



The Chino Valley Chimes

December 2015



Happening this month:

- Dec. 2 ~ Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Dec. 2 ~ UMW Lunch
- Dec. 8 ~ Aroma's
- Dec. 9 SPRC
- Dec. 12 ~ Dress Rehearsal for Interfaith Program
- Dec. 13 ~ Interfaith Christmas Program
- Dec. 15 ~ Newsletter deadline
- Dec. 16 ~ Finance
- Dec. 18 ~ Church Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 19 ~ Committee Chair Lunch
- Dec. 20 ~ Lessons & Carols at both services
- Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve service
- Dec. 27 ~ Combined service
- Dec. 28-31 ~ **Office Closed**

- ◇ **Staff Meeting—Mondays, 8-9am**
- ◇ **United Methodist Class—Mondays, 5pm**
- ◇ **Choir Rehearsals—Tuesdays, 6pm**
- ◇ **Interfaith Choir—Tuesdays, 7-9pm**

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Christmas Pageant

A Christmas pageant, "The Story," will be presented on Christmas Eve and we need children and adults to make it come alive!

This production is based on "Tobias' Story" written by Carolyn Peters, Grace Presbyterian Church, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

This is an **unrehearsed** telling of the night Christ was born with three small and one large reading parts, including Joseph, a Shepherd, an angel and a narrator. In addition to the reading parts we need animals who will make animal sounds. The wise men, other angels and shepherds, star and Mary, are all silent.

All are welcome to participate! We do have a few costumes for those reading the parts, and there are masks for some non-speaking parts. We have a baby doll stand in if there is no willing baby.

More information will be available on Christmas Eve prior to the pageant. Please call Kathy at 636-5551 if you can help.

Year-End Contributions

The church office will be closed all week between Christmas and New Year's (December 28-31). In order for your contributions to be included on your 2015 giving statement they must be

- ◆ In the church office by noon, December 24,
- ◆ In the offering plate Christmas Eve or Sunday, December 27,
- ◆ Or postmarked December 31 or earlier.

Contributions received or postmarked after those dates will be recorded on your 2016 giving statement.

From the Pastor



Have you ever prayed for your children and their needs? Prayed for them to get out of an abusive relationship? Prayed for them to stop the drug or alcohol addiction? We all have had some sort of prayer for our family and friends, but the ones for our children never seem to stop. We pray for the best for our children and family members especially during Christmas.

But, did you know that God knows the yearnings of your heart. He knows exactly what you want for Christmas. And He is so willing for you to ask, to be honest, and to cry out. So don't be afraid to tell Him how your heart aches, about your fears for your loved ones, about your concerns for your other children, about how overwhelmed you feel at this time meant for celebration.

At the same time, remember that His answers almost always look so different, and have such later timing, than our requests. We can't understand what He is doing—

He tells us His ways are above ours. Yet Scripture tells us repeatedly that He knows and understands and is filled with compassion for our pain. He has given us many wonderful promises that enable us to express our love for and trust in Him—and see His faithful responses. Just read and meditate on these words from God:

“But seek first, his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matt. 6:33)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6-7)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:9-11)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matt 11:28-29)

So for this Christmas, I join you in asking God for miracles in the lives of your prodigals. But I also ask that He will help you to seek Him first and enable you to experience His peace and freedom from fear and deep rest in Him. May His blessings overflow you this Christmas season. If a relationship with God is something you crave, it can start here and now. God cares far less about your words than the attitude of your heart. So tell Him what you're thinking.

Dear God, today I bring you my life, my hopes, my dreams, my deepest yearnings ... You know me intimately. You knew me even before I was formed in the womb. You called me into this world to do good and live the life I was uniquely and specifically created for. I ask for Courage and Wisdom to live this life--the life of my dreams. Show me where to start and help me be open to hearing your Voice today. I ask for a greater consciousness of your Presence, today and every day of my life. Amen.

