

December 2021

Monthly Publication



Old Rockers and Christmases Past

***“Children’s children are a crown to the aged,
and parents are the pride of their children.”
(Proverbs 17:6)***

***“Christ in you—the Hope of Glory!”
(Colossians 1)***

As I write this, I am sitting in an old oak rocking chair that used to sit in my grandparent's parlor in Ironton, Ohio. When I was little, I would rock in this chair, my feet barely touching the hardwood floor and while away the hours with my Grandmother and Grandpa and Mom and Dad sitting around the roaring fireplace staring at the flames as Perry Como sang carols in the background at 33 and 1/3 RPMs. I remember the distinctive "creak, creak, creak" the chair made against the wood floor.

In 1980, my grandparents downsized in-

to an assisted living facility called "Hill View" in Portsmouth, Ohio. Mom and Dad got the old rocker but for the next 41 years it sat muted on mom's carpeted living room floor – the distinctive sound it made years earlier was silenced.

I recently received that rocker and without thinking about it positioned it on our tile dining room floor, sat down and started rocking. It was like the return of an old friend. A sound so familiar, so comforting, so warm. A sound that took me back over a half-century.

The moment I heard that familiar "creak, creak, creak," even after 55 years, I smelled the fire blazing, I saw grandmother cooking in the kitchen, I heard Grandpa stoking the fire, I watched Mom & Dad dozing (and even heard Perry Como singing Winter Wonderland). In that chair, I can't help but be reconnected with the Saints of my youth. They are all gone now but that rocker rocking on the tile dining room floor brings them all back as if they never left.

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(Continued from page 1)

In a real sense they've never left. They've always been part and parcel of my journey, of my decision-making, of my world-view, of my connection to God. That's what saints do, you know—reconnect you with God. But with the familiar sound of this chair reviving so many dormant memories, it amplifies the fact that they've always been there.

I think it comes with age, but I admit I am much more sentimental than I used to be (can I get an AMEN?). It's more than sentimentality, though. I think the piling up of years creates a heightened awareness of spiritual realities. Realities we may not pay much attention to when we're younger. Like the reality of "The Communion of Saints" that we talk about once a year on All Saints Sunday, but it happens to be a constant reality all the time.

Or the reality of "Christ in you, the hope of glory..." as Colossians 1 puts it. Where would we be without that reality? Somehow in my younger years "hope" was a wimpy word—kinda like the way we use "I hope so..." or "hopefully," as if its only meaning is wishful and unrealistic thinking. In this season of life I love the word "hope" so much more than I did—it is not a wimpy word. In fact, it is what gets me up in the morning! It is what my engine runs on. And to realize that that hope I can't do without comes from the indwelling presence of Christ, it just doesn't get any better than that! I can't tell you the flood of gratitude that accompanies this change in perspective. An overwhelming sense of gratefulness!

I'm also grateful for a family that instilled in me a love and loyalty that I know isn't of my own making. I watched love and loyalty in action through many highs and lows of life growing up. I caught a little bit of it early on. The good news is, all it takes is a little bit early on, much like a vaccination, to keep you healthy.

Don't get too concerned with my beautifying my family—long distance memory tends to lean on the positive side of things. Sure, there were moments—seasons even—of non-saintly behaviors and interactions in my family. But I really don't believe that matters to God. You see, at the core of Grace is forgiveness, and forgiveness in my family flowed like a river glorious.

And when December rolls around, as it does every year, Christmas memories of years gone by, much like Dickens' benevolent ghost of Christmases Past, make their much-anticipated appearance right on schedule. All it takes for me is viewing "It's a Wonderful Life" or seeing a Lexus 'December to Remember' commercial to stir that ghost up. But the addition of that old oak rocking chair this year has shifted my Christmas memories into gratitude for the family of my youth. I owe them so much!

So, I'm celebrating Old Rockers and Christmases Past this month. Won't you join me?

You are Loved!

