



The Circuit Rider



Sharing the Good News in Mahomet since 1843

vol. 175

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Sweet Thoughts

The most pernicious myth about stewardship is that you must possess a lot to be a good steward. What I've learned though is that being a steward is not about how much but *how well* we manage all that God has given us as disciples through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness as we lead others to Jesus and help them grow as disciples.

During this season we are too often distracted from the deepest meaning of Christ's coming by the shiny objects that cross our paths. In all the hectic activity and rush please remember that the greatest gift of Advent and Christmas is God's gift of Christ—the Word made flesh – Emmanuel [God with us] because God loves us.

May what you give this year to the people around you and to this your church be a reflection of who you are and not what you think others might think you have. Peace.

Design A Life You Love

You know that feeling you get after you have helped, whether it be a person or a cause? Some call it the warm and fuzzies but we like to think of it as God smiling on our hearts. Volunteering provides a sense of belonging and encourages thankfulness. It is known to counter negative moods and to help you achieve true happiness. Talk about a win-win! We encourage you to start the new year off by designing your life to promote volunteerism. Don't have a cause? There are so many ways you can get involved and volunteer here

at Mahomet UMC such as signing up as worship assistants, greeters, assistants for Wednesday night meals and program help, dessert providers, altar flower and bulletin sponsors, coffee ministry set-up and/or clean-up and as an office volunteer.



Our *The Gift of Christmas 2018 Advent Devotional* booklet is designed to be used by individuals, family, or friends as a way to remember and prepare for God with us in Jesus this year. This booklet contains Scripture readings, written or artistic reflections, and a prayer for each day between the first Sunday of Advent and Christmas Day by members of the Mahomet United Methodist Church. We have printed up copies for each family or you may find an attached PDF file with this newsletter if it was emailed.

May Jesus come into your life and living all over again or for the very first time this Christmas.

This year 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.

Stress and depression can ruin your holidays and hurt your health. Being realistic, planning ahead and seeking support can help ward off stress and depression. Faith and spirituality can provide a sense of purpose, allow people to connect for something greater than themselves. You may even end up enjoying Christmas more than you thought you would by remembering the true reason for Christmas is the birth of Jesus our Savior. Here are tips to prevent holiday stress and depression:

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7. **Learn to say no.** Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed.
8. **Don't abandon healthy habits.** Don't let the holidays be a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress.
9. **Take a breather.** Make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do.
10. **Seek professional help if you need it.** If you have persistent sadness, anxiousness, physical complaints, sleeplessness, irritability and hopeless feelings, and/or unable to face routine chores, professional help may be needed.



CONGRATULATIONS to those who have December Wedding Anniversaries:

Gary & Donna (Kesler) Hixson
Doug & Maggie Beckmann
Greg & Barbara Pasley
Dave & Karen Huber
Mike & Donna Greene
Darrin & Lindsey Peters
Doug & Pat Schertz

IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to:

- The family of Joel Roberts—mother, Carrie Livesay Roberts, brothers, Justin and Kaleb Roberts (902 S Trailside, Mahomet, IL 61853); father, Dave and Amy Roberts, bonus brothers, Keaton and Ryan Roberts (556 US Rte 150 N, Champaign, IL 61822); grandparents, Dick and Joyce Livesay (804 W Dianne Lane, Mahomet, IL 61853)

THANK YOU!!

Bob and I want to thank our friends at MUMC for their prayers, cards, flowers and visits since my shoulder surgery in April. I am now at The Glenwood and continuing my physical therapy and doing well.

Sincerely, Norma Hible

The family of Joel Roberts would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of kindness and sympathy in the loss of our son, brother and grandson. The visitation and funeral were everything we needed, thanks to so many of our church family who helped in some way, some of you for hours. It is nice to be able to offer a meal to those who came to honor Joel. He always checked out the dessert table before getting in line. So many gifts, flowers, prayers and offers of help. God has blessed us with many friends.

Just want to express a word of thanks to all who wished us greetings for our 50th wedding anniversary. It was a joy to be able to celebrate with so many friends and relatives. You all have been a blessing to our life.

Warren and Gerry Drake

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts, food, & visits. My foot surgery worked and my head wound is finally better.