Pastor Mike

Notes from the Lay Leader



As I write these “Lay Leader Comments” we are a few days before the Advent season.

Advent is a season observed in our United Methodist Church as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming”.

The season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.

Advent is the beginning of the Western liturgical year and commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day (30 November), as a part of the Methodist calendars.

Practices associated with Advent include keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, as

well as other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas decorations.

If we read Luke 21:25-36, we do not have the feeling that the world is falling apart. This passage communicates the message that when the sun, the moon, and the stars spin out of control and the oceans and rivers flood the land, our redemption is coming near. God is the one who created this universe so if these things occur our redemption is coming near. Therefore during Advent we need to keep our eyes and our hearts open for the coming Christ. We as people of hope excitedly await the dawn of Christmas morning.

Our life of faith is one of anticipation. We look for the signs that Christ is coming. Jesus says that the signs will be as obvious as when spring comes and the new leaves appear all of these signs will overwhelm people. In our world today, we are often told to be on guard: against terrorists, suspicious activities and packages. Being on guard can be exhausting mentally. Is this what Jesus means? He says we should be on guard against being weighed down with the “worries of this life” so that Christ’s coming does not catch us not ready.

Enjoy Advent and Christmas.

Jan and I wish you a “Merry Christmas.”

Roger

IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

There are always many things going on during December. Here is a list of major church events so you can put them on your calendar and plan ahead.

December

- 13 Interfaith Christmas program at the church, 5pm
(cookies are needed for refreshments)
- 15 Deadline for January newsletter ~ early this month**
- 18 UMW Christmas dinner and basket auction, 5:30pm
- 20 Service of Lessons and Carols
- 24 Christmas Eve, service at 6:30pm**
- 25 Christmas Day
- 27 Combined service at 10 am
- 28-31 Office will be closed all week**

January

- 10 Bishop Bob will lead worship and preach



Administrative Council

And Terry Colucci who decorates our sanctuary as impeccably as she is and keeps our choir in tune. Maybe she'll give me lessons on how to tune the Ad Council.

The Board of Trustees, for ensuring every Sunday that the sanctuary is kept warm in the summer and cool in the winter. The Memorial Committee for developing and guiding a plan designed to help those who wish to establish a lasting memory of a loved one or set up an endowment fund. The Education Committee for teaching us that we're not learning enough nor passing that learning on to others.

The Missions Committee for another successful year of supporting our community and church. Well, except for that Used Car business they tried to establish back in September. We didn't sell one single solitary car that day, yet they were all gone by morning. Our Kitchen Stewards, Ann Moses and Irene Ramley, for serving you breakfast and cleaning up after you every Sunday, and Lyall Miller's help too. The Men's Prayer Group, aka United Methodist Men, for giving all the old men and the young men an opportunity each month to nit pick each other and complain about the free home cooked breakfast they just shared.

The United Methodist Women, aka UMW for all their outreach to the home bound and the ill, all the while supporting the church and the world wide community as well. Our Committee on Lay Leadership for relieving all of Pastor Mike's headaches and helping him bring the message, conduct the weddings, lead the memorial services and supporting all those mentioned above. And we even have two new members who want to jump right into all that work.

A few individuals who deserve special recognition: Karen Mensing for all the hours put in as assistant secretary, SPRC leadership and participation in numerous committees listed above, and especially, for ensuring that each and every first and second service goes off like clock work. You know the clock that's always right twice a day. Sue Piper for keeping all the anteaters away from this little ant hill we call Chino Valley United Methodist Church. And of course, our Pastor Mike, who shows us how to love, entertains us each Sunday morning, lends insight to great changes in the world like modeling new hair dos and presenting the message of God.

