

Meadville Messenger

RAMBLING REX

Matthew 18:2-5 (NIV) He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

All Saints Day is upon us and we are headed to the season of Thanksgiving and the new Christian year that begins with the First Sunday of Advent which begins on the last Sunday of November this year. It is hard to believe 2020 is quickly waning. But though it is waning it is not gone. Many things are different in our world due to the pandemic. Even our All Saints celebration feels different this year. The celebration is the same as any other year but for many of the people we will celebrate the grief process for their loved ones has been terribly distorted and impeded.

The celebration is not the only thing different in the world we live where everything seems a challenge. Our whole lives are different right now. We are not able to do what we have always done as freely as we have done them in the past. In the midst of these celebrations that are coming, we will also do what we have always done. You may say, “Well, the preacher has finally lost it! Nothing we do is the way it has always been done it.”



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Offering hope in times of uncertainty.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

National Collection Week
November 16–23, 2020

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November, 2020

But I say, yes, we will collect boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November and we will buy and deliver gifts for the Angel Tree program in December.

Many empty boxes have already been picked up for OCC and some have already been returned full and ready to be packed and shipped. Bubba Gabbert has finally received the Angel Tree list after a mix-up on the administrative end of the Angel Tree program. These programs offer us the opportunity to offer hope in the midst of lives that are oft times very different from our own and especially with the Angel Tree recipients where most often, life is different every day as their parent or parents are incarcerated in our prison system. Without the Angel Tree program, some of these children would have little or no Christmas gift to open during the season we cherish so fondly.

Many of our OCC children, without this small treasure trove the size of a shoe box, would not come to know the loving relationship that Christ brings to them and to their families. Many have never received the small gift of a toy, a scarf, a hat, a doll or a ball. These boxes are a powerful tool that unlocks the imagination of a child to allow room for the one that from the beginning of His ministry has been child friendly.

Every fifteen seconds an OCC child comes to Christ. This changes not only their lives but the lives of their families and communities. The gift given to the Angel Tree child likely will not have the same type of impact. Many of the OCC children will not have heard of Christ and this shoe box opens a door they never knew existed. For the Angel Tree child, they may have heard of Christ and his love and know the door exists but

the door has been slammed in their face more than once because their parent is incarcerated. Having the door slammed again and again, sometimes because they do not hear from or get a gift from their incarcerated parent, can cause them to begin to lose hope. Your gift offers the opportunity for hope. Hope, not only for the child who did not expect a gift to come because of their incarcerated parent, but also the incarcerated parent who did not expect a gift to be available to their child on their behalf.

In both programs, the lives of these children are always different from our own in that often they are not surrounded by the love and support of a faithful fellowship of Christian believers. When we send our gift in each of these programs we say, "We love. God loves you. You are a child of worth to God and His kingdom through His Son, Jesus Christ." You have the opportunity to place a gift into the lives of these children and say with Christ, "whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me".

Times are different for us but the impact of the gospel remains the same. OCC and Angel Tree give us the opportunity to be Christ to a child. A child who may have never heard of Christ. A child who may have lost hope that Christ really cares for them. Thanks for helping even in these odd times. Your gift will make a difference. You will make an opportunity for God's kingdom in Jesus Christ to reign in the hearts of children, locally and throughout the world, even if everything in our own world is different.

Peace and Joy and Love,
Rex Wilburn, Pastor

Home Advent Windows

Calling all MEADVILLE residents to join in a community Living Advent Calendar

Advent Calendars are a long-standing tradition where Believers count the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. The tradition is that beginning December 1, a window opens each day to reveal a prize that reminds us of the Christmas season.

This year, we are inviting all residents of Meadville to take part in a Living Advent Calendar. Participating homes will be given a date between December 1 - 24 in which to begin illuminating a decorated window in your home that is most easily viewed from the road. It's important that the window be kept secret until the unveiling day; however, once the window is revealed, it will be illuminated each day thereafter until January 1st. The sequential order of unveiling windows will create a trail around town for the community to follow and anticipate each day of December. If you have other Christmas decorations on your house or in your yard, please save a special window for this event.

