

Pastor's Pen

Applied Hope

It is a complicating life reality that two people can look at the same thing and have opposite viewpoints. What creates fear for one provides encouragement to another. What elicits despair for one brings joy to another. Linking our arms together seems elusive when a step forward for one is a step back for another. So here we are where we have been.

In post-election USA 2016 we have a color coded map of our half full, half empty dichotomy. The popular vote, the electoral-college vote, and the people who didn't vote determined this every four year threshold moment; some pleased and some not. That a change was inevitable due to term limits gave rise to hope across the political spectrum. In fact, one might say looking forward with confidence toward a future good or desired outcome was a unifying thread between opposing campaigns.

Hope is neither wishful thinking nor an advanced degree of optimism. Wishful thinking implies a determinative realism; optimism couches the future in fate. Hope is expectant and grander, grounded in values, convictions, and beliefs that are foundational for individuals and communities. Hope may be tethered to a subject or person in which one has trust.

That the campaign season exposed different expectations buoyed by hope, does not deny the common denominator feeling of hope that coursed across the nation as Election Day arrived. Amory Lovins, cofounder of the Rocky Mountain Institute, delivered a Commencement speech at UC-Berkley (2011) titled **Applied Hope**, in which he charged graduates to roll up their sleeves and get to work for a desired future; voting was for many an act of applied hope.

And yet, here we are where we were. Shifts in power simply change the landscape of concern and the face of the emboldened. A pause to reflect is warranted, but the critical next step for United Methodist Christians is a reaffirmation of the ultimate hope we are called to apply. Our most defining hope is rooted in God. Our past, present, and future are bound to the narrative of God's redeeming love manifest in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Moreover, we have been taught how to apply this very hope through the teachings of John Wesley. Methodists were not content for the efficacy of grace to bring them only to personal salvation, but for that grace to flow through them for the transformation of the world.

It of course requires humility, the capacity to listen well, and a commitment to the sacrificial work of connecting our personal well-being to the well-being of others. Through this election the pendulum has swung regarding those who feel heard and those who feel safe; Christian hope and Methodist applied hope however, remain constant.

When we focus on God and live according to the teachings and example of Christ, when we embrace our Methodist vow to grow in holiness, applied hope looks a lot like widening the circle of love, throwing open the doors of sanctuary, protecting the most vulnerable, and proclaiming the inherent worth of all people. Let it be so at Crievewood.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" ~Romans 15:13*

Peter van Eys

Up-coming Events

Holiday Mailboxes

The youth will be decorating mailboxes for the holiday season on **November 20th**. Please contact Steph immediately if you would like your mailbox to be included. The youth welcome donations to the Youth Fund for providing this service.



Advent Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Study extends an invitation to join them for a five week Advent Bible study from author James Moore entitled *All I Want for Christmas* which explores how we can open the gifts God's grace. The study begins on Tuesday, **November 29**, at 9:30 a.m. Please see Jim Kannon if you would like to participate.

National Bible Week

Since 1941, starting with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, every US president has declared the week of Thanksgiving, National Bible Week. This, our 75th year, we again commemorate and honor God for giving us His Word. As we prepare to share a Thanksgiving meal with friends and family, please remember to offer thanks to God for his many blessings and the promise and hope found in His Word.

Advent and the Advent Wreath

Advent season begins on **Sunday, November 27**, and Crievewood will begin the season with the Hanging of the Greens. Please join us for this special worship.

Every year, we celebrate the coming of the birth of Jesus in the 10:45 a.m. worship service with weekly readings and lighting the candles of the Advent wreath. If you would like to help us with this Advent tradition, please contact Leigh Ann Cate. All materials are provided.

Parents' Night Out Fundraiser

The Youth will host a Parents' Night Out on **December 2** from 6-9 p.m. Drop the kids off at the church 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. Please reserve your spot with Leigh Ann Cate if you plan to participate.

Cool Yule

Our last WNL program for this fall session will be **Cool Yule** at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 7**. Expect a fun night of Christmas favorites. To help the festivity along, please bring a dessert to share.