That's your leadership team of about 50 people who take part in all of the above. They work diligently for you. Here's what you can do for them. Over the next year let them know you appreciate their efforts by talking to them about what they do. They'll be glad to discuss it with you and answer any questions. You can find their individual names by reading the CVUMC Leadership Team and Groups report that you all should find in your email or the Narthex. We will be sending out agendas for each scheduled meeting and copies will be available in the office. Pick a meeting to attend just to see how they do what they do. Trustees, Finance, and Ad Council are all open meetings.

If you do attend don't focus on the perceived drudgery of discussions that may be drawn out, but focus on the subject at hand and what it is they are trying to accomplish. If you have a thought feel free to raise your hand. They will listen. Maybe you'll figure out a way you can help. You can do that by passing on your thoughts in or out of a meeting. They really do want to hear from all of you.

God bless and be careful,

Rick Merriman

The good news is the new Ad Council met for the first time on October 28th. The bad news is they fired me right after my opening statement. As I packed up my briefcase and milk crate full of meeting talking points and headed out the door, head bowed, tears welling up, I heard the group mumbling behind me. Just as I reached the front door I heard someone calling me back into the room. Evidently they realized that, with me gone one of them would have to do the job, so they re-hired me and we got down to work.

I want to thank a whole lot of people but you'd probably run out of memory on your computer if I listed every name. I thank Kathy West for her leadership of the Ad Council and all her other efforts at the church these past years, she has gone above and beyond. The SPRC for keeping Pastor Mike on the straight and narrow and seeing to his every whim. The Finance Committee for chasing down all those errant little dollars and cents and making them do what serves the church best. The Worship Committee: they're amazing, there are nine people conducting nine different functions that serve the church and I've never seen one of them incomplete. Duties like how Monte Colucci trims all the mold off the bread and tastes the wine to ensure it hasn't soured. I just wish he would use a cup instead of sipping right from the bottle.

Committees and Groups



The Trustee's would like to thank everyone who showed up and did such a great job of cleaning, trimming, mowing, painting and washing windows inside and out.

The Church looks much better for all your efforts.

Dave West
Chair

Thank you to all and particularly Ad Council for the wonderful flowers! It made my day to have my family there to see me speechless! I am so grateful to all of you who put up with me and keep your sense of humor as I try to do what the Lord asks of me.

Kathy West

MEN'S GROUP

The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, December 2, at 7:30 am. All men of the church are invited to attend.

The Missions Committee met on November 10. The main purpose of the meeting was to plan for the families we are serving with our Christmas giving.



We had contacted the nurses at the two schools which we have been working with each year. This year, we have a family with 8 children and another one with 4 children. Both families have 2 parents. We are working to provide a good Christmas for both families.

We also have 6 members of our church, over 90 years of age, for whom we will buy candy for Christmas.

If anyone would like to help us, please talk with me or a member of the committee. Our next meeting will be January 12.

Janet Bailey
Chair



Christmas to-do list

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman



The Finance Committee and Stewardship team wish to thank all the congregation for participating in the Annual Church Stewardship drive. Your service and pledges are what we need to keep the Church operating in 2016.

There are pledge cards in the Narthex for those who would may have misplaced their card. Giving envelopes are also in the Narthex. These are the only giving envelopes provided for members. Please take a bundle if you wish to use them.

Your personal reminder giving statement summary will be available in a few weeks. And, final 2015 year end statements in mid-January.

Please pray for world peace, and have a safe and enjoyable Christmas season.

From: Ray Benny and all the members of the Finance Committee.



PLEASE MAKE THESE CHANGES IN YOUR DIRECTORY

Molly Schnieder

928/710-5714

(Molly no longer has a land line)

Alice Saunders

Arizona Angels

7859 Las Flores Ave.

Prescott Valley 86314

277-4821

Alice Harris

10795 Fairview Dr.

Cherry Valley, CA 92223

Todd and Connie Hoeffner

Send mail to:

PO Box 1555

Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Home address:

1685 W. Summer Trail

Paulden, AZ 86334

Note: there is a gated entrance, so please call before going out to the home.

