The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church November 18, 2015

Pastor's Pen

Gather and Grow – Commitment Sunday, November 22nd

I have been looking forward to this Sunday (November 22nd) for quite some time. Stop Hunger Now packaging events were highlights of previous ministry years, so I am excited to join you in packaging over 10,000 meals once again. There is something for persons of every age to do as we work together in a vital ministry addressing hunger and food access in the world. Ringing the gong is a favorite.

It will also be our Commitment Sunday, celebrated in one combined worship service. I am aware that many preachers and church members approach stewardship focused sermons with a mix of inevitability and unease. However, given the emphasis of scripture on the human relationship with possessions and idols, and the corollary message of sacrificial giving proclaimed by Christ Jesus, Commitment Sunday sermons just about write themselves.

Truth be told, I look forward to every Sunday worship experience, eager to see you and grateful for the means of grace we share worshipping God together. Yet, occasions of doing ministry side by side and liturgical acts of making commitments to God side by side are high and holy moments. Consequently, I am really looking forward to this Sunday!

We have an active Stewardship Ministry Team which has methodically nudged us toward a more comprehensive approach to understanding faith based giving and faith formed living. Our theme for the coming year is **Gather and Grow.** I am sure that the words gather and grow resonate quickly for you with our covenant life, in which and by which we seek to nurture, cultivate, and increase the reach of God's love in this world. In which and by which we long to enlarge the membership, the mission, and the ministry of Crievewood.

Over the years I have enjoyed the music and talent of Eric Clapton; here's a trivia question, how many different bands has he been a part of? One song he wrote, *Let it Grow,* provides a wonderful anthem to our Commitment Sunday.

Standing at the crossroads, trying to read the signs
To tell me which way I should go to find the answer,
And all the time I know,
Plant your love and let it grow.
Let it grow, let it grow, Let it blossom, let it flow

In closing I want to recognize the overwhelming sadness, the debilitating fear, and the corrupting influence of the terror attacks in Paris last week. Responses are in order, first to care for the victims and then to work for peace. Standing at this latest crossroad and measuring the signs, I would like to believe that we who gather at Crievewood know where to go to find the answer to the violence of the world; our faith.

Through Christ Jesus, God overcame violence, death, hate, and evil with love. Parisians, victims of violence all over the world, need the clear and compelling message of love's power over hate that our commitments to Christ proclaim. Join me Sunday as we gather and commit our lives and our monies to the love and life that we represent to the world, the very presence of Christ Jesus. Join me as we plant and grow love here at Crievewood; love is lovely, it is my prayer that it blossom and flow through us.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

Stop Hunger Now

On Sunday, **November 22,** at 8:30 am, Crievewood will host a food packaging event in our Fellowship Hall. Working with the international hunger relief organization Stop Hunger Now, we will package 10,000 meals which will be delivered to disaster victims, school-based feeding programs and other hungry and vulnerable people. Please make plans to participate in this worthy project as many hands will be needed.

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Every year, we celebrate the coming of the birth of Jesus in the traditional (10:45 a.m.) worship service with weekly readings and lighting the candles in the Advent wreath. We still need volunteers, and the link is here:

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44a8a82bab9-advent

Grab a friend or a family member and help us celebrate. Everything is provided for you.
Advent season begins on **Sunday, November 29**, and the congregation at Crievewood will begin the season that Sunday with the Hanging of the Greens.

Make A Joyful [Cool Yule] Sound Band

Do you have an instrument gathering dust at home? Love to sing but don't have time to go to choir practice? We are gathering a rag tag band to play a song or two at Cool Yule. It doesn't matter your age, instrument or skill level. We will take everyone. We will be having ONE practice at 5 p.m. on the night of **Cool Yule, Sunday, December 6th**. So dig out that old trumpet, ukulele, harmonica, tambourine, etc. and come join us! We will be choosing a simple piece to try and accommodate everyone, but if you have questions about the music please contact Steph or Caleb.

Even if you are not performing, join us for Cool Yule at 6:30 p.m. for a fun night of Christmas favorites. Snack potluck follows, and casual dress is encouraged.

Parents' Night Out Fundraiser

The Youth will host a Parents' Night Out on **December 4** from 6-9 p.m. Drop the kids off for games, crafts, dinner, and a movie while you go out for dinner, shop, or just get some rest. The Youth are asking for a donation to the youth ministry in exchange for this night of childcare. Reservations are required. Please email steph@crievewoodumc.org by November 29 to reserve your spot.

Missions

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to celebrate God's grace in your life or honor a loved one, consider purchasing a **white** poinsettia to be used in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas worship. The cost is $12 per plant. Envelopes may be found in the narthex. Please place your flower envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the office.