Georgine Early



BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR DREAMS

Dear Mahomet UMC Friends,

You are truly hope builders. We are blessed to receive abundant gifts, quilts & gift cards through your annual Cunningham Connection.

Because of you, our kids get to heal, learn and grow in an environment where they feel safe and loved.

With Gratefulness,
Ginger



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 ea.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____



Explore the life of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus Christ

During each Sunday of the Advent season, the Sunday Morning class will be studying, ***“Faithful: Christmas Through The Eyes of JOSEPH”*** by Adam Hamilton.

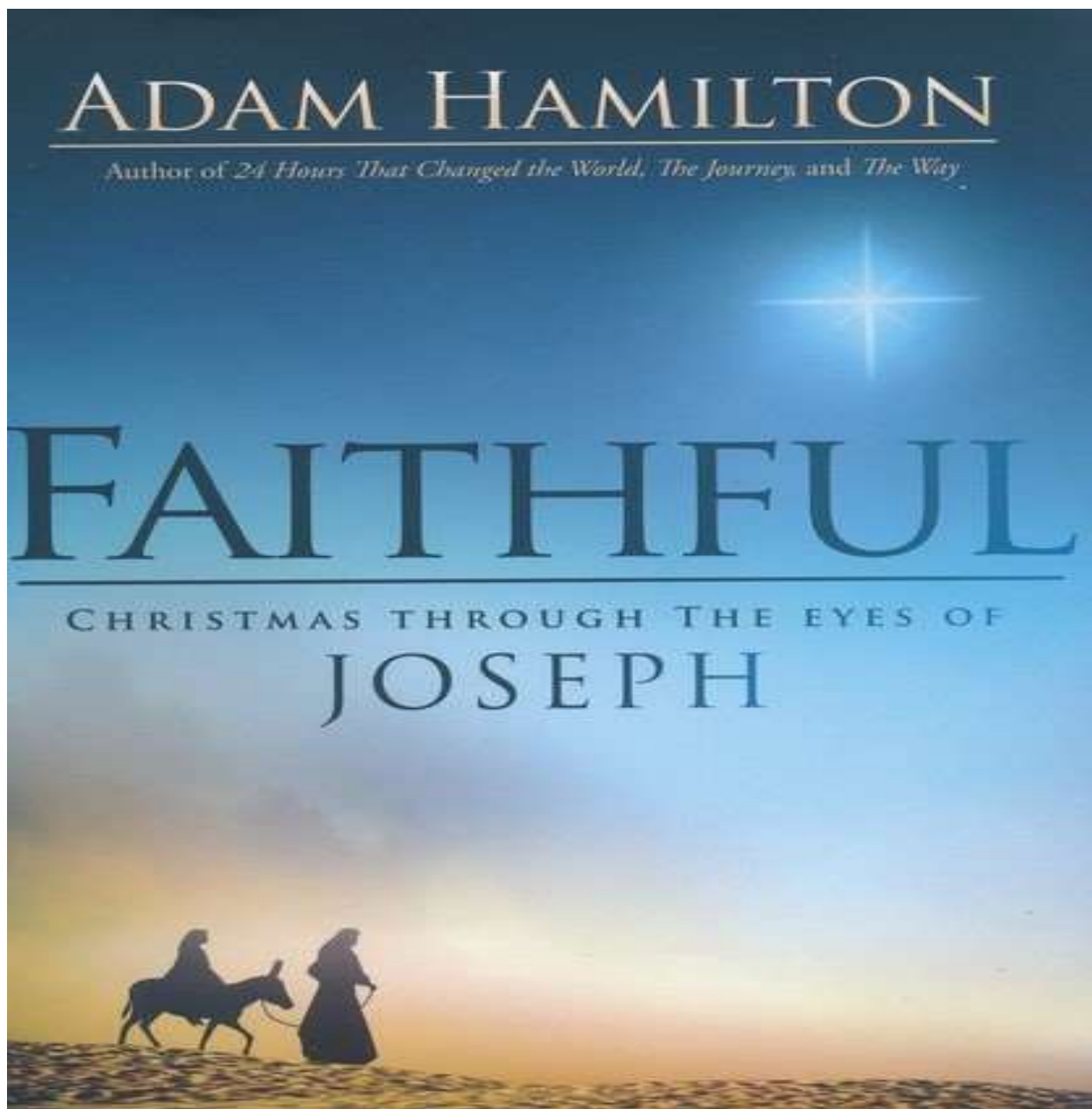
In this study, you will understand how Joseph's place in the nativity story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would have never chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Joseph's beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Join Adam Hamilton as he examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season.

