



The Circuit Rider



Sharing the Good News in Mahomet since 1843

vol. 179

12/1/2019, Issue 10

Sweet Thoughts

In a previous generation Bishop Gerald Kennedy once prayed: *“Our heavenly Father, you gave us an assurance of your love by coming to us in Jesus Christ: accept our gratitude as we celebrate his birthday. Grant unto us grace of spirit to behold the glory of the Incarnation, even though our sinful eyes can see but dimly. Once again we join the magi and the shepherds as we place our gifts and our devotion before the Bethlehem manger.”*

Walking together this fall through our season of stewardship with the *Our Three Gifts: A Program of Faithfulness* campaign has shifted our focus as we look to the new year. On Myrrh Sunday, November 10, we dedicated at the altar the 767 lbs of food and \$1,176 we had been collecting this fall for thanksgiving and shared it with people in need in our community through Helping Hands. Then on Gold Sunday, November 17 with that delicious catered lunch together we received 60 pledges for a total of \$224,029. Please know that you can still send in a pledge card for 2020 and if you need one let us know in the office and we will send you one. This last week on Frankincense Sunday we got to enjoy some personal devotional items that were shared with us in the Welcome Area and we received our 2019 Advent Devotional for our families use as our prayers rise to God with the beginning of a new worship year. If you have not yet picked up your 2019 Advent Devotional, they are in the Welcome Area. What you give and do makes a difference as we grow into a new year of leading people to Jesus and growing as disciples.

As you prepare for Christmas this year I encourage you to consider for a moment what your life would be like without Jesus. Would you be living a life of cruelty, or one defined by lust, or the selfishness of the world around us? Would you be living in a place barely seen because of your own spiritual barrenness and despair? I say this so that we all can focus on the true meaning of Christmas, that walking with the magi to the manger might open us to faith in the Christ who saves us, the hope in him which lifts up our hearts, and the love of him which is shed abroad in our land and in our homes. I don't know about you but I know that I cannot live without Jesus and as we move into 2020 I pray that our hearts might overflow with gratitude to God for this most precious of all the Lord's gifts to us.

“Let this Christmas season be a renewing of the mind of Christ in our thinking, and a cleansing of our lives by his pure presence. Give us new courage to share Jesus' word to this generation and help us bear witness to his saving grace before all. Let the joy of Christ come to our weary world through us.

And grant, O God our Father, the assurance that each day the Lord Jesus may be born again in us, and that every new morning may find us conscious that we live in him. We pray in the name of the one who is our Redeemer and our Lord, even Jesus Christ.” Amen.

See you in Worship,
Pastor Craig



November 2019 Finance Report

Dear Friends,

The Finance Committee will be preparing the final budget for 2020 at our next meeting. We will establish the final numbers for Gold Sunday over the next few weeks. The final annual budget is determined by the total Pledge and Non-Pledge giving and it's not too late to send in your pledge cards. The Finance Secretary is receiving pledges weekly. If you want to pledge for 2020 please just send or drop off a pledge card to the Church. If you need a pledge card call or email the office and we will mail a card. The church has received a number of new pledges for 2020 and wants to thank all who have generously given.

Our Three Gifts Program went well as the Myrrh Sunday food collection netted 767 pounds of food and a check for over \$2000 for Helpings Hands of Mahomet (Myrrh Sunday \$1,176, other Sunday offerings \$325, as well as a portion of church rummage sale proceeds of \$500). . On Gold Sunday we received pledge cards and shared a meal prepared by Lucky Moon Pies and More thanks to Emily and Fred Kroner. And on Frankincense Sunday we received an Advent Devotional written by members of our church. Thank you to everyone who helped make OUR THREE GIFTS program a success.

October unrestricted total income was \$31,901 for our church and total expenses were \$33,592 for a negative \$1690 for the month. January through October 2019 unrestricted total income was \$316,601 and total expenses were \$347,399 for a negative \$30,767 compared to last year January through October when unrestricted total income was \$309,354 and total expenses were \$362,73 for a negative \$53,385.

