



# The Parish Print

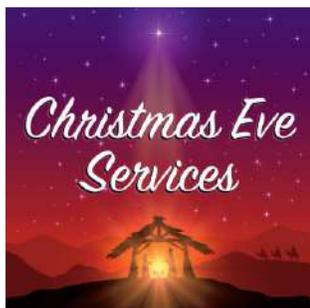
December, 2019

Phone: 815-468-3722

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

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**Please Note:**  
Christmas Eve  
services will be  
at 7pm & 10pm



## Garden Pavers

Engraved garden pavers are again available for sale. The cost remains at \$75.00. If you order two or more, the cost is \$60.00 each. Orders will be accepted through September 2020 so installation can take place next fall. These pavers will continue to be installed in the patio of the “Garden of the Cross” east of the church. Use this opportunity to recognize family, friends or acknowledge your being a part of MUMC. Only twenty pavers are available for purchase at this time. Order forms are available on the bulletin board in the east hall. For any questions, please call Mary Gibson (468 – 8012). Orders may be turned in to the church office or to Mary.



MUMS (Manteno United Methodist Seniors) will be going to the high school for a band concert and breakfast on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Reservations were required. MUMS will meet again on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.



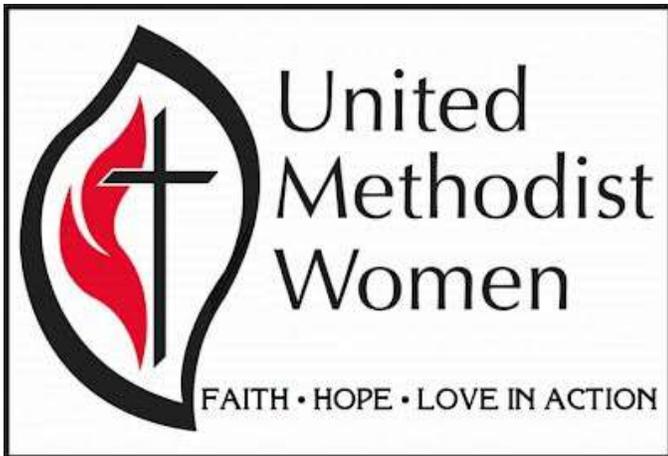
**Thank you** for your prayers during my recent

health concerns. I am blessed to have such wonderful, caring friends.

Sue Ross



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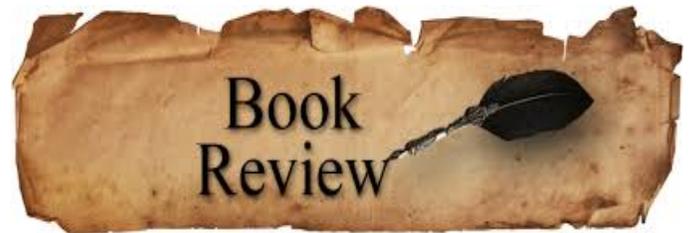


It has been a busy year for United Methodist Women. We hosted the spring district meeting with around 90 ladies attending. May was our spring banquet. In June we invited two United Methodist Women units from two churches for a pot luck. Of course, October was the Swiss Steak Supper. We have helped our district missions which are Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Neighborhood House, Babyfold, UMCOR and Our Conference Our Kids. Local organizations that we have given to are Harbor House (for abused women and children), Indian Oaks School (providing cupcakes for birthdays), Asbury Community Outreach Ministries (for the homeless), Fortitude (for the homeless), Sleep in Heavenly Peace (providing beds for children), and Purple Angel Program (helping children in the schools in need). United Methodist Women want to thank everyone for all the donations that helped us do all our mission giving and spreading God's word.

Our next meeting will be December 3 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. We will also have a white elephant gift exchange, so bring your crazy gifts!!! We

invite all the ladies to come for a night of food and fun.

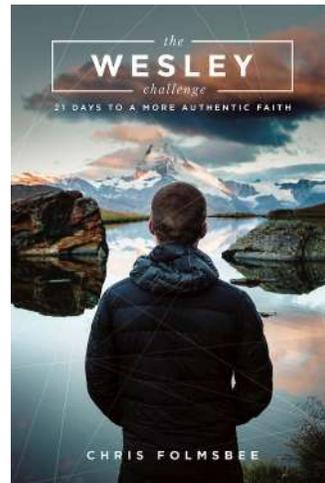
United Methodist Women want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Blessings to each of you!