We welcome you with open arms for this exciting new study.

(Please contact Angela in the church office for a study guide— There is no charge).



MUMC KIDS

W.O.W. IN DECEMBER — 5:30PM DINNER, 6:00-7:30 PROGRAMMING



WED. DEC 5TH

Last year we packed a theater to see this movie. This year we get to watch it here. In this movie set 9 months BC Mary is visited by an angel telling her she will bear the Messiah. A pygmy jerboa named Abby overhears and tells the other animals as a star begins glowing brightly in the night... Come, enjoy dinner and a show! Busy hands will be put to work creating a small Christmas gift to be delivered to home bound individuals.



DEC. 3RD-13TH

"5G PACKS JOY"
The fifth grade students in 5G, at Lincoln Trail Elementary, are collecting items to fill backpacks for families in need within the Mahomet community. Please consider donating items or gift cards to PACK these backpacks. Suggested donations: toiletries, winter gear, books, activity books, nail polish, art supplies, small toys, first aid kits, local gift cards, backpacks



WED. DEC 12TH & 19TH

Casting Call!!!! On the 12th and 19th kids will be assigned parts, practice lines and learn songs to put on a simple sing-a-long Christmas Program. We will perform for the parents (and any other forgiving audience members) at the end of WOW on the 19th. We will have costumes and all! We can read the Christmas story over and over, but there is something extra memorable about acting it out.



Morning Star

A Christmas Cantata

Presented by the Mahomet UMC Chancel Choir

Under the direction of Kathy Tock

Sunday, December 16

8:30 and 10:45 am

Wesley Spirit Singers

Please join the Wesley Spirit Singers for hymn singing and reminiscing on:

Tuesday, December 11 at 1:00 pm

Bridle Brook

1505 Patton Dr.

Mahomet, IL 61853

For questions, contact:

Alice Nelson at 369-6685



FOR JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MUMC YOUTH

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9TH & 23RD

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

SUPPLY REQUEST. They are looking for anyone who would be interested in donating:

New or Laundered Blankets of all sizes



These blankets will be going to *Food For The Poor* to help those poorest and in need in Trinidad due to the mass flooding. All blankets must be in their own bag washed and ready to go. Donations can be dropped off anytime at 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62538. Questions call Ashley at 217.697.4681 or email ashley@midwestmission.org.

Midwest Mission Projects & Kits That Have Been Distributed in 2018



UMCOR Kits That Have Been Distributed in 2018



Kids December

Sunday Discipleship Time

In December, all students Kindergarten-12th grade will have the opportunity to study *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* by Adam Hamilton. Parents, we encourage you to do the adult version of the study.

Did you know that in the Bible, Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, never utters a word?

We will learn more about Joseph's story and what we can take away from it.

Dec 2-A Carpenter Named Joseph

Dec 9-Whose Child is This?

Dec 16-Raising a Child Not Your Own

Dec 23-The Journey to Bethlehem

Dec 30-The Rest of the Story





Thank You for Giving to Cunningham Connection

The meal was delicious and the company great! Rev. Craig Sweet blessed the **four quilts** that Mahomet UMC Mission Mondays group made. We collected **\$2,900 monetary donations** and **\$305 in gift cards**. You have all helped in making someone's Christmas a little brighter!

YARD SIGNS - If you have a Cookie Walk & Bazaar yard sign please place it in your yard beginning **Sunday, December 2 through Saturday, December 9**. 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 five to six dozen of your favorite cookies
- Bake candies or other baked goods
- Create handmade items
- Bring them to the church no later than Friday, Dec 7.
- Shop at the Cookie Walk & Bazaar on December 8!

All proceeds go to various mission programs.

Sponsored by Mahomet United Methodist Women

What's a Cookie Walk?