The Contributor Newspaper

Look closely at *The Contributor* newspaper this holiday season. The newspaper will be composed of sheets of wrapping paper designed by the talented vendors themselves. The special wrapping paper editions begin Monday, November 23, through the month of December.

Open Table Nashville

Winter is coming and the homeless population in our community need help. This year, CUMC will be gathering items for winter survival kits to be handed out to the homeless. Beginning **November 29th**, a Giving Table will be located in the Narthex to receive your donations. You have the opportunity to donate an entire kit or pieces of a kit. Each kit will contain: an emergency blanket; a warm sleeping bag (preferably rated 10º or lower) or warm blankets; a tarp (8 x 10 or larger); hand and foot warmers; warm socks; warm gloves; high protein snacks; and water. Many homeless are pet owners so pet food is also welcome. We will deliver the donated items to Open Table Nashville the week of December 14th.

UMC Student Day

Student Day is one of six UMC special offering Sundays; we will observe on **November 29**. The money collected through this special offering enriches programs that help students connect to their faith and provides scholarships and loans for students enrolled in various kinds of missional church work and studies.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The ministry is in need of more prayer shawls. If you knit or crochet, please consider making one or more. If you would like to help, but don't know how to get started, please email Susan Cortner at sscortner@comcast.net, or call 615-832-0889 after 5:00 p.m. You may take completed prayer shawls to the church office or call for pick-up.

There is also a meeting on **Sunday, December 13** at 4:00 p.m. in the Hilltop/New Creations S.S. class. Anyone interested in participating or learning more about this ministry is welcome.

UMC Giving Tuesday

Start your holiday season by giving instead of getting by supporting United Methodist missions and missionaries through the charitable holiday of Giving Tuesday celebrated this year on **December 1**. Through this donation you can change lives by supporting the overall work of Global Missions, the overall work of UMCOR, a specific UM missionary, or one of the 800 different advances of the church. Finding the project you care about is the first step. To find out how you can be involved, visit **www.umcmission.org**.

Activities

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live begins with dinner at 5:45 pm. Up-coming menus are listed below.

November 18-Olive Garden's lasagna, salad, and breadsticks

Serving on 11/18—United Methodist Men

November 25- There is no WNL dinner or program

December 2 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, black-eyed peas, and green beans

Serving on 12/2 —Searchers Class

The cost for all weeks is $8 per adult, $5 per child 3-8 years old, free for ages 2 and under, and $25 family max

Programs-

6:15-7:00-Preschoolers meet in Room 116 for Art and Bible time.

6:15-7:00-School-age children meet in the Choir room upstairs.

6:30-7:00-Meditative service, *Called by God*, in the Builders' Classroom.

Caroling on the Big Red Bus

Join us on **December 20** for Christmas caroling in Crieve Hall on the "big red bus". Meet on the front steps of the church at 4:00 p.m. to embark on a singing tour of the neighborhood. A chili supper will follow in Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome; please bring the whole family.

Men's Breakfast

The next UMM meeting will be on **Saturday, December 12**, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The traditional Christmas country ham breakfast will be followed by guest speaker, Wade Munday, from Tennessee JFON. Justice for Our Neighbors is a group that seeks to help immigrants needing work authorization, relief from deportation, and comfort. Please come and bring a friend.

JOY Club

On Thursday, **December 10**, JOY Club will tour and eat lunch at Shadowbrook, an English Tudor mansion in Joelton. Reservations are required. Please bring $4 for the van.

Youth and Children

Holiday Mailboxes

The youth will be decorating mailboxes for the holiday season on **December 6th**. Please let Stephanie know by November 29rd if you would like your mailbox decorated. In exchange for having your mailbox decorated, please make a donation to the youth mission fund.

Child Care Center

We have been busy this fall season with lots of fun activities, including Trunk or Treat, a visit to the zoo, and an early Thanksgiving luncheon celebrating our gratitude for our child care families.

Another blessing for which we are thankful is Charlotte Swor who has been donating her time to sing with our 3-5 year olds ***every*** Tuesday morning. Our hearts are full when our church members become even more a part of our child care family. We invite all of you to come and share your talents with us as well.

Wish List:
We are in need of **thick** catalogs or magazines (minimum of 150 pages) for an upcoming Christmas craft. Example: The recent Land's End catalog is the perfect size.

Have a BLESSED Thanksgiving!
Sharon Ferrell

Nursery Schedule:

	1st Shift	2nd Shift
November 22	Christy and Kellyanne Shaw	Adele and Rainey White
November 29	Tracey and Jared Lee	Bobby and Malea Bryan
December 6	Bill and Nina Tucker	Sheryl Roos and Bekah Cates