



The Parish Print

December, 2018

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church



United
Methodist
Women

The United Methodist Women are finishing up our year for 2018. It has been a

successful year for us. Because of your generosity, we have been able to help Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Neighborhood House, Babyfold, Chaddock and Fortitude. For that we greatly thank you all. We also had a benefit breakfast to help one of our church families. We were happy to award two church members, Nancy Shear and Tom Page, service pins for their hard work. The Swiss Steak Supper was a success. Again, we thank everyone for the donations and a lot of hard work. We are blessed to be able to do all of these things this year and look forward to another great year in 2019.

We will gather on December 3rd for a Christmas party at 6 p.m. It will be a potluck and white elephant gift exchange. We ask that you bring a package of either men or women's underwear for Fortitude. Please come and join us for a night of good food and fun!!

All of us from United Methodist Women want to wish everyone very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessings to you all!!!

This Advent season the Mission Team



MISSION NEWS

has voted to send our Advent offering to UMCOR. It has been a devastating year for many people across our nation and others with tornados, hurricanes and fires. Please think about helping those in need by giving to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

We will also be collecting hats, gloves and scarves during the advent season for those in need during the winter. The warming tree is located in the Narthex.

Our hearts are full as we look back on 2018 and the generosity of this wonderful congregation.

Thank you,
The Mission Team



The Bell Choir will perform Christmas music after the 9 am Service in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 16. Please stop in to get in the Christmas spirit.

The combined choirs of our church and the First Presbyterian Church will present "Season of Praise" on Sunday, December 2 during the 10:30 am worship service. The 28-voice choir will be accompanied by Jeanie Benson, piano, Stephanie Lupo, flute, narrated by Marsha Hill, and conducted by Susan Turner. Please join us to celebrate the season with punch and cookies after!



The Parish Print



U Are U Preschool has had a fun filled November with events like "Dude's with Donuts" and

our Thanksgiving Feast! At "Dudes Day" students did activities, crafts, and had Donuts with a special "Dude" in their life. At our Thanksgiving Feast we came together for a feast of food donated by our families, including fruit, donut holes, juice, and Mrs. Mansfield's famous scrambled eggs! We also had a Book Fair this month which resulted in U Are U receiving over \$700 worth of free books for the Preschool! We are very excited to announce U Are U Preschool's first website launched this month! Please check it out at www.uareupreschool.com.

In December we are looking forward to our Christmas Program on December 20th. Our theme for the program this year is "Christmas Around the World". During the month of December, we will be collecting donations of fuzzy socks for the local charity, Mattea's Joy. If you wish to donate socks, there will be a box in the Narthex you may put donations in.

Now that the holiday season is beginning, We wanted to tell you of two ways that you can help U Are U Preschool while you shop!



1. Amazon Smile:

Who doesn't love Amazon these days?! We love forgoing the long lines in stores and having our holiday gifts delivered right to our door! This year, when you shop

at Amazon, please consider shopping at Amazon Smile and a portion of your purchase is donated to the Manteno United Methodist Church (U Are U Preschool)!

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to **Your Account** at the top of any page, and then select the option to **Change your Charity**. Or, from your mobile browser, select **Change your Charity** from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select Manteno United Methodist Church.



2. Schwans:

When you order food from Schwans, U are U Preschool will receive 20% of the purchase back! We also receive 40% back on Gift cards (one per customer). This fundraiser goes through December 7th, so stock up for the holidays!

<https://www.schwans-cares.com/c/43095>

Thank you for all your support this year! U Are U Preschool Is wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



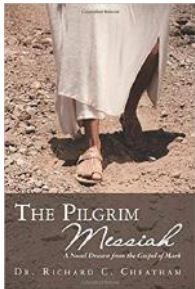
The Parish Print



Spiritual Growth:

The Pilgrim Messiah by Richard C. Cheatham.