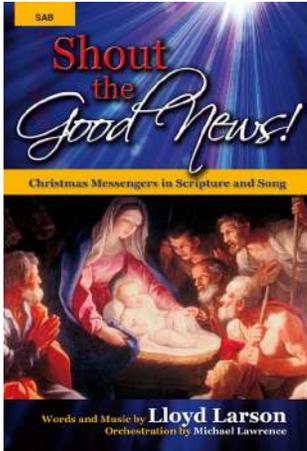
## Spiritual Growth:

*The Wesley Challenge* by Chris Folmsbee.

In the Wesley Challenge, small groups or whole churches will spend three weeks working through twenty-one questions that engage their physical, spiritual and emotional lives and their relationship with God and others. The challenge will inspire readers to a new kind of commitment, one that is more authentic, vulnerable and soul-shaping, resulting in a renewed passion to discover deeper levels of commitment to God and others.



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The combined choirs of the Manteno United Methodist Church and the Community Presbyterian Church will present “Shout the Good News!”, Christmas messengers in scripture and song.

The presentation will be performed on Sunday, December 22 during the 10:45 am service. Following the service, cookies and punch will be served in the fellowship hall.

## MISSION NEWS

A very special “Thank You” for the generous donations of socks for our “Put a Sock in it” fall drive. Because of your generosity, many children in Pembroke and at the Baby Fold will keep those little toes and feet warm this winter.

During this Advent Season we will once again be filling our warming tree with hats, gloves and scarves for children in need. It is located in the Narthex.



Each year we also look for good causes to send our Advent Offering. We will this year be sending our donations to “Our Conference, Our Kids”. This \$2.5 million campaign was

launched in 2017 for the spiritual care programs of the five child welfare agencies in our conference- The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children’s Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services(formerly the United Methodist Children’s Home). Advent envelopes will be placed in bulletins and available at the church. If you would like to send a donation, please just designate that it is for the Advent Offering.



**Christmas Caroling,**  
Monday, Dec. 23rd  
Senior Living Facilities Tour  
Meet at the

church at 10:00 am  
All are invited to join us! All ages welcome!  
12:30 Lunch at Monical's Pizza.

**Parents Night Out**  
- sponsored by HS Sunday School Class  
Preschool-5th grade welcome and 6th-8th grade can sign up to help!  
Friday, Dec. 6th from 5:00-8:00 pm  
Register now at [mantenoumc.org](http://mantenoumc.org)



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Thank you to everyone that planned, volunteered, and came to support the #CarterStrong pancake breakfast! It was a huge success and we are so incredibly blessed to



have such an amazing church family and community. Continue to keep the Fortin family in your prayers.

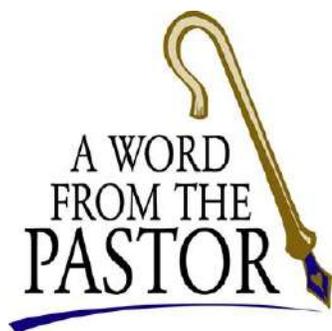


## Scripts Gift Card Fundraising Program

Do you need gift cards for your holiday shopping? Orders are placed every Tuesday and available for pick up on Sunday at church. You pay face value for the gift card and the church earns a % of every gift card. There are tons of stores and restaurants to choose from! Purchase all of your gift card needs in one convenient place! Fill out an order form today! Place on Jenny Stawick's desk or give to Sue Gallois. A list of participation retailers is available in the Narthax.

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This time of year, I think of two emotions we may be experiencing, and I wonder how they are connected: Gratitude and Anticipation.

Thanksgiving is a holiday that is all about gratitude. You might think that the richest people who have the most stuff, and comfortable people who never have any problems are the most grateful. They have the most to be grateful for, right?

But sometimes, during the most difficult time a family can face, one can be overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity offered by friends—even by strangers! And after a year of financial difficulties, or when the future seems uncertain, gratitude comes rushing in when you have a meal to share with family and loved ones. A plate of turkey and potatoes and a slice of pumpkin pie taste ever so much better when shared by people who know just how valuable it is!

We have been deeply concerned and on our knees in prayer for young Carter Fortin as he and his family fight against cancer. But I believe our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser last week made ALL of us, not just the family, grateful to be part of a caring church and extended community! We continue to keep Carter and his family, Randy, Jennifer, Beckett and Decker, in our prayers!

So, what does all this gratitude lead to? Is it now time to skip directly into Christmas parties? No, the Christian calendar turns over on December 1<sup>st</sup> to begin the season of Advent, not Christmas! Advent means

“coming” and it is a time of preparation and yes, Anticipation.

I feel lucky and blessed if I have something to look forward to! Maybe it even helps define me. How are you living right now in order to be ready for the next great thing that is about to happen? That’s the question of Advent. We are not just decorating and buying gifts in December. We are expecting that the renewed celebration of the birth of Christ will make a difference in us, so that we can make a difference in our world!

