cooler or freezer to hold perishable items, and are able to take fresh produce items.

Live Nativity

We will have a live Nativity on Friday, December 20th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. More details to come.

Tea Room Prep

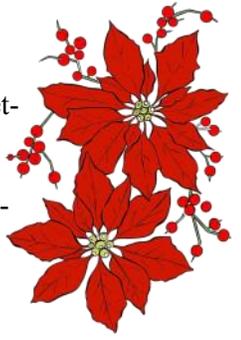
Prep for the Tea Room is Friday, December 6th from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please consider coming up to help.

Operation Shoebox

Thank you to everyone who made a shoebox for Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child. Thank you also to Kathleen Quigley and Lynne O'Hara for taking them to the drop off location.

Poinsettia's

If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one please bring it to the church, and let me know who it is in memory of to list in the bulletin. If you want it back, please put your name on it.



School Nurse Needs

The school nurse is in need of supplies. If you are able to donate these items (not money) it would be much appreciated. Please bring your items to the church office. **Items Needed: Mints, Combs, Cereal Bars, Saltine Crackers, Men's & Women's Socks, Kleenex, & Chap Stick.**

Holiday Concert

The Beardstown Ministerial Association will again this year be hosting a "Sounds of the Season" concert. This concert will take place Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m. at the Beardstown High School Auditorium. Several local musical talents will be performing, with Two by Two as the featured group. A free-will offering will also be taken to support the Ministerial Association's Community Assistance Fund. So... come join us as we ring in the holiday season together with an afternoon of music and fellowship!

Sound System

If anyone has trouble hearing, we have Assisted Listening devices which can be picked up at the Tech Desk. If anyone is interested in learning the new sound system, we will have a training session on **Sunday, December 1st** right after the Morning Worship Service.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

We meet in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. for a time of worship and focused prayer for our church, our community, our world, and ourselves. Please see Pastor Jarrett with any questions.

Nuts and Candy

Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased nuts and candy to support the UMW. There are still some nuts to purchase at the Tea Room on Saturday, December 2nd or at the church.

Christmas Eve Service

We will have our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday, December 24th at 9:00 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Risen Savior!

Christmas Tea Room

**First United
Methodist Church**

415 State St., Beardstown
(Corner of 5th & State)

Saturday, December

7th

Doors Open:

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch Served:

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

\$9.00 for Meal ~ *Which includes the delicious Hot Chicken Salad Sandwich, choice of Soups, Desserts and Drinks and featuring **River Town** Garden Salad with Sweet Ginger Dressing or Homemade Ranch, and their famous Tomato Bisque Soup. Al-a-Carte and carry out is also available.*

Shop & Vendor Area:

- ✧ Terry Lynn Nuts & Candy
- ✧ Homemade Baked Goods
- ✧ Rada Cutlery
- ✧ Dish Cloths
- ✧ and More



Church Council Minutes

The administrative Council met on Sunday, November 17th, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. Those present were: Pastor Jarrett Wells, Ron Blakeman, Susan Treadway, Lynne O'Hara, John Chambers, Georgeanne Osmer, Andrea Wells, Brittney Taylor and Julie Looker.

Pastor Jarrett opened with prayer. Lynne O'Hara gave the devotions with a reading "Hope to Fill Your Heart" from "I Want to Live These Days With You". Lynne O'Hara will have devotions for the next meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Ron Blakeman, seconded by John Chambers.

- **Trustees:** Windows are currently being made. After installation the church will be more energy efficient. Toland will get to the plumbing in the upstairs as soon as he can. The restrooms will be able to be used due to the Tea Room. The carpet has been shampooed upstairs.
- **Old Business:** The study lab is over and the Chrome books have been sold with proceeds deposited into the youth account. Andrea is still trying to get a youth program going with the Nazarene church.
- **New Business:** Chair people were selected for the committees as follows: Administrative to include trustees,

pastor parish, and endowment Ron Blakeman, John Chambers, Lynne O'Hara and Susan Treadway. Nurture and Hospitality for Congregational Care Julie Looker; Outreach and Missions to include things like Shop with Christ, UMW and Local Missions Brittney Taylor and Worship and Discipleship to include youth programs and choir Andrea Wells. Chairpersons with each along with 2 or 3 at large would form an executive team. Georgeanne Osmer will be one of the at large with others to be named. Julie Looker announced there will be a short UMW meeting on December 1st. Brittney asked that everyone keep the Camden church in prayers as it was destroyed by fire recently. Sally Lael preaches there each month.

- **Disbursements from New Life Trust:**
 - ◆ \$5,502.02 ~ Illinois Great Rivers Conference for balance of yearly claims
 - ◆ **Local Missions:**
 - * \$750.00 ~ Beardstown Music Boosters
 - * \$750.00 ~ Samaritan Fund for Gard School
- As all have been approved by the Trustees, on a motion by Julie Looker, they were accepted. The next meeting will be on December 15th at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Wells closed with prayers.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Treadway

Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church and made the delicious soups, desserts and sides for the Hanging of the Greens.





Merry Christmas

He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a Child.

~ Luke 2:5



Beardstown First United Methodist Church
415 S. State St.
Beardstown, IL 62618
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The Mustard Seed

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