I attended a meeting this summer on church finances and the presenter stated that most church budgets are in the negative most of the year until the last few months going positive only in December. He recommended that you not put that information in the church bulletins but we share our financial position more frequently. We are blessed with enough money in reserve to cover the summer months when attendance can be a little lower. So even though we report negatives though out the year we have faith in the generosity and faithfulness of the congregation. If you have any questions please ask me or any member of the finance committee.

There was a lot happening on Gold Sunday so you might have missed the narrative budget flier. It's an overview of the line item budget that show how the money is used in our programs

We thrive as a church because of our congregation's generosity and faithfulness.
The reports are always available on request, as we are a transparent organization.

Thank you and enjoy the holidays,
Scott Yeazel
Chair, Finance Committee



Our Christmas Dates to Remember

Sunday, Dec. 1 at 4pm - Community Service at the Open Room on Main Street, Mahomet

Sunday, Dec. 1 at 10:45am - Madrigals will preform

Saturday, Dec. 7 at 8:30am - 11:00am - Cookie Walk and Bazaar

Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:30pm - All-Church Christmas Potluck

Sunday December 15 at 8:30am - The Champaign Brass will preform

Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 5:30pm -WOW Christmas Program

Saturday, Dec. 21 at 4:30pm - Longest Night Service

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship times - 4:30pm, 7:30pm and 11:00pm



Christmas Poinsettias

Group Poinsettias of 6 ½ inch pots with foil and bows can be ordered. These poinsettias will decorate the Great Hall and Commons Area during the Christmas season. Please fill out the form below in honor and/or in memory of your loved one and note "Poinsettias" in the memo of your check. Following the last Christmas Eve service, you may take them home. **The deadline to order is Sunday, December 9.**

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ poinsettias at \$12.50 ea.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

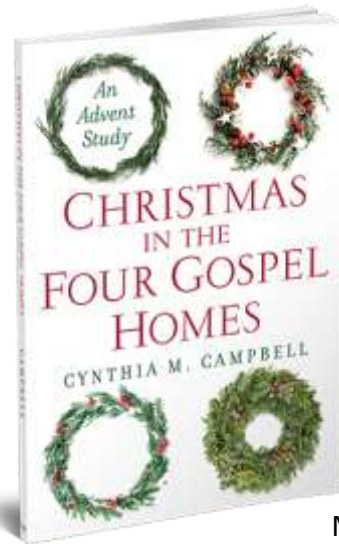




Adult Study Opportunities

Beginning in December our Advent study will be *LIGHT OF THE WORLD* by Amy-Jill Levine. This is a four week study that explores Biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. She traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem and the visit from the Magi.

This study will meet on Sunday mornings in between worship services at 9:45 am.



New Advent Study

Mondays 6:30 - 7:30pm

November 25

December 2

December 9

December 16

Meet in the Wesley Room

In this unique, four-session group study book for Advent, Cynthia Campbell envisions for the reader what each Gospel would look like as a house and invites us to visit each house throughout Advent. Along with beautiful illustrations by architect Kevin Burns, each session reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel.

Please consider joining in this Study. Go to this link to sign up. <https://signup.com/go/AqsZHbM>

Thursday Reading Circle

The Thursday Reading Circle will not meet in December. We will meet January 9 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Enlightenment of Bees* by Rachel Linden. Rachel Linden's newest contemporary women's fiction story speaks to the universal struggle of what it means to live a meaningful life where the passions we have meet the needs of the world.

We welcome any ladies who would like to join us. Contact Janet Thompson for more information. 217-898-4001 or email janetkthompson@yahoo.com

PRAYER

If you or someone you know is hospitalized for illness or going to be in the hospital for tests or surgery, please notify the church office (217-586-2147 or mumc@mumc.org) so that Rev. Sweet may provide pastoral care. Please contact Judy Ash (217-417-6611) by email at jash@prairieinet.net or fill out a prayer form during worship to have your requests added to the prayer list. The prayer list will be e-mailed to the congregation once per week, if you would prefer to get the prayer list mailed to your residence we can do that for you.