Here's how it works:

- Choose a window in your home that is easily viewed from the road.
- Decorate that window in a theme or concept that suites you. It can reflect your family personality, character, or have a spiritual meaning. Google™ "***living advent window images***" for ideas. Be as creative or simple as you wish!
- Windows will be unveiled at 5:30pm each evening.
 - Each reveal should only take about 15 minutes. There will be a scripture reading, prayer/house blessing, and window illumination. Christmas Carols are encouraged in keeping with theme of the window.

- Attendees should plan to arrive promptly at 5:30pm and leave shortly after reveal is complete. Please remain outside only in order to maintain social distancing.

- A list of homes with corresponding reveal date will be published on MUMC social media page no later than November 30.
- Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors! Someone from MUMC will attend each reveal in order to share and document this event.
- All homes in Meadville are invited to participate. Non-members and members are all encouraged.

The emphasis of this event is to invite the community to engage in the spirit of the season...together. This is a great opportunity to come together in a common goal and reach out to others to share Christmas spirit.

For more information, contact Meadville UMC office:
601-384-2936, or
Email office@meadvilleumc.com



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November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11 AM Morning Worship All Saints Sunday 1	2	3	4	5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Meadville) 5	6	5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Liberty) 7
11 AM Morning Worship 8	9	10	Baby Shower at Ridge Point Ranch in Honor of Morgan Poore 4-6PM 11	5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Meadville) 12	13	5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Liberty) 14
11 AM Morning Worship 15	Operation Christmas Child Drop-Off Week 2-5 PM					
11 AM Morning Worship OCC 2-5PM 22	8-11 AM - OCC Drop-Off 5:30 - Auxiliary League Meeting in Fellowship Hall 23	Community Thanksgiving Service @ Praise Cathedral 7PM 24	2-5 PM 18	5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Meadville) 19	2-5 PM 20	5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Liberty) 21
11 AM Morning Worship 29	30		25	Happy Thanksgiving! 5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Meadville) 26	27	5:00 PM Prison Ministry (Liberty) 28

Celebrate! November Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 01 Terry Oglesby
November 03 Leila Ray
November 03 Heidi Holt
November 05 Ed McCormick
November 08 Lindsay Smith
November 15 Robert Carmona
November 16 Ruby Caroline Smith

November 19 Maddie Freeman
November 19 Dain Poore
November 22 Callie Sullivan
November 23 David Abadie
November 28 Bubba Gabbert
November 28 Eddie Shelton
November 29 Holli Bizarro

November 6 Tyler & Mary Kathryn Williamson
November 8 Jody & Tiffany Herring
November 11 David & Suzie Abadie
November 13 Bubba & Susan Gabbert
November 17 Tommy & Samantha Sivils

November Happenings

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Community Thanksgiving Service is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 7:00pm at Praise Cathedral. The service was originally to be held at Meadville Baptist Church. The change in venue should provide plenty of space for physical distancing based on our previous attendance at the Thanksgiving services. Pastor Larry Edwards will be the speaker. There will be special music. There will be NO fellowship meal following the service.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

National Drop-Off week for Operation Christmas Child will be November 16-23. MUMC will serve as the local drop-off location. Shoeboxes are available at the church. We are hoping to pack more shoeboxes than ever this year to offer hope to as many children as possible during the worldwide pandemic. If you need more information or would like someone to shop for you, please contact the church office during regular office hours.

Baby Shower in honor of Morgan Halford Poore



Wednesday, November 11, 2020

4PM to 6PM

Ridge Point Ranch

4522 Highway 84 East

Meadville, Mississippi 39653

RSVP to Ashley at 601-639-5027

Registered at baby-sit.com & Expectations

Colemanism

Reflect upon your present blessings of which everyone has many – not your past misfortunes which everyone has some.



Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23



Psalm 136:1

GIVE THANKS TO THE
LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD.
HIS LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER.

Chosen by God to Proclaim Christ through Worship, Study, and Service

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