Pastor Vic

A WORD FROM PASTOR BO

Smile Through Holy Tears – Our Gift



The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.
[Lamentations 3:22-23]

This is the Season of Advent – the coming of Messiah, Jesus Christ. This season of Christmas will be filled with joy and laughter. Laughter is precious. Just as laughter is precious, I believe, so are tears. It is a great person who can return the quiet smile amidst their pain. True self-discovery is made in times of tribulations, not in prosperity. Trials enlighten our spirits as they make our hearts sensitive. We come to know ourselves in times of trouble, honestly.

If laughter helps us endure pain, so are holy tears. If a quiet smile is a gift from God, so are the quiet tear sheds in pain. It is a sign of greatness to possess the courage to cry openly. Our tears are precious. They are indeed holy. In the Bible, salt was offered as a sacrifice to God. (Leviticus 2:13) Our tears contain the salt. You see, our tears are undeniably precious and holy.

I believe heaven's treasures are contained in tears. Tears reflect deep pain as they reveal deep emotions. Tears reveal feelings of love and show a soft heart. Tears indeed soften our hearts. Just as if the rain eases the ground, tears soften our callous hearts. Tears clean our souls and wipe clean the windows of our souls. God subjects us to tears when the windows of our hearts get cloudy and filthy; He sends problems our way and the tears induced. As we shed tears over our pain, the windows of our souls get cleaner and more unclouded.

Lately, we seem to see much more the dark rather than the brightness of the day. We need to see even deeper where we are. As we see the clear sky on a sunny day, we see the spiritual world clearer in our pain. We also know the love of God, who loves even the shadows in our lives.

A person who laughs in pain is intense; however, those who cry freely admit their pain are richer. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said, “*Man's greatest riches is his ability to cry.*” John Vance Cheney said, “*A soul who can't cry has no hope.*” We do not want to show our tears to others because we do not want to seem weak. However, it is a courageous person who can cry.

Joseph, in the Book of Genesis of the Bible, was a leader who could *cry*. He did not hold back his tears when he reconciled with his brothers. His wails were heard all throughout Pharaoh's house. His tears erased the pain of the past and healed his deep wounds. His tears were from a heart full of love. Those tears of love became tears of forgiveness poured out upon his brothers. They softened Joseph's heart as his heart began to embrace more incredible things.

Our life has not been easy, and deep wounds are harbored in the hearts, and our hearts wept. Nevertheless, there is no need to feel alone, as God knows our tears.

As a living shell turns its pain into a pearl, let us become the person who turns problems into precious pearls, allow you to laugh, even admit the pain. Moreover, if it becomes unbearable, cry your heart out before the Lord. As we know, that there is nothing that moves the heart of God more effectively than the tears of prayer and praise. After the tears, a mysterious peace will overtake you. Quiet hope will be restored within you.

Life can overcome with quiet smiles and holy tears as we walk side-by-side with the Lord.

May our Lord bless you and your family richly in this blessed season of Advent!

Wishing everyone a very Merry and Blessed CHRIST-mas!

May our Lord bless you and keep you in this season of Advent!

Pastor Bo, Sim, Gene, & Rinnah





Ms. Amy's Adventures

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Merry Christmas everyone!

Although we did not get to have our wonderful Christmas sale this year we have been blessed in so many other ways. Our teachers and staff are once again so thankful for all of you. Our Christmas tree is up, and we are spreading the holiday cheer. Also, in the spirit of giving, we are looking for a few donations to help with our scholarship fund. This fund helps us provide care for those families who may be in need during tough times. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact the school!

Many thanks to those who attended our Better Scoop Ice Cream fundraiser. What an amazing night.

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way. Come sing and celebrate the holiday with us. Join us December 15th at 6:30pm for our Christmas concert.

The Foundations Team wants to wish each and everyone of you a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas. Our school is so grateful to be a part of Englewood United Methodist Church.

Love,

Amy, Heather and our Amazing Team



Tervis Tumbler Sale

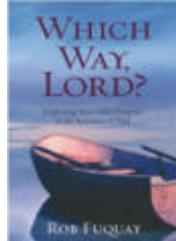
16 oz. Tervis Tumbler glasses with lid (no handle) with the church logo as seen here.
\$20 each.

While supplies last! Get yours Sundays in Fellowship Hall.