What's the Cookie Walk, you ask? We take all the cookies everyone has made then place them on pretty trays and line them up on tables that are set up in the worship area. On Saturday morning, people line up to take their turn to select their cookies. There is a charge per box. There will also be handmade items, candy, and other goodies to purchase.



Cookie Walk & Bazaar



Saturday, December 9

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



Dear Friends,

The Finance Committee will be preparing the final drafts of the 2019 budget and needs to begin to establish the final numbers for Celebration Sunday. As mentioned in previous reports, the final annual budget is determined by the total Pledge and Non-Pledge giving. It's not too late to send in your pledge cards. The Finance Secretary is receiving pledges weekly. If you still want to send the church a pledge for 2019 please complete a pledge card or call the office and Angela will mail a pledge card. The church has received a number of new pledges for 2019 and wants to thank all that have pledged for 2019.

October unrestricted total income was \$34,417 for our church and total expenses were \$38,460 for a negative \$4042 for the month. January through October 2018 unrestricted total income was \$309,354 and total expenses were \$362,739 for a negative \$53,385. However, pledges paid in 2017 towards the 2018 budget reduces that negative total to \$23,760 as of the end of October.

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.

Rev. Ted Frost has sent an informational brochure "How the New Tax Law may help Church Giving". There is a supply of the brochures on the table by the office door.

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





The Advent and Christmas Offering for 2017 will be split between the Illinois Great Rivers Conference campaign, Our Conference, Our Kids, and the Mahomet Area Youth Club.

Beginning last June, our conference has sought to raise \$2.5 million to endow the spiritual life programs at each of our five child welfare agencies. They are the Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's

Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, and Spero family Services (formerly the United Methodist Children's Home). By endowing the spiritual life programs we insure that they will not be subject to budget cuts. The ministry we can offer will always be there. There could not be a more precious gift than the gift of faith to these children.

Most of us have a good acquaintance with the Mahomet Area Youth Club. Many of our members are generously involved with their programs. These are our kids as well.

This Advent and Christmas season let us prayerfully consider our support of these very worthy and established programs.

Bags of Christmas Joy

List of Recipients

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 16.

Bags

- Ed Armbrust
- Betty Brainerd
- Maggie Brewer
- Betty Clapper
- Reva Cox
- Juanita Grove
- Vern/Shirley Hageman
- Norma Hible
- Norma Lambert
- Ed/Norma Lotz
- Louise Lusader
- Ruth Marrett
- Arlon McGuire
- Harriet Miebeck
- John/Marilyn Mohr
- Beulah Newman
- Janice Odle

- Pat O'Neal
- Thelma Primmer

Cards Only in Bags

- Marilyn Ames
- Verna Armstrong
- Lynn Bobzin
- Lois Winger Bodeen
- Eileen Bunting
- Imogene James
- Thelma Labhart
- Gavin Meerdink
- Martha Sivier
- Marilyn Taylor
- Dan/Norma Tharp



DECEMBER, 2018 CALENDAR

SATURDAY, 12/1

Noon AA

COMMUNION SUNDAY, 12/2

8:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Discipleship;
10:45 am Worship with Praise Band;
5 pm AA

MONDAY, 12/3

1 pm Mission Mondays; 7 pm Disciple-
ship Team

TUESDAY, 12/4

6:30 pm Wesley Bells; 7 pm AA; 7 pm
Trustees; 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY, 12/5

5 pm Children's Choir; 5:30 pm WOW
Movie Night The Star; 6 pm Adult Study;
6 pm Building Committee; 7 pm Praise
Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY, 12/6

8:30 am Women's Small Group at Ma-
homet Family Restaurant; 7 pm Staff
Parish Relations

FRIDAY, 12/7

9 am Cookie Walk & Bazaar set up;
7 pm Debt Anonymous

SATURDAY, 12/8

8:30 am Cookie Walk and Bazaar;
Noon AA

SUNDAY, 12/9

8:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Discipleship;
10:45 am Worship with Praise Band;
5 pm AA; 6 pm Jr/Sr High Youth Group

MONDAY, 12/10

1 pm Mission Mondays

TUESDAY, 12/11

1 pm Wesley Spirit Singers (Bridle
Brook); 6:30 pm Wesley Bells; 7 pm AA;
7 pm Finance Committee; 7:30 pm
Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY, 12/12