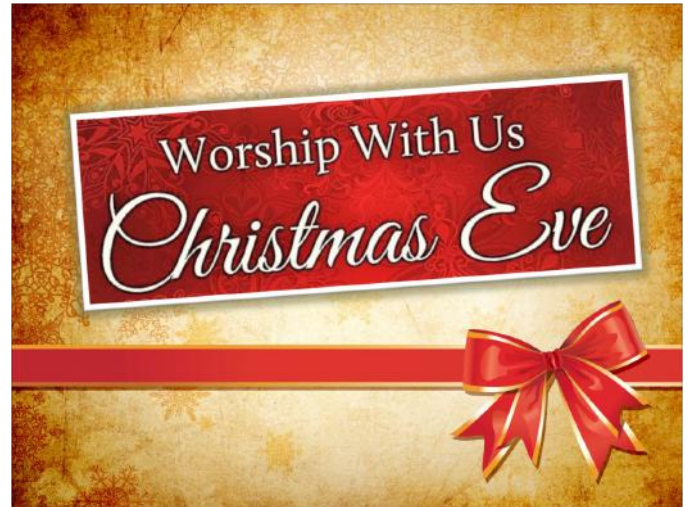
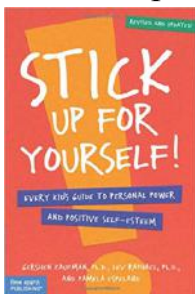
Richard Cheatham, a United Methodist clergyman and gifted storyteller, draws from Scripture to reveal living, understandable people. You will follow the 12 disciples and Mary Magdalene as they grow to understand the man they called Master. You will come to know and love the person anointed by God as Christ and will find understandings lost in translation of Mark's Gospel.



Leadership Development:

Stick Up For Yourself by Gershen Kaufman, Lev Raphael, and Pamela Espeland.

In simple words and real-life examples, this book shows kids how to stick up for themselves with other kids, big sisters and brothers and even parents and teachers. It gives examples of things you can say without putting people down and things you can do without getting into trouble. You'll also learn about yourself and what's important to you, as well as positive ways to deal with strong feelings like anger, fear, jealousy and shame. And you'll discover simple ways to "store" happiness and pride for times when you need them most.



Our **Contemporary Service at 7 p.m.** will be Contemporary Christmas Readings, Contemporary Worship Music, Special Music, Holy Communion and Candle Lighting.

Our **Traditional Service will be a 11 p.m.** with Lessons and Carols, Special Music, Holy Communion and Candle Lighting.

Come and join us in the celebration of the birth of our Lord!

December 30th there will be only one service at 9:30 a.m. and no Sunday School.



Sermon Series for December 2018:

"Light in the Darkness"

Dec. 9: Hopeful or Hopeless? Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79

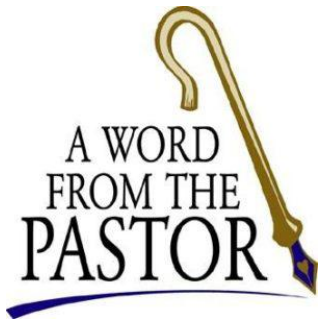
Dec. 16: Joyful or Joyless? Zechariah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18; Luke 2:10

Dec. 23: Love-filled or Loveless? Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 1:47-55

Christmas Eve: Peaceful or Peace-less? Isaiah 9:2-7; Isaiah 11:1-9; Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 30: Hymn Sing: ONE Service, at 9:30 a.m.

The Parish Print



Debbie Reed, President and CEO of Chaddock, our United Methodist Children's Ministry in Quincy, Illinois, wrote about the children:

"One of the touching and beautiful 'moments' at Chaddock occurs behind the scenes as the day winds down. Like many children, some of our kids are afraid of the dark, and don't like to go to bed. So at bedtime the Chaddock staff often sing to them, or read them bedtime stories, and even sit quietly outside of their door as the children fall asleep. In addition, many of our boys and girls prefer to leave some kind of light on so that the room is not completely dark.

"All of those things bring comfort and peace, even in the midst of the darkness of night—like a ray of light, kindness, and love. That's why there is a connection between the scripture that describes Jesus as the light of the world, and the way that our staff takes special care of the children all through the night. Christmas is a great opportunity for all of us to let our light shine upon these children—to care for them during a dark and difficult time of their life."