* All proceeds go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is used to help people who walk in to the church in need of assistance

Pastor's Wednesday Night Bible Study

"Which Way, LORD? Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul"
by Rob Fuquay



Wednesdays, January 5-February 9
6:30 in Doan Chapel
Led by Pastor Vic

A study to help you understand God's desire for your life by unpacking your experiences alongside those of the apostle Paul. It is recommended you purchase the book and read the first chapter before the first class on January 5. The book is available from Amazon.com and chritianbook.com. Books will also be available for purchase for \$10 in Fellowship Hall after services on Sundays.

Advent Devotional



"All The Good—A Wesleyan Way of Christmas"

Softcover book \$10

Daily Devotions for December 1—31

Book available in Fellowship Hall between Sunday Services or in the church office.

Advent Study



"The Christian New Year"

by J.D. Walt
28 day devotional \$14
Digital version \$12.95

Mondays, 2:00pm in person,
beginning November 29th

led by
Pastor Jerry & Carol Van Dyken
OR

Wednesdays, 6:30pm in person, beginning
December 1st

led by Gary & Vicki Doss

Register online under Discipleship,
in Fellowship Hall between Sunday services
or
by calling the church office.

***At Home*****Janet Albrecht****Jenny Chastain****Joe Croce****Phyllis Eastlund****Shirley Grayson****Lori Ierardi****Howard & Nan Jackson****Deborah Larsen****Betty Madison****Geri Meneely****Roger & Barb Molendyke****Jackie Morton****Ruth Runyon****Wanda Staneszewski****Jan Stoddard****David & Val Stevens****Mary Thompson****Bob & Lorraine Turner****Helen Williams****Gina Willis*****At Nursing Home or Assisted Living*****Joan Bentson—*Tuscan Gardens on Venetia Bay*****Alice Buck—*Gardens of Venice*****Margaret Cypher—*Life Care in Punta Gorda*****Ruth Davidson—*Bay Breeze*****Maude Drinks—*Grand Villa*****Sandra Dussault—*Heritage Oaks*****Doris Finn—*Grand Villa*****Marjorie Fitzgerald—*Family Affair*****Dorothy Hill—*Liana Memory Care*****Charles Lindberg—*Heritage Oaks*****Sam & Thelma Lloyd—*Heritage Oaks*****Audrey MacEhiney-Rogers—*Towers of Venice*****Carolyn McCallum—*Grand Villa*****Lorraine Melnichok—*Grand Villa*****Jim Roch—*Brookdale—Venice*****Doris Scott—*Heritage Oaks*****Marilyn Smith—*Summerfield—Bradenton*****Adele Stewart—*Heritage Oaks*****Audrey Volz—*Grand Villa*****Janet Wilson—*Heritage Oaks*****Millie Wischnowsky—*Heritage Oaks*****CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

Do you live alone? In need of company? Would you like someone to visit, enjoy your company and pray with you? Congregational Care Ministers are on hand to visit with you on a monthly basis, sharing their ministry through prayer and communion.

Please call Pastor Don at 941-474-5588, ext. 252
to request a CCM minister.



Peace

Christmas Cantata
December 12 - 9:00 & 11:00am
Worship Services in the Sanctuary



The Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra,
Narrator and Living Nativity.

Appalachia Service Project

October 2021 brought challenges to all who wished to attend The Appalachia Service Mission in Jonesville, Virginia. The Covid protocols to attend made it difficult for many of our members. Jonesville has limited medical facilities so therefore protecting all who attend and those we serve, several requirements were put in place. With this in mind, we decided to postpone our mission until April 3rd of this year (2022). While we were unable to attend, we did contribute over \$1800 to ASP for materials and housing.

For those who are unfamiliar with ASP, it is a week long commitment to help repair homes in the Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee area around Jonesville. They also serve parts of West Virginia and North Carolina. If you have an interest in serving in this type of mission with both rewards of helping others and a spiritual satisfaction of attending, please contact us below. To all who have donated to ASP throughout the year, *THANKS* can be heard from all those, whose lives are now warmer, safer, and drier. Come visit us in the Fellowship Hall the first Sunday of each month if you would like more information.

