



# Cross



# Talk

December, 2019

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First

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The United  
Methodist  
Church

OPEN MINDS  
OPEN HEARTS  
OPEN DOORS

Recently, a fellow pastor shared a funny story with me. During a children's message he was sharing in church during Advent, he asked the kids if they knew what presents the Magi brought to Jesus. A five year old boy chimed-in: "*The Wise men brought Jesus some gold, frankincense, silver and some other stuff. But I think Jesus would have preferred some wrestling toys!*"

This is the time of year many of us work on our list for presents to buy; it certainly is true at our house. We've been asking our grandkids what gifts they might like to have for Christmas; their responses have included a variety of items, from concert tickets to baseball cleats. In the midst of one of our conversations about Christmas this week, a couple of grandkids asked what *we* want for Christmas this year. I can't imagine a better gift than just spending time with them, and would like to think they feel the same way (although I'm not sure spending time with us tops baseball cleats quite yet.)

There is nothing better than the gift of being together. I remember one of my seminary professors stating that there is no greater present than your *presence*. I have certainly found this to be true, whether it's time spent with family, friends, or alongside the bedside of someone praying for healing and peace.

In a few weeks we will gather around the Christmas tree to exchange presents. Do you suppose you will unwrap a gift that will last forever? Will there be a gift that will warm your heart years from now? Probably not. Only the gift of *presence* can do that.

As we journey through Advent together with our sights set on Christmas morning, let us celebrate the greatest gift of all-Over 2000 years ago we were given the eternal gift of God's *presence* in the birth of Jesus (Emmanuel, which means "God with us.") May we be inspired to share the present of God's presence with each other as we celebrate Christmas together.

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
(Isaiah 9:6)**

*Pastor Steve*

## This 'N That...



### CHRISTMAS COFFEE AND SALE

**Saturday, December 7**

**9:00-12:00**

**703 Essex Street, Bangor**

Crafts, Christmas items, baked goods, cookies, cutlery, jams, jellies, candies, dishcloths, and beautiful baskets!

Breakfast pastries and beverages

Bring your friends and family, enjoy coffee and sweets and then do some Christmas shopping!

### Focus on Our Church Family

#### Kathy Merrill

If you have ever worked in a kitchen for any length of time you can appreciate the amount of energy, expertise, and organization it takes to efficiently and effectively do what needs to be done, especially a kitchen that puts out weekly meals year round for around 85 people. Kathy Merrill is just the lady to get the job done! Small and mighty she lovingly works with her diligent volunteers to see that the Community Meal provides delicious and nutritious meals to those who attend. She can also be found cooking for other events here at the church including Keenagers, Delta Kappa Gamma, and any other events that require cooking. Kathy is as full of faith as she is of energy and that faith is demonstrated each time she prepares a meal. We are so very fortunate to have Kathy. Her tireless efforts are truly a blessing to our church. God Bless you Kathy!

#### Jaddah Swett

Jaddah Swett is a young lady who always wears a smile. Friendly and outgoing, she is always willing to help out. She loves to cook and is really great at it! She often volunteers to help with Sunday Coffee Hour, doing whatever is necessary to help out. She also enjoys helping out with Sunday School and with children when she can. Jaddah has attended and been involved in various activities at Mechuwana, our Methodist Camp in Winthrop. She is working to build her faith and we are happy that she is making her faith journey here with us at FUMC! Thanks for all you do Jaddah and God Bless you as you grow

### KEENAGERS

This special group for the "young at heart" meets throughout the year for lunch, fun, fellowship and learning. A delicious meal is provided at a cost of \$6.00 with a few exceptions.