Pub Theology

JT's Brewery
402 E. Main Street
Wednesday's 7:00-8:00PM

We'll talk with one another about God, the Bible, the world around us, and our lives. If you have been before, come on back. If you haven't been yet, come join us!





BAGS OF CHRISTMAS JOY

As the Christmas season approaches, we look forward to sharing Christmas joy with our facility and homebound friends. If you would like to share small gifts, labeled Christmas bags have been placed in the commons area.

Would you like to be a part of this important ministry and help deliver these special bags? Contact Eileen Waters at enie@mediacombb.net or the church office at mumc@mumc.org if you would like to deliver some bags. **The gifts are greatly appreciated but the visits are just as vital.** The Bags may be picked up for delivery beginning Sunday, December 15.

BAGS & CARDS

Betty Brainerd
Margie (Marjorie) Brewer
Betty Clapper
Reva Cox
Jaunita Grove
Vern Hageman
Bob & Norma Hible
Ed & Norma Lotz
Louise Lusader
John & Marilyn Mohr
Beulah Newman
Janice Odle
Pat O'Neal
Thelma Primmer
Jack McClain

CARDS ONLY

Marilyn Ames
Lois Winder Bodeen
Thelma Labhart
Martha Sivier
Dan & Norma Tharp
Lynn Bobzin
Mike & Val Woodruff

SUGGESTED ITEMS

Christmas cards
pocket tissue packs
small hand lotions
chap sticks/lip balms
stationery & stamps
notepads
pens
non-skid slippers or socks
large print word search, crosswords, books, or magazines
handkerchiefs
soft individually wrapped cakes or cookies
non-nut candies like plain M&Ms/snack sized chocolates
hard candies for dry mouth
small candy canes
crafts like bookmarks or ornaments
scarves & gloves
travel-size anything.

Faith in Action is in need of volunteers to help provide transportation to seniors 55+ to medical appointments, pharmacy, shopping and errands in Champaign County. Please feel free to contact me with questions.
Thank you for your help.

Peace,
Nikki Dowling
Faith in Action Coordinator
OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center
1400 W. Park St.
Urbana, IL 61801
Office (217) 337-2778
Nicole.Dowling@osfhealthcare.org

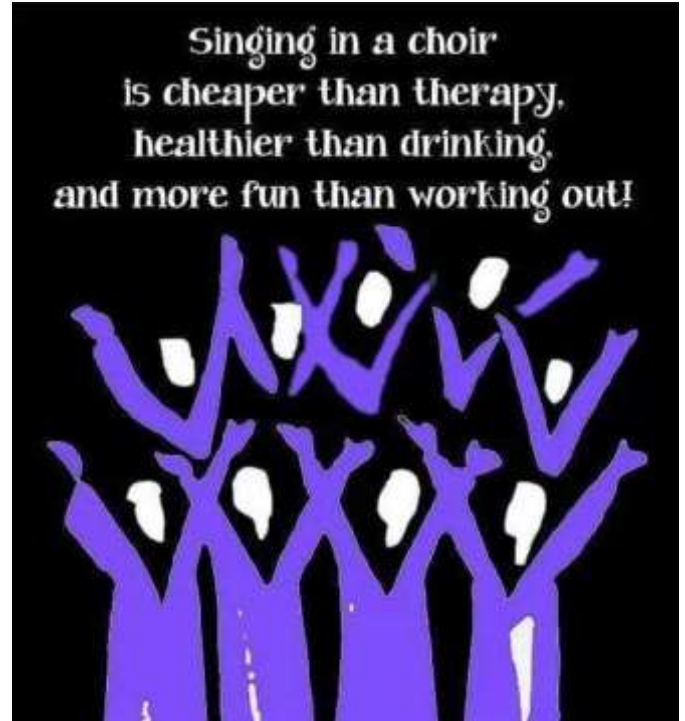


Pictured above: a Bible lesson during W.O.W.
Pictured below: W.O.W. Family Dinner and Kid-led service