Many Blessings to All,
Your EUMC ASP Coordinators

Marty Bencsik email: J316Marty@gmail.com

Margie Kennedy email: Margie.Kennedy6@gmail.com

Year End Giving Reminders

What another unusual year 2021 has been! It has certainly been challenging for us all; however, your generosity and faithful giving toward the EUMC budget throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been inspiring. Please know that we are grateful. Through the end of October 2021, we are operating with a positive net income thanks to good expense control and, so many who paid their annual pledges in full earlier this year.

A reminder about a popular way to give at year end is for anyone who has an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) and is required to take minimum distributions from it each year...there is a way to make charitable donations that will reduce taxable income dollar-for-dollar, even if you plan to claim the standard deduction and not itemize.

If you are required to take minimum withdrawals from an IRA or a retirement plan because you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can use the pretax dollars in your IRA to make direct donations to EUMC or other qualified charities. Note that the money withdrawn from an IRA and donated to charity stays out of your adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer to the charity. It's not tax-free if you withdraw the money first, deposit into another account and then donate it to the charity.

Please consult with your tax advisor to confirm how the tax laws apply to your specific situation. EUMC does not offer tax advice...only educational information about giving options. If I can be of assistance with your giving needs to EUMC, please call 474-5588 or stop in the church office.

Lastly, please note that in order to receive credit on your 2021 giving statement from EUMC, contributions must be received no later than Sunday, December 26, 2021. Thank you!

Blessings,
Beth Harrison
 Business Administrator



Memorial Corner

10/30 Regina McGowan

11/02 Jeanne Sawyer

*Our thoughts and prayers
are with their family and friends.*



Comparative Financial Operations/Performance For the 11 month period ending October 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Tithes & Offerings	\$1,271,906	\$1,460,041
Cash Expenditures	\$-1,229,443	\$- 1,176,719
Tithes & Offerings Less Expenditures	\$ 42,463	\$273,322

THE EUMC OFFICE WILL BE

CLOSED FROM

DECEMBER 23, 2021

THRU

JANUARY 2, 2022

WE WISH EVERYONE A JOYOUS AND
BLESSSED CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Serving Opportunities

We are asking you to prayerfully consider helping in one of these ministries.

- **Wednesday Night Dinners** We need a small leadership team to plan and prepare the weekly dinners.
- **Reset Team** Needed to reset tables & chairs between dinners & Sunday worship & again for dinners.
- **Contemporary Worship Team** Help is needed in all facets of Sunday contemporary worship: coffee bar, tech, musicians and singers. Contact Rich Church at 941-544-5411.
- **Good News Team** A minimum of 10-12 people are needed to be able to offer Good News Club in the elementary schools, beginning January 2022. A commitment of 3-4 hours, once a week for 13 weeks.
- **Short term Adult Bible Study** or Christian course facilitators.
- **Family Promise** One or two people to lead and organize Family Promise at EUMC. Families staying on site will resume 2022.
- **Friends Class** One or two people to restart the Friends Class which is an 11:00 Sunday school class for adults with special needs. Curriculum is provided.
- **Senior Exercise Class** A qualified leader to hold weekly exercise classes for senior men and women.
- **Disaster Response Team** A dedicated leader is needed to take teams to help people recovering from natural disasters in the state. This team works in conjunction with UMCOR and will need to take their training.
- **New Member Team** A few people are needed to attend the New Member classes to greet and help new members learn more about EUMC.
- **Divorce Care** Two qualified people are needed to facilitate this 13-week class for those struggling with divorce or separation. The course is usually offered twice a year.
- **Sunday Welcome Team coordinator** Someone to schedule the greeters/ushers (Welcome Team) for each service on Sundays.
- **Sunday Hospitality Table in Fellowship Hall** 2-3 people are needed to aid in registering for events or studies, distributing books, selling tickets, answering questions, etc. after the service of their choice.
- **Congregational Care Ministry** more people are needed for visitation to Assisted Living, Nursing Homes and homebound congregants.