5 pm Children's Choir; 5:30 pm Dinner;
6 pm WOW Children & Adult Programs;
6 pm Adult Study; 7 pm Praise Band
Rehearsal

THURSDAY, 12/13

8:30 am Women's Small Group at Ma-
homet Family Restaurant; 1:30 pm
Thursday Reading Circle; 7 pm Church
Council

FRIDAY, 12/14

7 pm Debt Anonymous

SATURDAY, 12/15

Noon AA

SUNDAY, 12/16

8:30 am Worship & presentation of
Morning Star a Christmas Cantata; 9:45
am Discipleship; 10:45 am Worship with
Praise Band; 5 pm AA

MONDAY, 12/17

1 pm Mission Mondays

TUESDAY, 12/18

6:30 pm Wesley Bells; 7 pm AA; 7:30 pm
Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY, 12/19

6 pm Adult Study; 7 pm WOW Christ-
mas Program

THURSDAY, 12/20

8:30 am Women's Small Group at Ma-
homet Family Restaurant

FRIDAY, 12/21

4:21 pm Longest Night Worship Service;
7 pm Debt Anonymous

SATURDAY, 12/22

Noon AA

SUNDAY, 12/23

8:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Discipleship;
10:45 am Worship with Praise Band;
5 pm AA; 6 pm Jr/Sr High Youth Group

CHRISTMAS EVE, 12/24

Church Office Closes at NOON

5 pm & 7 pm Worship with lessons,
carols, candlelight, Communion;
11 pm Worship with candlelight,
Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY, 12/25**THURSDAY, 12/27**

8:30 am Women's Small Group at Ma-
homet Family Restaurant

FRIDAY, 12/28

7 pm Debt Anonymous

SATURDAY, 12/29

Noon AA

SUNDAY, 12/30

8:30 am Worship; 9:45 am Discipleship;
10:45 am Worship with Praise Band;
5 pm AA

**NEW YEARS DAY, 1/1—Church Office
Closed**

Christmas in Mahomet at Mahomet United Methodist Church

5 pm Christmas Eve Worship with
Lessons, Carols & Candlelight
Communion

7 pm Christmas Eve Worship with
Lessons, Carols & Candlelight
Communion

11 pm Christmas Eve Worship with
Candlelight, Communion

Would you like to be an active part of our church service?

We could use your help! We are in need of
Worship Assistants, Greeters, and the
Coffee Ministry! What's involved? Are you
qualified? Absolutely! Simply arrive 30
minutes prior to the service, greet people at
the door, hand out bulletins, distribute
hymnals before the service and collect
afterwards, record the attendance, and
collect the offering.



mahomet + united + methodist + church

Our Mission: To lead people to Jesus and help them grow as disciples.

1302 E. South Mahomet Road, Mahomet, IL 61853-3729
(217) 586-2147 • mumc@mumc.org • www.mumc.org

Office Hours

Mon.-Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday Worship

8:30 am Traditional Worship

10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Sunday Schedule

8:30 am Traditional Worship

9:30 & 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship

9:45 am Sunday School/Discipleship Hour for All Ages

10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Church Staff

Rev. Craig Sweet, Pastor ~ csweet@mumc.org

Kathy Tock, Worship Music Director ~ tockwoman@gmail.com

Angela Pearl, Office Administrator ~ apearl@mumc.org

Kristina Robinson, Children's Ministry Director ~ 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

Marty Butts, Custodian



Christmas Schedule

Morning Star

A Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 16 at both worship services

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm & 7 pm • Worship with lessons,
Carols & Candlelight, Communion

11 pm • Worship with Candlelight, Communion



January Circuit Rider Deadline, December 20: Committees, classes, and groups: If you have information about upcoming events, please let us know.

Worship Attendance Figures for November, 2018

Date	8:30 am	10:45 am	Total
Nov. 4	123	67	190
Nov. 11	97	89	186
Nov. 18	102	72	174
Nov. 25	123	57	180
November Total	445	285	730



Church Office Closed

Noon December 24,

December 25,

Noon December 31

January 1