



United Methodist Temple ~~ December Newsletter ~~ Volume XII

Advent – Christmas



**At a distance, it sounds like cannon fire,
A vast explosion, echoing and rumbling on even to this day:
Prophetic promise and warning, perfected in flesh, accomplished in blood!
But now it wafts through memory and celebration—a whisper,
a gentle, groaning tone—this Advent-Christmas carol,
this message of hope, of love.
Children gathering energy for the sparkling moment when all their joy can be
Released!**

**But maybe only we can hear the thunder.
Maybe they, the local witnesses, heard only the bleating sheep.
Maybe only from a distance can we hear the crashing of an empire collapsing**

And the trumpet of the only realm of heaven.

Perhaps what was begun, almost unnoticed in them

Bleats now in us.

Despite the carols and stories, the missives and the prayers, the dancing and laughter,

Perhaps the chance for love's fulfillment

Begins, as in Bethlehem,

with nearly silent breath;

with something we do not notice,

As Spirit speaks,

In the depth of darkness,

In the all but anonymous fullness of time,

As Love accomplishes in us what it began in him.'

JEG

Christmas Cantata ~ On a Night of Wonder

The Temple Choir will present their annual Christmas Cantata, ***On a Night of Wonder*** during our Sunday morning worship service on December 9th. This cantata was created by selecting several pieces from the choir's extensive music library of over 1,000 anthems. Blending prophecy from the Old Testament to the fulfillment of God's promise in the New Testament, we will sing selections ranging from traditional spirituals to classical and contemporary composers. Something for everyone to celebrate the Advent/Christmas season! So, mark your calendars and bring a friend to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ





Active Threat Safety Seminar

In keeping with our core value of safety and security and to address the continuing instances of tragic shootings around the country, The Florida Conference Ministry Protection Department is offering a free training event for local churches.

We were fortunate to be able to schedule four events before year's end with one of the pre-eminent active threat training experts in Florida.

Who can attend? Pastors, assistant/associate pastors, youth pastors/leaders, business administrators, trustees, church secretaries, daycare directors and staff, security team members, church ushers/greeters, and anyone else at the local church who is interested in safety. There is a seating capacity for each site, so registration (below) will be on a first-come, first-served basis. You will receive an electronic confirmation of your registration.

What will be covered?

- Interactive training focusing on preparing for hostile intruders, active shooters, or other threats.
- Formulating plans that can be incorporated into daily routines
- Developing safety teams and assigning duties within the team
- Continuing training throughout the year
- Trauma care

Training Sessions: (the same material will be presented at each session)

- Wednesday, December 12, 2018 – First United Methodist Church of Clewiston
- Thursday, December 13, 2018 – First United Methodist Church of Clewiston
- Monday, December 17, 2018 – First United Methodist Church of Lakeland
- Tuesday, December 18, 2018 – Trinity United Methodist Church of Gainesville

Each session will last from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and lunch will be provided.

You can reserve your spot by clicking

<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/SafetySeminary2018>

to register. The deadline for confirming your attendance at one of the events is **December 10, 2018**, so reserve your space today!

If you have questions about the training events, or need further information, please feel free to contact us at ministryprotection@flumc.org.

Your Partners in His Service,



Dine Aouts will have their Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 18 at Eaglebrooke, 11:30 AM. All women (single or single for the day) are invited to join them. Bring a White Elephant gift to share. Call Brenda Dorn (644-5250) or Frances Mundy (646-1300) to make a reservation.

Happy December Birthday to

- 12-3 Karla Kruse**
- 12-11 Caitlin McGrew**
- 12-12 Ed Parker**
- 12-13 Clay Wolf**
- 12-20 Louise Urquhart**
- 12-22 Chloe Cope**
- 12-23 David Benningfield**
- 12-24 Duke Schneider**
- Linda Taylor**
- 12-30 Ruth Perkins**
- 12-31 Betty Hall**
- Carroll Lowe**

Happy December Anniversary to:

- 12-5 Neil & JoAnne Bare**
- 12-23 Wathon & Joyce Bailey**
- 12-28 Jack & Sandy Everett**
- Bert & Caryl Kelley**



December Events

12-1 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens

12-2 First Sunday of Advent

12-5 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal

12-6 12:00 PM Advent study

6:00 PM Advent study

12-7 Church Women United

12-8 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal for Cantata

12-9 Second Sunday of Advent

11:30 AM Christmas Dinner (Contact Chris Bowne 646-1078 for tickets.)

12-10 7:00 PM Windsor Arms POA

12-12 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal

11:30 AM CGIS/Elizabeth Circle luncheon

12-13 9:30 AM Kids Pack packing and delivery

12:00 PM Advents study

6:00 PM Advent study

12-14 5:00 PM R-School event in Barnett Hall

12-16 Third Sunday of Advent

12-18 11:30 AM Dine Abouts luncheon at Eaglebrooke

12-19 No Choir rehearsal

12-20 12:00 PM Advent study

6:00 PM Advent study

12-21 First Day of Winter

12-23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

12-24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve service

12-25 Merry Christmas

12-26 No Choir rehearsal

12-30 First Sunday after Christmas Day





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