If you are interested in one of these ministries, please contact Joyce Doyle in the church office.

joyce@englewoodumc.net 941-474-5588 ext. 261



**** 90 (or over) Years Young!**

12/01 Howard White
 12/04 Mary Stephenson
 12/05 Lois Kennedy **
 12/09 Diane Wilson
 12/10 Fred Haynes **
 12/14 Roselin Reichert
 12/17 Jan Campbell **
 12/19 Mary Brewer **
 12/19 Rosemary Vreeland **
 12/20 Howard Cheek **
 12/25 Sarah Kates
 12/26 Bill Roberts **
 12/31 Sharon Martin



December Super Senior Birthdays

Super Senior Birthday Registration

Name _____

Birth Date _____ / _____ / _____

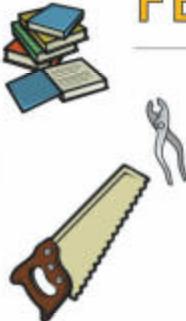
Month Day Year

Are you a Super Senior of four score years or more? We have the names and birth dates of many of our 80 (or more) years old, but we want to recognize ALL of these honored members. Please register your birthday if you haven't done so already. Just call the church office or send in the registration form.

The Super Senior birthdays are listed each month in the Messenger. Help them celebrate their super birthday by congratulating them on their special day.

THE HUGE RUMMAGE SALE

FELLOWSHIP HALL ~ FULL INSIDE & OUT!



Thursday, Feb. 24 ~ 3 - 6 pm
EARLY BIRD SALE!

\$5 for Shop Early Admission
~ Special 1 day Only~



REGULAR SALE ~ FREE ENTRY:
Friday, Feb. 25 ~ 9 am - 3 pm
Saturday, Feb. 26 ~ 9 am - Noon



Information ~ Call Annette 303/915-2690 ~ Watch Publications for Updates

DROP-OFF DONATIONS until Feb. 11
NOT ACCEPTING FURNITURE or LARGE ITEM!
(Sorry, no storage space for them currently.)

VOLUNTEER Sign Up Please!
By Feb. 7
Call Annette 303/915-2690

Children's Ministry

So many happenings here in Children's Ministry. We love starting worship with our families and sharing Children's moments with children and the entire congregation. We have so much joy seeing so many families in church! We hope to see *all* of you soon!

The children started learning the Christmas songs for the pageant on Christmas Eve, 6pm. All students are invited to participate. If you have not signed up your child yet, no worries, just contact Deb or Beth Ann.

December 11th we are going SHOPPING! Students are invited to help us shop for our Christmas families. Each Christmas family will have a team of children and volunteers shopping for gifts with donated money from the congregation. Please let Beth Ann know if your child would like to shop! More details will be shared soon!

December 18th – Sunday School Christmas Party! Time TBD. We will be making crafts to share with homebound and retirement communities, playing games, decorating our Sunday school Christmas tree, creating festive cookies to enjoy, drinking hot cocoa and maybe even time for a short movie. Parents can enjoy the afternoon to shop, have a date with spouse, or take a nap. LOL refresh your souls amid the hustle and bustle.

December 15th – Jesus and Pizza Christmas party: Tree decorating, Pizza, cookies, and Hot cocoa. Fund games, silly songs, and a whole lot of fun! Stay tuned for more information!

December 24th 6pm Family Christmas Service - in the Sanctuary. Come and help us recreate the night our Savior was born!

Something for you to know:

- ◆ Please sign in your child either by the nursery or in Sanctuary. We have a new system, and we are working out the kinks. Thank you for being patient!
- ◆ Advent for Families – I encourage all of you to share a family advent devotion every evening. Ideas and activities will be coming home with your students soon. Help your children understand the true meaning of the season. Nothing better than family time with Jesus as the center. We will have Sunday School on December 26th and January 2nd (Christmas break).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Occasionally people share great little tidbits of information, something that can help us navigate life as families of faith. Below is a fun way to enjoy Holiday Dinner from a friend of a friend, Connie and George Poynter.

"We incorporate participation and fun into the meal preparation. Each person joining the dinner comes to our home ready to prepare their dish choice. If they do not have a dish choice to prepare then they get to select a supporting activity."

About a week before the holiday, the host receives information on the choice of dish by each person attending. It is the hosts responsibility to ensure all the ingredients are at the home waiting for the holiday.