#### Upcoming Program:

#### December 16:

Yankee Swap, Carols, and Readings from *A Book of Christmas*

### United Methodist Women

Saturday, December 14th

9:30 am

#### Piburn Circle Christmas Program

Thursday, December 19

at 1:00



### Bangor Community Chorus

#### Holiday Concert

December 8 at 3:00 pm

## COMMUNITY MEALS FOR DECEMBER

### NOVEMBER MEALS

- December 5:** Pot luck
- December 12:** Chef's Choice
- December 1:** Holiday Christmas meal & music
- December 26:** Closed for the day after Christmas



### NOVEMBER NEEDS

**Desserts are needed for each meal throughout November.**

Desserts can be dropped off in the kitchen on Wednesday or before 2:00 on Thursday.

*\*Meals are subject to change due to*

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS FOR DECEMBER



- December 1:** Clyde & Judy Pelkey, Charles & Jane Weston
- December 8:** Sue & Scott Edwards, Rosemary & Dick Leonard
- December 15:** Marcia Biggane, Roz Fisher, Bob & Marie Walls
- December 22:** Kerry & Pat Woodbury, Amy Nye
- December 29:** The Ritz-Perkins family, Gary & Jane Shaffer

### GRATITUDE ATTITUDE

Imagine you are a shepherd, out in an open field in the dark of night, tending your sheep. You are totally responsible for their care and safety. Suddenly, a blinding light appears in the sky. You feel eminent danger...what does that light mean for you and your flock? Then, to make matters even more confusing and frightening, an angel appears and says... “*Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly, lying in a manger.*” (Luke 2: 10-12) Then all the heavenly hosts begin singing and praising God! Would you remain there or be looking to move your sheep to safer ground?

We of course know what happens next. The shepherds do visit Bethlehem and see Mary, Joseph and the baby. They then return to their flocks glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. As I reread this familiar passage, I was still thinking about those sheep! What did the shepherds do with them when they left? They were responsible for their care and safety and sheep absolutely need a shepherd to keep them together, lead them to pasture and keep them safe. Perhaps a couple of the shepherds stayed behind. Perhaps they joined their flock with another one nearby. Perhaps despite the urgency of the angel's message they did not travel immediately and thus did make provisions for their sheep. Although not specifically noted, it is implied that they did not abandon them!

This entire episode seems to me to be indirectly illustrative of the care of our own good shepherd. He sent his son to live among us on that night so long ago. To walk with, and teach about his love and caring. He sent Jesus to suggest that we should also be shepherds to others... walking with, loving and caring for them. We have the assurance that he will never abandon us because like a good shepherd he will watch after us, care for us and love us always. We are his sheep....and thus should always have about us an attitude of gratitude. This Christmas season thank God for always being your refuge, your strength, your help in times of trouble, the one who is with you always. What greater gift can we ever receive? *Merry Christmas!*

MCS



NEWS FROM.....

And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

My Friend's Place and Memory Joggers themes for December are Starlight, Olde Englishe Christmas, Deck the Halls, Christmas Angels, Songs of Christmas, and Let's go Caroling. Music entertainment for December will be piano and song with Kay Eames, and music with Zella Harmon on her guitar.

We will be having our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Participant Christmas Party Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. This event gives caregivers a free respite day to take care of last minute holiday shopping, and brings both programs together for a day of fun. Ending the day will be music with our very own Bob Worcester. We invite family members for the last hour of the day to enjoy Bob's music, and join in singing and dancing to our favorite Christmas songs.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the retirement of Linda Morris. Linda has been a driving force at My Friend's Place since the very beginning in 2001. Linda will be a tough cookie to replace. If you see Linda, please take time to thank her for her extraordinary commitment to this mission of our Church.

I am pleased to announce My Friend's Place has hired Ann Baker as a part time bookkeeper.

My Friend's Place will be closed December 17<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**We are looking for volunteers to help with the Tuesday program while Skippy Valentine is away in January and February.** If you can help us out during this trying time, please see or call me at 945-0122. Our hours are Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

[www.myfriendsplaceprogram.com](http://www.myfriendsplaceprogram.com)

Blessings,

Dottie England, Director



**FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS FOR THIS MONTH**

PASTA & SAUCE

CANNED FRUIT

BAKING GOODS & SUPPLIES

SOUP

TOILET PAPER

### HELP NEEDED

**Sunday School is looking for teachers for the next session which runs from December 8-February 23**

If you can help by teaching or assisting, please speak with Nancy Isaacs.