Cool Yule will follow Soup Night, the regular scheduled WNL dinner at 5:30 p.m. Please make a reservation with Jan if you plan on coming for WNL soup dinner.

Cool Yule requires merriment and joy. If you have an act that you would like to present, please contact Barry Coggins.

Missions

Room in the Inn

Crievewood will be expanding the Room in the Inn mission this winter by hosting two Friday nights a month beginning December 16th. Volunteers are needed to perform a number of tasks. If you wish to help, please contact Joe Buffler or Charlotte Swor.

AIM Mt. Top Mission

We are grateful for the support that Crievewood has given to our adult Mountain Top fall mission through their prayers, money, and service. Our team worked with many others to make upgrades to homes in Grundy County that the occupants would not have been able to afford themselves. We wish to thank the following Crievewood members who gave of their time to serve in this mission project: Keith Head, Joe Buffler, Jason Stoner, Ali Stoner, Peter van Eys, Steph Dodge, Jeff Boyce, Tom Swinney, and Andy Freck.

Thank-you! Thank-you!

For several years now the Outreach Committee and the Stewardship Committee have teamed up to design our Annual Commitment Sunday. Many gathered early to participate in a Stop Hunger Now food packaging event. A truly intergenerational experience, we put together 10,152 meals that will be distributed across the globe where food insecurity exists, whether by human cause or the consequence of natural disasters. Then we gathered in the sanctuary for a worship service that praised God from whom all blessings flow, and celebrated our shared life in this part of the body of Christ by placing Financial Commitment Cards in a basket and asking the Holy Spirit to bless them.

I am so grateful for this congregation and the inspired linking of serving others by packaging food and securing the future of this church by financial commitments. Crievewood is 60 years old! To grow and remain vital, acts of service (packaging food) and acts of piety (worship, giving money to God through the church) must go hand in hand. I am grateful to the Outreach and Stewardship Committees for a Commitment Sunday that gave witness to that truth.

Thanks to all were able to help package food, and I appreciate those who have already turned in a 2017 Commitment Card; if you have not yet and are prepared to do, please mail or bring to the church.

Peter van Eys

Backpack Snacks for Norman Binkley

The Searchers Class would like your help. They are collecting items to assemble in food packs for children with need at Norman Binkley Elementary School so that the food packs will be available to the children over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday school breaks. A complete list of what is needed is below. Please bring any donations to the Searchers' classroom.

UMC Student Day

Student Day is one of six UMC special offering Sundays that we will observe on [November 27](#). 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.

Open Table Nashville

Winter is coming and the homeless population in our community need help. This year, CUMC will be gathering items for Open Table which will be distributed to the homeless. Look for details as to what is needed in upcoming bulletins, newsletters, and slide show. A Giving Box will be placed in the narthex to receive your donations.

UMC Giving Tuesday

Start your holiday season by giving instead of getting by supporting United Methodist missions, missionaries, camps, and other church projects through the charitable holiday of Giving Tuesday celebrated this year on [November 29](#). 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 camp improvements at Beersheba or Mountain Top. Choose your project and make a statement about the meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Poinsettias

This year the Worship Committee is modifying the way we honor our loved ones through the flower offering at Christmas. The committee would still like to decorate the sanctuary with white poinsettias, but would purchase only plants that people wish to take home by Christmas day. A second way to honor a loved one or friend would be to simply give a money donation. All flower gifts honoring and remembering loved ones and all monetary gifts would still be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve in the traditional fashion.

The Christmas flower envelopes will be used for BOTH ways of giving. At the top of the envelope there will be a stamped

line "Plant Yes No". Please circle "Yes" if you want a plant to take home or "No" if you simply wish to make a monetary donation.

If you want a plant, the cost is a minimum of \$12 per plant. The amount of a Christmas monetary donation is up to you. Any Christmas memorial money collected will be applied to the church budget. Deadline to place an order either way and still get it in the bulletin is December 11.