A revised directory was sent out in October. Please let the office know if you need a copy. A new directory will be available mid-January.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

More Committee and Group News

Hallelujah! It is the month we all celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are blessed to have had God's one and only Son sent to live as a human and show us the way to love, cherish and be compassionate towards those we come in contact with daily. Believe in miracles. Bring joy to the joyless. God is good!

The ladies who form the United Methodist Women will be busy trying to emulate his guidelines by facilitating several activities during December, with and for our church family.

- ◆ As you all are aware, Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes) spreads the excitement and joy of Christ to children around the world, many of whom have never celebrated Christmas. Our church family will send 83 boxes this year.
- ◆ We will share a special meal on Friday, December 18. The turkey, ham, potatoes, and dressing are provided by the UMW. Other cooks in our family will bring their favorite holiday dish to share. This is really a whole church celebration.

- ◆ You are also encouraged to bring a gift basket to the dinner and bid for baskets others have brought at the Silent Auction. This is the only fund raising event UMW does each year.
- ◆ A-caroling we shall go on Tuesday, December 22, at a local care home. All are invited to join us in a time of laughter. Some of us have trouble carrying a tune. Joy with some who are alone. Some of us visit these dear people monthly to let them know we have not forgotten them.

Throughout the year we host guest speakers, spread happiness and outreach wherever we go in Jesus' name.

Come join in the educational, inspirational, and informative meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, at varying times so our working ladies can join us also.

Our next meeting, Wednesday, December 2, will be at 11:30am. This is a pot luck lunch. Please bring a salad and a small wrapped gift (no name on it) to help make a jolly exchange and social time.

A blessed Christmas and New Year full of miracles to each and everyone of you.

Nancy Mitchell
President
928/830-4882 for questions

People Who Care

People Who Care is an organization that helps members of the community, both here in Chino Valley and in Prescott. Some of their ministries include driving people to medical appointments, taking people shopping, occasional sitting with the homebound, helping with other needs. As many of you know, People Who Care has a lending "closet" here, with walkers, wheel chairs, and many other items.

The Prescott office of People Who Care hosts an orientation on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Occasional orientations are held in Chino Valley as well. If you are interested in helping or learning more about this ministry, please call Peggy at the Prescott office, 445-2480, or Barbara at the Chino office, 636-3295.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

- 12/4 Bob Reese
- 12/5 Deborah Culjak
- 12/8 Lyall Miller
- 12/13 Laurence Nolan
- 12/15 Rhonda Costello
- 12/18 Joani Rose
- 12/19 Janet Bailey
- 12/20 Connie Hoeffner
- 12/20 Ginger LeGendre
- 12/26 Chuck Magoon
- 12/26 Don Niedermeyer

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/24 Bob & Gayla Remp
- 12/26 Dave & Kathy West



BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Nancy Mitchell
- 1/4 Wendy Gualderama
- 1/6 Gayla Remp
- 1/7 Jack Heller
- 1/7 Dave West
- 1/9 Rick Merriman
- 1/10 John Peterson
- 1/10 Cornelia Sparks
- 1/12 Monte Colucci
- 1/13 Patricia Pehl
- 1/14 Kevin Gualderama
- 1/19 Laura Bell
- 1/29 Terry Colucci
- 1/31 Margaret Pehl

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/18 Deryl & Linda Jevons

December Liturgists

2nd Service

- 6 Janet Warren
- 13 Nancy Mitchell
- 20 **Lessons & Carols**
- 27 Marti Hays

December Readers

1st Service

- 6 Molly Schnieder
- 13 *Available*
- 20 **Lessons & Carols**
- 27 *Combined Service*

If you are interested in reading at the 1st service on Sunday, please sign up in the Narthex.