- ◆ *The night before Thanksgiving, my husband and I prepare the turkey and brine it overnight. This is a step that is not necessary, but it includes togetherness which recipes cannot replace.*
- ◆ *Guests are given an arrival time for sharing a light breakfast or purchased muffins, made ahead banana bread, fruit and beverages served on all things disposable. Using a Keurig helps make individual beverages, along with ready-made juices.*
- ◆ *Each person that submitted their side dish goes to the kitchen and prepares the dish. If baking is required, they coordinate this with other dish preparation.*
- ◆ *Real place settings are used, rather than paper goods, to demonstrate to younger generations.*
- ◆ *Supporting activities are as follows: kitchen cleaning after prep work is complete, setting the table, pouring drinks, filling water glasses, clearing the table, loading the dishwasher, serving desserts. Pulling activities from a hat can assign the jobs to multiple people. Once drawn jobs can be traded or bartered with one another. So fun!*

Dinner time is not defined in advance. It is when all the dishes are ready to serve. In the meantime, there is football to watch, favorite games to play, or looking at old pictures/movies. Enjoy the fellowship time."

Just some thoughts as you begin to prep for your holiday meals!

Beth Ann Smolinski

Director of Family Ministries



The world is like a fire in my heart. I can't hold it in. Jeremiah 20:9

Still feeling thankful with Thanksgiving behind us? That's great! GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!

The Youth and Girl Scouts collected over 1600 food items for Helping Hand in November! I think that's a record! We also had a wonderful day of serving our church on November 7th. Thanks to all the youth and parents/grandparents that got them to church at the crack of dawn.

Later that day, we had our first FISHING outing with the "Fishing Camp" fresh expression team. WHAT A BLAST WE ALL HAD!! This team is amazing. They planned for everything to take nearly a dozen youth fishing on the pier. Thank you Gary Doss and your team for this great adventure!

One week later, our youth leaders took a group of 11 youth to Warren Willis Camp for the SERVE RETREAT. What a way to grow, learn and bond in our Lord! Yea camp!

Moving towards Christmas, my heart is filled with anticipation. We will join Pastor Don and others to go caroling this season. Other plans are collecting money and gift cards to shop together for families in need. And, of course, a CHRISTMAS PARTY!

I am looking forward to celebrating Christ's birth with our awesome EUMC IGNITE YOUTH!

Blessings for a Joyful Christmas Season!

Chrissy Church

30th Annual ~ Englewood United Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS DINNER

THIS TIME, Due to Pandemic

PICK UP only ~ Noon-2 pm Christmas Day

FREE! (donations accepted/not required) ★ Safely Prepared & Served

2020 Photos



DRIVE THRU
Quick ORDER & PICK UP!



To VOLUNTEER Only:
Call Grace NOW/before Dec. 17 ~ 474-2385

For Free Delivery to Homebound Folks Only
CALL NOW (Preferred) Before/By
NOON Christmas Eve 12/24!
941/474-5588 x 101

Please Leave Name & Phone Number ONLY
To be Called Back with Instructions.



From Here...
To Your Door!



Book Buzz

Today you will be reading about some weird Christmas traditions from around the world.



If you visit Greenland on Christmas, your dinner will consist of the following: You will be asked to tuck into mattock- raw whale skin with a little blubber attached. Another tasty treat is kiviak, which is made by wrapping an auk (a small arctic bird) in seal skin, burying it for several months and then eating its decomposed flesh. Oh, so yummy!

So...the next time you find yourself complaining about granny's festive brussel sprouts, spare a thought for the poor tykes in Greenland.

In the Ukraine, in addition to the standard tinsel, fairy lights and baubles. Ukranians like to throw an artificial spider and web on the tree as well. The tradition has its origins in an old tale of a poor woman who couldn't afford to decorate her tree and woke up on Christmas morning to discover a spider had covered it in a glorious sparkling web. It is for good luck. It's not about poor housekeeping!

In Guatemala, cleanliness really is next to Godliness. Locals believe that the devil and other evil spirits live in the dark, dirty corners of your home. Therefore, they spend the week before Christmas sweeping up, collecting rubbish and then piling everything in a huge heap outside.