The emotions of Gratitude and Anticipation can feel so good—it makes us want to share. Being grateful for friends, family, for my brothers and sisters in Christ, opens my heart for the lonely, hungry, or hurting. Anticipating the joy of knowing that Jesus is God, living in the world as a human, born as a baby, I really want others to know about it!

I am **grateful** for peace, especially when it breaks into a violent time in our country and our world. And I believe deeply that the birth of Christ is something that has already come, but which I **anticipate** will be made even more real this year!

I have wished that I lived in a perfect world! Today the fact that we don’t makes me more grateful, for the joys, love and hope that I feel here and now. I have sometimes wished that Christmas would just HURRY UP and get here. But Advent makes me focus on what it means to anticipate all the fullness of Christ’s love, coming soon!

Happy Grateful Advent!!

Rev. Joy Schlesselman

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## Moments With Miles

Well, it's been a quiet month in Manteno Illinois, my hometown, out

there amidst the still only partially harvested corn and bean fields. I'll tell you what, folks, our area farmers just can't seem to catch a break this year. It's been a wet Fall to say the least. As I drive out in the country, I see so many corn fields that still haven't been harvested. About 20% of this year's crop remains in the fields. Beans, on the other hand, are pretty much done, with only about 8% still to go. Hopefully the weather will start to cooperate and the farmers can finish up this difficult year. It's what I'm still praying for.

Speaking about the weather, my powers of prognostication sure seem to be failing me this year. I called Halloween incorrectly, was only close on the first frost, and it appears my prediction of a white Thanksgiving is going to be wrong as well. Let's just hope my overall winter prediction of lots of snow and cold will also to be wrong. Trust me, I will be happy to be proven fallible.

And so, in keeping with the season, I'd like to offer you the following. It's called The Cowboy's Prayer. It was originally recorded by Jimmie Dean in 1965.

"I'm not much good at prayin' and You might not know me Lord 'cause I ain't much seen in churches where they preach Your Holy Word. But I guess You might have seen me out here on these lonely plains, lookin' after cattle, feelin' thankful when it rains. Admirin' Thy great handiwork, the miracle the grass. Aware of that kind Spirit and the way it comes to pass

that hard men on horseback and the livestock that we tend, can look up at the stars at night and know we got a Friend.

"Well, here's old Christmas coming on reminding us again of Him who's coming brought goodwill into the hearts of men.

Now, a cowboy ain't no preacher Lord, but if You'll just hear my prayer, I'll ask as good as what we got for all men everywhere. Don't let no hearts be bitter Lord, let no child be cold. Make easy beds for them that's sick and them that's weak and old. Let kindness bless the trail we ride, no matter what we're after, and sorta keep us by Your side in tears as well as laughter. Now I've seen old cows a-starvin' and it ain't no happy sight. So please leave no-one hungry Lord, on this Thy Christmas night. No man, no child, no woman, no critter on four feet, and I aim to do the best I can to help You find them chuck to eat.

Now I'm just a lowly cowpoke Lord, and I got no business prayin'. Still I hope You'll hear a word or two of what it is I'm sayin'. We speak of Merry Christmas Lord, I think that You'll agree, there can't be a Merry Christmas for a man if he ain't free. So, one thing more I'll ask You Lord, just help us what You can, to save some seeds of freedom for the future sons of man."

And now my kind hearts and gentle readers, I wish you all the peace, joy, and blessings of Christmas. May your bellies be full, your bodies warm, and the love of our Savior surround you and keep you and yours. Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year!

And that's Moments With Miles, in Manteno Illinois, where you can see from horizon to horizon, and all of our hills are called overpasses.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Cantata rehearsal - noon	2 Mommy & Me - 9-10am  Monday Night Bible - 7pm	3 Loving Stiches - 10am  UMW - 7pm	4 MUMS breakfast at HS - 8:30am  Men's Bible Study - 6pm  Cantata practice at Presbyterian - 6pm  No Bells	5 Ladies Bible Study - 9am  Praise Band - 6:30pm	6 Parents Night Out - 5-8pm	7
8 Cantata at Presbyterian Church	9 Monday Night Bible - 7pm	10 SPCR - 6:15pm  AD Council - 7pm	11 Men's Bible Study - 6pm  No Choir Bells- 6:15pm	12 Ladies Bible Study - 9am  Praise Band - 6:30pm	13	14
15	16 Monday Night Bible - 7pm	17	18 Men's Bible Study - 6pm  No Choirs	19 Ladies Bible Study - 9am  Praise Band - 6:30pm	20	21
22 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Winter  Kids Power Hour - Jesus' Birthday  Cantata - here - 10:45	23 Christmas Caroling/Pizza - 10am  Monday Night Bible - 7pm	24 Christmas Eve Service - 7pm Service - 10pm	25 Christmas Day	26 Ladies Bible Study - 9am  No Praise Band	27	28
29 1 Service - 9:45  No Kids Power Hour	30 Monday Night Bible - 7pm	31 New Year's Eve				