+ Christian Symbols +



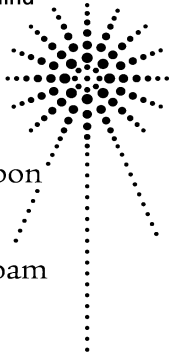
This Latin word for peace is frequently seen in Christmas art and decorations, reminding us that Jesus came as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). After announcing the Savior's birth to the shepherds, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on each peace ..." (Luke 2:14, NKJV).

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker



What you do:

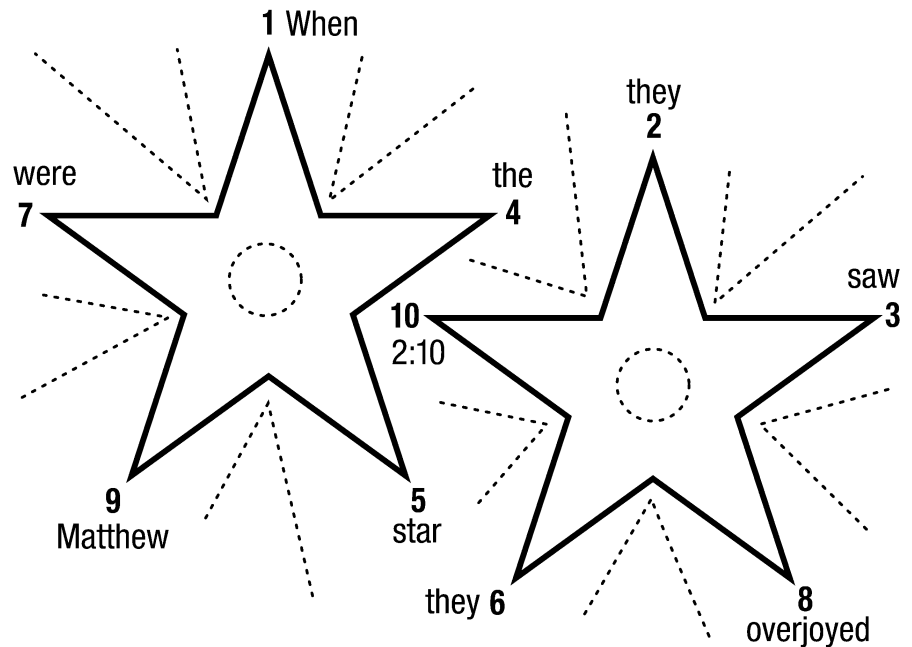
1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.



The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.



“ _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ ”
 _____ : _____ , NIV

When Jesus was born, which two earthly rulers were in power?

- A. Quirinius
- B. Pontius Pilate
- C. Caesar Augustus
- D. King Herod



Answers: (See Luke 2:1-2.)

CHINO VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*If you do not wish to receive this publication,
please contact the church office.*



A Brief History of the Christian Church

**John and
Charles
Wesley**

the growing movement.

These were all names foisted upon him, but John Wesley had the habit of taking them onto himself.

It was “Methodist” that eventually stuck. While John Wesley initially did not like the name, he eventually made it his own. Why did it stick? It was something people could see.

The initial Holy Club dissipated when the Wesleys and two others went on a mission trip to Georgia (see last month’s article). However, many, if not most, of the evolving group went onto ministry.

The Wesleys and their colleagues stuck to their methods upon their return to England and the Methodist movement spread throughout Great Britain and into the Americas and now to the world.

Today, United Methodists pledge in their membership vows to give of their “prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.” Thus, United Methodists continue the active life the Wesleys and their colleagues brought forward.

Our methods may have evolved over the years, but we still seek to follow John and Charles Wesley’s desire to live a more holy life.

Coming next month ~ a new series.

The group the Wesleys were a part of engaged in regular Bible study and were then called “Bible-moths.” Did they eat their Bibles as a moth may eat their clothes?

They were viewed as “Bible bigots” because they reproved others who they thought did not live up to scriptural standards. A lot of people thought of them as sourpusses.

By the time they were called “The Holy Club,” there were actually at least four small groups connected with