Finally, an effigy of the devil is placed on top and the whole thing is set on fire. It is called La Quema del Diablo, the "Burning of the Devil". The idea for Guatemalans is to burn all the bad from the previous year and start a new year from out of the ashes. I have seen this celebration and the people are excited, lots of music for dancing around the pyre.

We all have our holiday traditions, and my hope is that this year you can be with your families and have a wonderful Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Pam Heady,
Your church librarian

JOY

One day we will rejoice in Heaven. That fact alone should cause us to jump for JOY.

Do you know anyone who lights up a room? Can you see brightness when someone smiles? The scriptures encourage us to delight in the Lord, in that same way.....meaning to illuminate with JOY, about our salvation and goodness in God. Our JOY should shine in such a way that it lights the pathway to lead others to Christ.

That wonderful Christmas song: Joy to the World is a great reminder of how awesome God is. Then there are the more modern/happy version words that are just as Joyful.....

Joy to the world all the boys and girls, joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea, joy to you and me.

Let us all rejoice this Christmas Season, with giving hearts and kindness, displayed in all kinds of ways.

A Morning Prayer, For All Prayer Warriors

It is a joyful time of year; it is also a very busy time. Please Lord; give each of us the time to pray over our prayer lists. Let us think and pray over those less fortunate, lonely, and sick. May we each be blessed with good health and fun with family and friendships throughout the season and into the New Year. Thank you God, for the gift of Jesus!

I say this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen

By Patty Miller, Prayer Warrior, EUMC

Thank you Patty for reminding us of the Joy we can find in Jesus, if we just believe. Jesus is God's Joy, and our Savior. Merry Christmas!

*Barbara Terardi,
Prayer, In His Presence*



USING 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY ON THE MISSION FIELD



I have written many articles about George Walker of Inter-Act Ministries. This month is no exception. As many of you are aware, In January 1978 George and his wife Harriet, who was 7 months pregnant, traveled to Papua/New Guinea to bring the Gospel to the unreached. In March of that year Harriet gave birth to their first child, George II, in a hospital in Wewak, PNG. Harriet has shared with her mother in law, Jean Walker, that the hospital would lay the bed sheets all over the ground to dry and occasionally there were ants on her food tray. What a welcome and first impression for a woman who would spend years in this isolated part of the world doing God's work.

Little George grew up in the village among the people his father and mother were serving, playing with the local children and interacting with the adults. As we know, language acquisition is easier for children than adults, and the result was this little fellow was fluent in two languages at a young age.

The Walkers spent 16 years working with the Birorios, learning their customs, beliefs, fears, and becoming fluent in the language. When they left in 1994, now with a son and a daughter, they had translated the New Testament and had taught the people how to read the finished work.

Over the years, George has made trips to visit "his people" to see the progress they had made in spreading the Good News to their neighbors in the village and into nearby communities.

Move forward to 2021 and the advent of Skype. Instead of a grueling plane trip from the U.S. TO PNG and then another long ride up the river to the village as was necessary in 1978, recently

George was able to speak to his pastors and friends via Skype. This in itself was a wonderful new tool to use. However the real surprise was that George II was with his father on this occasion and was able to speak to people he had known when he was a young boy!

The report we have is that the Bisorios he spoke with were amazed when he was able to speak to them in the language he had learned as a child.

Isn't it wonderful that this new technology is now in the hands of missionaries, allowing the villagers to keep in contact with those who brought them the word of God?

Can we get an Amen?

Have a blessed holiday season,

Nancy Prins,

Chair Mission Committee

**Englewood UMM
Country Breakfast
7:30-11:00am
In Fellowship Hall**

**OJ & Bottomless Coffee/Tea
Egg & Sausage
Or
Biscuits & Sausage Gravy
Or
Quiche & Fresh Fruit
OR
Pancakes**



**December 11th
January 8th & 22nd
March 5th & 19th
April 2nd**

**\$6—Children under 12
eat for FREE!**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGEFROM PASTOR DON

I want to take time during this season to thank all of our Congregational Ministers for their dedication, commitment and service to our Homebound and Assisted Living congregants. You give so beautifully with a heart full of love and you have told me that God blesses you so much in return. We all know that's what Christmas all is about – LOVE!