Would you like to join our music department in 2020? You could join the choir, hand bells, Wesley Spirit Singers, or the Praise Band! Contact Kathy Tock if you are



Wesley Spirit Singers

Wesley Spirit Singers are people of Mahomet United Methodist Church who enjoy singing with folks at our local assisted living communities. We alternate between Bridle Brook and the Glenwood each month and sing old church hymns in a sing-a-long style with the residents.

We invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us. Our next visit is: **Tuesday, December 10 at 1 pm at Bridle Brook, 1505 Patton Dr.**

For questions, contact:
Alice Nelson at 369-6685





IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to:

Sheryle Carpenter and family following the death of Dave Carpenter on November 24th.

Bud Parkhill and his family following the death of his son Tony Parkhill on November 20th.



For the most part, Christmas is a time of celebration and joy. For many, however, this is a difficult time of year because the approaching holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. Many of us are carrying significant weights: grief, loss, depression, anxiety, financial stress, unemployment, uncertainty, aging parents, sick children, recent diagnoses, unknown illnesses, or perhaps you just feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations. The public tone of the season does not resonate with their private experience.

We are trying to reach out to those who feel such burdens by adding a worship service on *The Longest Night*, December 21 at sunset, 4:31pm. We will be creating in worship a sacred space for people living through difficult times. We will reflect and hold out healing and the hope that Christmas brings. It is our prayer that our *Longest Night* service will be a place where people will have an opportunity to grieve, but also to experience hope. Anyone, everyone in the church and in our community is welcome as we experience a quiet, spiritual time in the midst of a far too often busy and also a blue season.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Shawn and Huiyan, Grandma Connie Balek and Great-Grandparents Susan and Ron Bates on the arrival of Baby Girl Luna Xiangyi on November 1st.

THANK YOU

To the Mahomet United Methodist Church,

Mahomet Helping Hands gratefully acknowledges receipt of your gifts totaling \$2,001.00. Your donations on Myrrh Sunday (\$1,176) and other Sunday offerings (\$325), as well as a portion of church rummage sale proceeds (\$500), are greatly appreciated. Mahomet Helping Hands relies on the generosity of the churches and organizations in our community to be able to provide a significant amount of food to approximately 70 families. Thank you very much to the members of your congregation for their thoughtfulness and compassion.

Sincerely,
Mahomet Helping Hands

Thank you to all for your prayers, love and support to us throughout the years but in particular the last several difficult years. My family and I also appreciated all those who helped in any way with the luncheon after the service. Also a special thank you to Rev. Craig Sweet for his kindness and help during these years as well as Lee's memorial service. It is times like these that we lean so heavily on our church family as you surely have been God's hands and feet to us. Thomas Campbell said, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die". Lee will live on through his children, grandchildren and friends.

Alice, Jamie, Tim & Sue, Kate & Liz

Thank you for the prayers, love, and support during this difficult time. They are appreciated more than words can say.

Roberta McElmurry and family.



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www.facebook.com/MahometUMC

Office Hours

Mon.-Friday, 9:00 am– 1:00pm

Sunday Schedule

- 8:15 Prayer Circle
- 8:30 am Traditional Worship
- 9:30 & 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship
- 9:45 am Sunday School/Discipleship Hour for All Ages
- 10:30 Prayer Circle
- 10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Church Staff

- Rev. Craig Sweet, Pastor ~ csweet@mumc.org
- Kathy Tock, Worship Music Director ~ tockwoman@gmail.com
- Kelly Cramer, Program Coordinator ~ kcramer@mumc.org
- Kristina Robinson, Director of Inclusion ~ krobinson@mumc.org
- Dr. Carlos R. Carrillo Cotto, Organist
- Jodi Allen, Substitute Organist
- Emily Kuchenbrod, Choir Director
- Eileen Waters, Parish Nurse ~ enie@mediacombb.net
- Carrie Roberts, Nursery Coordinator