Ms. Reed's article reminds me that we show our love for the little child Jesus, born to save us, when we light up the life of a child, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year. Our church is doing just that by supporting all 5 of our United Methodist Children's Agencies in Illinois: The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood

House, and Spero Family Services (formerly the United Methodist Children's Home).

During Advent this year our special offering will go to United Methodist Committee on Relief, shining the light of Christ's love for all the many children and adults who have lost their homes and their loved ones, in fires and disasters. Please offer your gifts, and include as many prayers as you include dollars!

I know that it's getting dark earlier and earlier this time of year, but the darkness gives us the chance to enjoy all the beautiful Christmas light displays, especially our own church Christmas Eve services (at 7 and 11 p.m. again this year.) If you have moments when your life feels or seems full of darkness, I pray that God's light of love will break through for you this season. Remember, when you offer light and love to someone else, it can shine a special light in your own life too!

Blessings!

Rev. Joy Schlesselman



The Parish Print



Moments With Miles

Well, it's been pretty chilly here in Manteno, Illinois, my hometown out there amidst the barren corn and bean fields. Here in the Land of Lincoln the harvest is pretty much done. Reports say 100% of the corn is in and only 4% of the beans are still in the fields. What with the frigid air, the harvest done, and Advent already upon us, it's time to batten down the hatches and prepare for...winter!

Depending on whom you talk or listen to, this year's winter could be either mild or nasty. To be honest, I really don't know. The signs and portends that I usually rely upon to make my prognostications have been mixed. So it's anybody's guess what kind of winter weather we are in store for. I can tell you that I've already used my snow blower once this season, and I fully expect to use it quite a bit this winter. How much and when, I don't know. But I believe there will be quite a bit of snow this year. But I could be wrong. After all, I missed my predicted Thanksgiving snow by (a mere) 72 hours!

Now I don't know about you folks, but for me, as I rapidly approach the threshold of age, time appears to be speeding up. It seems to me it was just summer a few weeks ago. I can still remember sweating. And now, Halloween and Thanksgiving both have past, Advent is here and we are careening towards Christmas with hardly a moment to pause and take breath.

And yet, pause is just what we need to do. In the hustle and bustle that is the

Christmas season, we desperately need to somehow find the time to stop, pause, and truly consider what this very special time is really all about. While I love presents as much as the next guy, it's not about that. Even though the lights and decorations delight my eyes, it's not about that. The food, fellowship, music, and festivities that are so much a part of this time of year, it's not about those things either.

It's about a tiny baby, born in all places, a stable over 2000 years ago. It's about the promise that His birth came to fulfill – our salvation. And without his love and the redemption He brings, all of the lights, presents, and celebrations really have no meaning. The gifts we spend so much time and effort searching for, buying, and giving to each other pale in comparison to the gift He brought to all of us. And the only gift he wants in return is our love. So simple and yet so profound. That's what we really need to pause and think about.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you, my kind hearts and gentle readers!



The Parish Print



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship w/communion – 9am Sunday School, Jesus Birthday – 9am Cantata – 10:30	3 Hanukkah Bible Study – 7pm	4 MUMS Christmas Breakfast @ H.S. – 8:30am UMW potluck Christmas Gathering – 6pm	5 Yoga – 9am Men’s Bible Study – 6pm Choir – 6:30 Bells – 7:30	6 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	7	8
9 Cantata – 10:30 @ Presbyterian Church	10 Finance Team – 6pm Bible Study – 7pm	11 No Ad Council	12 Yoga – 9am Men’s Bible Study – 6pm Choir – 6:30 Bells – 7:30	13 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	14	15
16 Sunday School Christmas Program – 10:30	17 Bible Study – 7pm	18 Parish Print Articles Due.	19 Yoga – 9am Men’s Bible Study – 6pm Choir – 6:30 Bells – 7:30	20 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	21 Youth Group Christmas Caroling	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service – 7 & 11pm	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Yoga – 9am No Choir or Bells	27 Praise Band – 6:30pm	28	29
30 Worship – 9:30am No Sunday School	31 New Year’s Eve Bible Study – 7pm					