With Christmas it's easy to get so busy with the cooking, decorating and shopping that we forget why we're doing all this in the first place. Sometimes, the very people we love get lost in the hustle and bustle of packed schedules, holiday parties and Christmas musicals.

I read a beautiful version of 1 Corinthians 13 that helps keep focus on what Paul deemed most important of all ... love- Keep it near and pull it out as a reminder of what's really important during the holiday season. And since you are now part of the family, I'm pulling it out for you!

1 Corinthians 13 – Christmas Style

If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the Community Christmas kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas China and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

Englewood United Methodist Women

Wish you gifts of peace and love wrapped in a season of joy!

Ladies, please join us for our Christmas Celebration.



*Oh by gosh, by golly
It's time for Pastor Don and Mary
Yuletide tales an' sing along
An' spirits full of joy
As we whisper, Merry Christmas to you!*

Thursday, December 2, 2021
10:00am—to 12:00 noon
Fellowship Hall—Sarah Circle, Hostess

A short business meeting will include election of officers and approval of the Budget for 2022.

Family Promise—Update

Hi, my name is Shelley Belcher I've had the pleasure of working with Maria Campi and the volunteers for six years at our church with Family Promise. As an RN and Administrator and when Maria mentioned in the Messenger that she would be stepping down as the coordinator, Maria & I talked and after meeting with Pastor Vic, I will be stepping into the coordinator's role.

Family Promise placed over one hundred people in new homes that were without last year. Even with Covid 19 attacking our nation it has not stopped the love and support from supporting our Church and the Family Promise Program. Our church does miraculous work with so many loving volunteers. We have set an example of endless support. In February we will begin again.

I pray that all our volunteers will unite and continue the outstanding work they are known for. I'm privileged to be your Coordinator.

Alternative Christmas Gifts 2021

Sponsored by: EUMC Mission Committee

	Quantity	Amount
EUMC's support to Cuba Church		
Sunday Food Program \$30	_____	_____
Pastor's Salary 1 month \$30	_____	_____
Kayongo's Hope (Ryan—Uganda)		
Support a Child \$30 1 month	_____	_____
Kenya Mission— Dave & Sue Whitlock		
Support to Youth Program \$30	_____	_____
Galcom International		
Recorded Bible \$35	_____	_____
 Heifer International:		
Goat \$120	_____	_____
Share of Goat \$ 10	_____	_____
Pig \$120	_____	_____
Share of Pig \$ 10	_____	_____
Hive of Honeybees \$ 30	_____	_____
Flock of Chickens \$ 20	_____	_____
Heifer \$500	_____	_____
Share of Heifer \$ 50	_____	_____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

**Bring this form to Fellowship Hall after the church service you attend OR
return to the EUMC office 8:30-4:30 Monday–Thursday.**

**The last day to order will be December 21st
Make check payable to: EUMC and put Alternative Christmas Gifts
on the memo line.**

Englewood United Methodist Church
700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood, FL 34223
Phone No. 941-474-5588 Fax 941-475-2865
Website: www.EnglewoodUMC.net

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December 2021

THE MESSENGER

Christmas Eve Church Services *Friday, December 24, 2021*

4:00pm-Our Early Traditional Service, which is family friendly, will draw you closer to the true meaning of Christmas with organ, choir, and harp. Pastor Bo preaches, "Every Heart a Manger" and the service concludes with a candlelight service and everyone singing Silent Night.

6:00pm-Our Family Service will have an exciting participatory retelling of the Christmas Story accompanied by Fusion by Fire Praise Band. Director of Family Ministries, Beth Ann Smolinski involves all ages in the message and the service concludes with a candlelight service and everyone singing Silent Night.

8:00pm-Our Traditional Service will proclaim the Word of God's arrival among us with Pastor Vic preaching "The Time Is Right." The service will musically include organ, Sanctuary Choir, harp, trumpets and timpani. We will close the service with a candlelight service and Silent Night.

10:00pm-Our Communion service will have a special message from Pastor Vic entitled "Come and See," that prepares us for candlelight communion. Beautiful music from organ, harp, trumpets, flute, clarinet, percussion, timpani and vocal soloists.