Church Calendar
 Let us remind you that our calendar of events can be found on our website <https://www.mumc.org/>



Church Office Closed
 Noon December 24,
 December 25,
 Noon December 31
 January 1

Worship Attendance Figures for November, 2019			
Date	8:30 am	10:45 am	Total
November 3	90	53	143
November 10	100	32	132
November 17	90	37	127
November 24	80	28	108
November Total			510



December UMW Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 5 at 1 pm. We will meet in the church library.

Cindy Dodd will present a Christmas program and Gerry White is hostess. We invite all women of the church to join us at our meetings and any of our events.

YARD SIGNS - If you have a Cookie Walk & Bazaar yard sign please place it in your yard beginning **Sunday, December 1 through Saturday, December 7**. Thank you.

Thank You for Giving to Cunningham Connection

We enjoyed a delicious brunch and Ginger McGee's presentation about Cunningham Children's Home was very enlightening! **Six quilts** were presented to Cunningham Children's home thanks to Mahomet UMC Mission Mondays group. We collected **\$2,533 monetary donations** and **\$115 in gift cards**. You have all helped in making someone's Christmas a little brighter! Thank you!

Cookie Walk & Bazaar Needs You

We need you all to help make this Cookie Walk and Bazaar successful. You can do any of the following to help us:

- Bake six dozen or more of your favorite cookies
- Bake candies or other baked goods
- Create handmade items
- Bring them to the church no later than Friday, Dec 6.
- Shop at the Cookie Walk & Bazaar on December 7.

All proceeds go to various mission programs.

Cookie Walk & Bazaar



Saturday, December 7

8:30 am–11 am

*Get your number at 8:30 am
to secure your place
in line for cookies.*

- * **Come select home baked cookies in all shapes and varieties by the boxful for all of your holiday eating or giving pleasure.**
- * **Homemade candies & assorted food items**
- * **Handmade items**

Remember to hurry in to get the best cookies!

- Sponsored by the United Methodist Women
- Proceeds go towards Mission Projects

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Helping Hands	2 9am - Weekly Staff 6:30pm - Happy Helpers 4-H Rm 7pm - Discipleship Team -	3 6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ 313 6:30pm - Wesley Bells 7pm - AA 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	4 3pm - WOW 5:45pm - Daisy troop 2955 @ 7pm - Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm - Pub Theology @ JT	5 1pm - UMW Meeting 5:15pm - Girl Scout Troop 2292 7pm - Staff-Parish Relations	6 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 2063 Rm	7
8 5:30pm - All Church Christmas	9 9am - Weekly Staff 4:45pm - Brownies 2278 5pm - Brownies 2292 Rm 314	10 1pm - Wesley Spirit Singers 6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ 313 6:30pm - Wesley Bells 7pm - AA 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	11 1pm - WOW 7pm - Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm - Pub Theology @ JT	12 1:30pm - Thursday Reading 5:30pm - Daisy 2744 Rm 310-12 6pm - Finance Committee @ 7pm - Church Council	13	14
15 2pm - Glenwood Nursing Home	16 9am - Weekly Staff	17 6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ 313 6:30pm - Wesley Bells 7pm - AA 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	18 3pm - WOW 7pm - Praise Band Rehearsal 7pm - Pub Theology @ JT	19 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 2063 Rm	20	21
22	23 9am - Weekly Staff	24 4:30pm - Worship 6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ 313 7pm - AA 7:30pm - Worship 11pm - Worship	25 Office Closed	26 5:30pm - Daisy 2744 Rm 310-312	27	28
29	30 9am - Weekly Staff	31 6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ 313 6:30pm - Wesley Bells 7pm - AA 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	1	2	3	4