

e-news of Faith

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Week of December 13, 2023

Faith UMC Eyota presents a weekly e-news to keep you informed about what is happening at Faith and ways to keep growing in faith. If you have anything to add, please e-mail the church office and we will include your event or information.

Wednesday, December 13	6:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas service of Reflection in person and Midweek Meditation on FB
Thursday, December 14	9:30 a.m. 9:00 – noon 6:30 p.m.	Advent Book Study Office hours Leadership Council
Saturday, December 16	7:00 p.m.	MOVIE NIGHT “Home Alone”
Sunday, December 17	8:45 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Faith Ringers Practice Carol Sing Worship & Faith Kids Class
Tuesday, December 19	9:00 – 1:00p	Office Hours

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – On Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Laurie will lead a service of reflection and healing both IN PERSON and on Facebook. This service is a time of candlelight and reflection for those who are grieving, sad or lonely during this season. All are welcome as we gather seeking hope and light of Christ.

SATURDAY IS MOVIE NIGHT! Come enjoy the movie *Home Alone* in the cozy church basement with treats and fellowship! Movie begins at 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend, a blanket, whatever, and enjoy this time together.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY CONTINUES – The Advent study of *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas* continues on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The book is written by a group of Wesleyan scholars who will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. Readers will look at preparing the way for God, the impact and significance of prayer, the substance of good works and caring for others, and sharing God's mission to the world. Even if you missed sessions please join us.

DECEMBER MISSIONS

HAT, SCARF AND MITTEN TREE – The hat, scarf and mitten tree is up and waiting for contributions! The tree is in the fellowship hall downstairs. These items will be taken to the Dover-Eyota schools for use by the students. Any items left over will be given to the Salvation Army in Rochester for their program working with the homeless.

MANY THANKS FOR THE GIFTS AT JESUS' BABY SHOWER – Such a blessing for the Crisis Nursery to have the wonderful gifts brought to his shower.

RUBY'S PANTRY ON THURSDAY – Ruby's Pantry in St. Charles will take place on Thursday, December 14th, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in Brookwood Park. Shares are \$25 and there is lots of great food distributed! Bring some boxes and bags to supplement your groceries for the month.

CHRISTMAS CARDS – Do you have a card you would like to share with our church family? Bring it in or mail it to Faith, and we will have it displayed on the boards and card tree at church to send greetings to all.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE – We still have time before Christmas, but since this is a unique year, we wanted to let you know about the schedule for Christmas Eve. CLARIFICATION: There will be TWO services on December 24th which is a Sunday this year. **Worship at 10:00 a.m. will be the 4th Sunday of Advent.** For **Christmas Eve Faith UMC will have our service at 5:00 p.m.** This will be preceded by handbell and choir music beginning at 4:30 p.m.

UPPER ROOMS FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY HERE – Upper Room devotionals for January and February are now at church! If you would like one sent to you, please contact the church office. Otherwise they are available now, any time.

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING REQUESTS

- o Thanksgiving from Helen Jones for the marriage of Calen and Dominique in North Carolina. Hopefully they will get to see the couple at Christmas.
- o Prayers for the 21 year old from Dover who was killed in a car accident last weekend
- o Prayers for Irene's family members – Gary who has colon cancer and Laura, Brian's finance, who had surgery for cancer in her leg and now the cancer has returned.

- o Prayers for Russ Jones as he continues to have health issues. Prayers for strength and healing.
- o Prayers for Linda Whitcomb who is dealing with some serious health issues
- o Prayers for all who are grieving during this holiday season.
- o Prayers for safe travel for all during this holiday season

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:19-28

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'^[a] ²¹ And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'²² Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³ He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord"',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,^[b] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶ John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

BLESSINGS FOR YOUR WEEK!