The Contributor Newspaper

The Contributor newspaper will again transform a little for the holiday season. The Christmas issue of the newspaper will be composed of sheets of wrapping paper designed by the talented vendors themselves. The special wrapping paper editions are available in the month of December. Please support these vendors by purchasing the regular edition newspaper and/or the special holiday edition.

Activities

CUMC Music

The Chancel Choir will practice at 7:10 p.m. on November 16, and 30. The Gathering band usually gathers on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. The Children's Choir meets every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. And the Hand Bell Choir will meet Sunday, November 20, at noon to prepare their first song.

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live fall session begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, please contact the office at 615-832-2897 or turn in the reservation form found in the Sunday bulletins. Menus for the remaining sessions this fall are listed below.

November 16— Olive Garden spaghetti, salad, bread sticks, pumpkin caramel cookies
Serving on 11/16—Fellowship Forum

November 23— No WNL Dinner

November 30— Pork chops, sweet potato casserole, broccoli and cheese
Serving on 11/30—New Creation/Hilltop

December 7— Soup Night followed by Cool Yule
Serving on 12/7—Builders

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.

The children will meet for programs and choir practice at 6:15 p.m. The adults will meet at 6:15 p.m. with the pastor. Peter will be discussing *Apportionments and Church Financing* on November 16 and November 30.

JOY Club

On **December 8** Joy Club will gather at the church and travel (car pool) to Mondell's on Murfreesboro Road for lunch. The restaurant does not take reservations so members must arrive as a group. The car pool will leave the church at 11 a.m. and return to the church afterwards. Be sure to make a reservation with Jean McCurdy by December 4 so that planning is efficient.

On January 24th JOY Club will sponsor a church and neighborhood meeting with the Metro tax office to hear about the property assessment for 2017. The time of that meeting is 2 p.m. at the church sanctuary. There is a second session scheduled on January 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday, **December 10**, at 8:00 a.m. This meeting features a Christmas breakfast with country ham. Always a favorite, a breakfast that you do not want to miss. Joe Buffler will bring his slide show of the Mountain Top projects that were completed this fall and speak about the mission trip.

UMW General Meeting

The Crievehood United Methodist Women will be meeting on Saturday, **December 3, 2016**, at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The women will have light refreshments, a short program, business meeting, and singing of Christmas hymns. Come join this wonderful group of ladies for a fun morning of fellowship. If you need baby sitting services for this meeting, please contact Martha Justice (615-331-7596) by Saturday, November 26, 2016. Also, check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CrievehoodUnitedMethodistWomen

Save the Date - HEALTH FAIR

APRIL 1, 2017, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 pm.

The Crievehood United Methodist Women are organizing a Health Fair on **Saturday, April 1, 2017**, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We hope that the Crievehood UMC congregation and women of the neighboring communities will take advantage of this opportunity to hear from health care professionals from St. Thomas Health, Vanderbilt Health, and Southern Hills Tri-Star Hospital. Topics will be appropriate for the whole family. Details will follow in January 2017.

Interfaith Climate Worship Service

There is an interfaith climate worship service and candlelight vigil which will be held on Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Belmont United Methodist Church. The Creation Care Ministry of the TN Conference is one of the sponsors of this event.

Special Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship	Saturday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.	
Christmas Day Worship	Sunday, December 25 One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments at 9:30 a.m. No Children's Sunday School; Adult Sunday School Optional	
New Year's Day Worship	Sunday, January 1 One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments at 9:30 a.m. No Children's Sunday School; Adult Sunday School Optional	

Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule

	1st Shift	2nd Shift
November 20	Joe and Chris Carter	Kate Cortner and Josh Cate
November 27	Christy Stansbury and Kellyanne Shaw	Adele White and Rainey White
December 4	Bill and Nina Tucker	Sheryl Roos and Bekah Cates

Caroling in Crieve Hall

Join us **December 11** at 4:00 p.m. as we load the "Big Red Bus" and head out into the Crieve Hall neighborhood for caroling. Singers are invited back to the church for a Chili Supper immediately following caroling.