Also there will be no Sunday School on Christmas Sunday, December 22 so that families may worship together.

## December Meetings / Events at Bangor First UMC



### Meetings:

- Dec. 14:** UMW at 9:30
- Dec. 19:** FLIA Childcare Comm
- Dec. 19:** Piburn at 1:00  
Evangelism Committee; 2:40
- Dec. 17:** Ad Council; 7:00
- Dec. 11:** SPRC; 5:30

### Events/Services:

- Sunday at 8:30** Pathways to God group (Bible / book studies)
- Christian Education for Children** 10:45
- Sunday worship** at 10:30
- Choir** rehearsal Wednesdays at 7:00 (Sept –June)
- Hand bell** rehearsal TBA
- Free Community Meal every Thursday** from 4-6
- Christmas Coffee & Sale** December 7; 9-12

### Ongoing Group Meetings

- Bible Study** Meets again in Sept. at 1:00 on Mondays
- Food Addicts in Recovery** meet each Monday at 6:30
- Bangor Community Chorus** rehearses every Tuesday at 6:00 (Sept-May)
- Toymakers** meet each Monday evening at 6:00
- Cub Scouts** meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 (Sept-June)
- Delta Kappa Gamma** meets monthly (Sept–June) on the first Monday.
- AA** Saturdays at 11:00 am

Alex

Karen C.

Leona S.

Phyllis G.

Sandra B.

David G-H

Peg & David S.

Phillip F.

Bill P.

Bob & Jackie L.

Paul S.

Anna F.

Barry P

.Marion G.

Geneva I.

Mariam G

Paul S.

Bob C

Eliana B.

Henry & Dorothy

Jean H.

Family of Louise M

Family of Dawn R.

Family of Bob P.

The homeless & hungry

The Bangor Street Pastors



### *Prayer Requests*

Into your hands Heavenly Father we entrust these people who are in need of your healing touch, knowledge of your presence, and your comfort.

Sustain them in good days and bad. Help them to feel your loving presence with them during every difficulty, for you are always there ahead of any circumstance.

Watch over all those who are in need. Help them to feel that you are always near them and know that all they need do is look to YOU for comfort and for strength.

In Your loving name we pray. Amen

*Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.*

*Isaiah 40: 28-30 (Common English Bible)*



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

1 Nancy Isaacs Diane Moody	2 Cindy Commeau	3	4	5	6 Jaddah Swett	7 Steven Van Dolman
8 Ben Commeau	9 Glenda McNally	10 Jeff Fister	11	12 Jackie LaFlamme Bill Lagerstrom Susan Leach	13	14
15 David Pelkey Matt Nye	16	17	18 Bob Worcester	19	20 Anne Dudley	21 David Swett Hillson Beal Joe Haskins
22	23 Philip Frost	24 Ane Christensen	25 Jane Weston	26	27	28 Jessica Hyson Glenn Mower Michael Downs
29	30	31 Sue Edwards				<i>Happy Birthday To you .. God Bless you and keep you the whole year through!</i>

**If you don't find your name on the birthday calendar it is because the office doesn't have the information. If you would like to be included on the Birthday Calendar just let the office know the month and day. (We don't need the year unless you want to share it!)**

# Worship Assistants for DECEMBER 2019

\*\*\*If you are unable to cover the date for which you are scheduled please arrange for a substitute or call the person who contacted you or give the office a call.