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## Manteno United Methodist Church: Church Officers 2020

### Administrative Council

Ad Council Chairman	Susan LaMore
Vice Chair.	Mike Caparula
Ad Council Secretary	Susan Gallois
Lay Leader	Jill Forrestal
Lay Members to Annual Conference	Gordon & Helen Hamann
Chair of Finance	Park Hollenbeck
Treasurer	Sue Ross
Financial Secretary	Deb Laskey
Trustee Chairperson	(to be elected)
SPRC Chairperson	Ginny Anderson
UMW President	Marty Howard
Education Chairperson	Terry Daly
Worship Chairperson	Jeanine Lauridsen
Missions and Social Concerns	Sue Turner/Gale Dodge
Senior's Ministry	John & Sue Cronin
URU Board Chairperson	Gale Dodge
Outreach Chairperson	Lale Schram
Interfaith Rep.	Mary Gibson
Technology Chairperson	Mike Caparula
Family Ministries	Jenny Stawick
Ad Council At-Large	Bob Hulford

### Stewardship and Finance: Park Hollenbeck (Chair.)

Sue Ross (Treasurer) 2020	Deb Laskey (Finance Secretary) 2021	Jill Forrestal (Lay Leader) 2022
Tod Eastman	Jack Forrestal	Susan Gallois
Doug Bolin	Gordon Hamann	Dan Carroll
John Cronin	Tom Page	Jim Keigher
		Mary Schubert

### Trustees (Chair to be elected by trustees)

2020	2021	2022
Gordon Hamann	Diane Preston	Carole Hollenbeck
Jim Vaughn	Tim Stewart	Tim Hammer
Fred Weigt	Nancy Shear	

### SPRC: Ginny Anderson (Chair.)

Lay leader Jill Forrestal	Lay Members of Annual Conf., Gordy & Helen Hamann	
2020	2021	2022
Pat Dodd	Jack Forrestal	Deb Fortin
Natalie Meyer	Gordon Brouillette	Ginny Anderson
Kevin Beck	Laura Keigher	John Nelson

### Nominations/Lay Leadership

2020	Pastor Joy, Chair;	Vice-chair
Natalie Meyer	2021	2022
Teresa Butterfield	Susan Gallois	Sue LaMore
Donna Miller	Kay Jarvis	Donna Taylor
	Harriett Eckberg	Donna Nelson

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## Worship Team

Sue Jackiw	Jeanine Lauridsen (Chair.)	
Sue Turner	Helen Hamann	
Jean Adams	Bob Hulford	Bev Peck
	Dala Mondy	

## Education Team

Teresa Butterfield	Terry Daly (Chair.)	
Lale Schram	Pete Falk	Sarah Falk
Karen Vellutini	Diane Preston	Jeanette Heppe
Bob Hulford	Donna Taylor	
	Marty Howard	

## Missions Team

Donna Miller	Sue Turner, Gale Dodge (Co-Chair.)	
Marty Howard	Lale Schram	Nancy Shear
Gussie Mansfield	Sue Turner	Jessica DeRossett
	Carolyn Slagel	Laura Keigher
		Mike Brewster

## Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team , (Chair.)

Park Hollenbeck	Trish Hoxworth	Paul Gibson
Lale Schram	Aiden Carroll	Cody Genzler
Riley Lingo	Jen Carroll	Ruth Reynolds

## Outreach Team

Terry Daly	Lale Schram, (Chair.)	
Mike Meyer	Mike Caparula	Helen Hamann
Gale Dodge	Jenny Stawick	Norma Monk
	Harriett Eckberg	

## URU Preschool Board

Shelly Lingo	Gale Dodge, (Chair.)	
Marty Howard	Sue Ross (Treasurer)	Jen Fortin (Director)
Rev. Joy Schlesselman	Julie Hoffman	Jennifer Stawick
Lale Schram	Mike Meyer	Jen Carroll

## Foundation Board

2018	Sue LaMore, President	
Sue LaMore	2019	2020
	Julie Hoffman	Carole Hollenbeck
	Diane Preston	Louise Wanner

## Technology Team

Denise Caparula	Mike Caparula, (Chair.)	
Avery Taylor	Jack Forrestal	Jason Lingo
Chris Peck	Riley Lingo	Jenny Stawick

## Lay Servants

Jill Forrestal	Sarah Falk	Jeanine Lauridsen
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