### Readers

- 1 Bill Lagerstrom
- 8 Julie Brownie
- 15 Dale Brownie
- 22 Bob Worcester
- 29 John Haskell

### Trustees

- 1 David Pelkey
- 8 Andrew Croce
- 15 Marybeth Allen
- 22 Bob Walls
- 29 Steve Earl

### Media

Geoff Dapice  
Wayne Griffeth-Hurst

### Sound

Jim Burkhart  
Dale Brownie

## Greeters for the 10:30 am Traditional Worship

### Sanctuary Door

- 1 Pete & Carol Forrest
- 8 Hillson & Sally Beal
- 15 Linda Morris & Don Gallupe
- 22 Jim & Jane Sinclair
- 29 Skippy Valentine

### Essex Street Door

- 1 Barbara Howard
- 8 Barbara Wing
- 15 Linda Thrush
- 22 Nancy Soucy
- 29 Rolfe Flood

### Back Door

- 1 Gary & Jane Shaffer
- 8 Darlene Shortt
- 15 Linda Folsom
- 22 Sylvia Moore
- 29 Sue Croce

### Newsletter Deadline

### Worship Schedule

*The best gift of Christmas....*



**Deadline for information for the January newsletter is December 16.**

Information may be submitted in written form, via email or by phone.

*Pathways to God 8:30*  
*Traditional Worship Service: 10:30*  
*Christian Ed for children at 10:45 (2nd-4th Sundays) through September-June ...*  
*Children's Christian Fellowship: June -September 1*



## Bangor First United Methodist Church Calendar for.... December , 2019

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b> 8:30 Pathways 9:15 Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship	<b>2</b> 1:00 Bible study 4:00 DKG 6:00: Toymakers 6:00: FAIR	<b>3</b> 9:00: Yoga 10:00: My Friend's Place 5:30: Birch Hill group	<b>4</b> Memory Joggers 6:00 Scouts	<b>5</b> 9:00 Yoga 4:00 Community Meal	<b>6</b> 10:00 My Friend's Place	<b>7</b> Dirigo Search 6-8 am <b>CHRISTMAS COFFEE &amp; SALE 9-12</b> 11:00 AA
<b>8</b> 8:30 Pathways 9:15 Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship <b>BCC Holiday concert at 3:00</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00 Bible study 6:00: Toymakers 6:00: FAIR 6:00: FLIA	<b>10</b> 9:00 Yoga 10:00: My Friend's Place 6:00 BCC	<b>11</b> 10:00 Memory Joggers 6:00 Scouts 5:30 SPRC 7:00 Choir <b>2:00 MFP Care-giver support</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 Yoga 4:00 Community Meal	<b>13</b> <b>Office closed</b> 10:00 My Friend's Place	<b>14</b> 9:30 UMW 11:00 AA
<b>15</b> 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	<b>16</b> <b>Office closed</b> 12:00 <b>KEENAGERS</b> 1:00 Bible study 6:00: Toymakers 6:00: FAIR	<b>17</b> 9:00 Yoga 10:00: My Friend's Place closed <b>7:00 Ad Council</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 Memory Joggers closed 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Choir	<b>19</b> 9:00 Yoga <b>1:00 Piburn Evangelism committee</b> 3:00 EAAA food distribution 4:00 C. Meal	<b>20</b> 10:00 My Friend's Place closed	<b>21</b> 11:00 AA
<b>22</b> 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship 10:45 Christian Ed	<b>23</b> 1:00 Bible study 6:00 Toymakers 6:00 FAIR	<b>24</b> 9:00: Yoga 10:00: My Friend's Place closed 6:00 Family service 9:00 Candles &	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas	<b>26</b> <b>Office closed</b> 9:00: Yoga <b>Community Meal closed</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Office closed</b> 10:00 My Friend's Place closed	<b>28</b> AA 11:00
<b>29</b> 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b> 1:00 Bible study 6:00: Toymakers 6:00: FAIR	<b>31</b> 9:00: Yoga 10:00: My Friend's Place closed	<b>1</b> <b>Church Closed</b> <b>Happy 2020!</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 Yoga 4:00 Community Meal	<b>3</b> My Friend's Place	