



# The Chino Valley Chimes

December 2019



## *SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS*

### NEW GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

#### **Happening this month:**

- Dec. 2 ~ All Staff Mtg.
- Dec. 3 ~ Grief Group begins
- Dec. 4 ~ Men's Group
- Dec. 6 ~ Christmas Diner & Auction
- Dec. 10 ~ Aroma's
- Dec. 11 ~ Missions
- Dec. 13 ~ Acker Night, Prescott
- Dec. 13 ~ Chino Hometown Christmas
- Dec. 15 ~ Combined Service, Lessons & Carols
- Dec. 15 ~ Pioneer Home
- Dec. 15 ~ Chimes Deadline
- Dec. 18 ~ Trustees
- Dec. 18 ~ Finance
- Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve Svc.
- Dec. 25 ~ Christmas Day
- Dec. 29 ~ Combined Service
- Jan 2 ~ Office reopens

- ◇ **Office Staff ~ Tuesdays, 9am**
- ◇ **Weekday Adult Study ~ Mondays, 10am**
- ◇ **Choir Rehearsals ~ Wednesdays, 6pm**

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You've lost someone you love. Your heart is broken. Now you're facing a holiday or special occasion. What are you going to do? How do you handle this?

It can be helpful to share in a grief support group when mourning the death of a loved one. Whether your grief is recent or from years ago, you are invited to attend a new six-week session that will start on Tuesday, December 3rd and continue through Tuesday, January 14th, 2020. (No meeting on December 24.)

Meetings will last from 2:00 –3:30 pm, in the multi-purpose room. We will use the book, Surviving the Holidays Without You: Navigating Grief During Special Seasons, by Gary Roe. Books are approximately \$10.00. For more information contact Mary Taken 277-0682 home or 575-491-2500 mobile.

## *A Winter Note about the Office*

The weather will soon turn snowy and icy. Our office staff may not always be able to be in the office by 8:00 am, Monday-Thursday. (If the buses are on delay or cancelled, we are on delay or canceled.) Because of this, we make the following suggestions for your safety and protection.

If you are coming to the office before 10:00 am, call first to be sure someone is here and the office is open. (If the weather is really bad, call any time before you come in.) If you phone the office and do not get an answer, please leave a message. We will return the call as soon as possible.

## *From the Pastor*



Happy Advent Church!

You will notice this Advent there will be a change in the Sanctuary, as the Advent wreath will be placed in our very midst. We will be able to really engage the symbol as a couple of the rows of chairs will be slightly rearranged. Take notice of the three purple candles and the one pink. We light the wreath all four Sundays of Advent in order to remember that we are to be Christ's light in the world. On Christmas Eve the large white Christ Candle is lit for all to see.

Yes, we are changing or at least we (the Body of Christ) ought to be changing and becoming more like Christ. Every year at the start of the church year we take a deep look at ourselves and in order to assess whether we have grown in our faith and we make note of how we have changed. We look to the future and we share our hope with the world as we profess Christ, the Light of the World.

We celebrate the theme of expectant waiting as we once again prepare for the coming of Christ anew. We remember the baby Jesus as we prepare to meet the Cosmic Christ of the Holy Trinity in fullness, in the Second Coming. As we light the Advent Wreath again these four weeks of Advent, my prayer would be that we look to Christ anew, and we challenge ourselves to change one slight thing in our behavior in order to serve others in a way we haven't done before.

Oh church, may we celebrate a most sacred Advent/  
Christmas Season

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Clare



# *Notes from the Certified Lay Minister*



## **ADVENT**

Many of you know that I like to dig into where our church seasons come from and their meaning. The season of Advent is no different. So some information for you to make the season of Advent more meaningful.

As with many things in church history it is not known exactly when the period of preparation for Christmas or “Advent” first began – it was certainly in existence from about 480 AD – and the novelty introduced by the Council of Tours of 567 was to order monks to fast every day in the month of December until Christmas. It is “impossible to claim with confidence a credible explanation of the origin of Advent”.

Associated with Advent was a period of fasting, known also as the Nativity Fast or the Fast of December.

The Second Vatican Council, in 1962-1965, introduced minor

changes to the meaning of the Advent season, differentiating the spirit of Lent from that of Advent, emphasizing Advent as a season of hope for Christ's coming now as a promise of his Second Coming.

While the Sunday readings relate to the first coming of Jesus Christ as Savior as well as to his Second Coming as judge, traditions vary in the relative importance of penitence and expectation during the weeks in Advent.

The Methodist Book of Worship identifies the colors purple or blue as appropriate for Advent. “There has been an increasing trend in churches to replace purple with blue during Advent as it is a hopeful season of preparation that anticipates both Bethlehem and the consummation of history in the Second Coming of Christ.”

Many churches also hold special musical events, such as Lessons and Carols, Cantatas and the singing of portions of Handel's Messiah.

The concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th Century. However, it was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape. The modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, originated from an 1839 initiative by Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor. In view of the impatience of the children he taught as they awaited Christmas, he made a ring of wood, with nineteen small red tapers and four large white candles. Every morning a small candle was lit, and every Sunday a large candle. Custom has retained only the large candles.

The keeping of an Advent wreath is a common practice in homes and churches. The Advent wreath is traditionally placed on a table with four candles or without candles, on the front door of the house as a welcome sign.

The Advent wreath is adorned with candles, usually three violet or purple and one pink, the pink candle being lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday or “Rejoice”. Some add a fifth candle (white), known as the Christ Candle, in the middle of the wreath, to be lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Other variations of the themes celebrated on each of the four Sundays include:

The Prophets' Candle, symbolizing hope; the Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing faith; the Shepherds' Candle, symbolizing joy; the Angel's Candle, symbolizing peace. Interesting information for your reading pleasure.

See you in church. Roger

## Committees and Groups



The next meeting for the Men's Group is Dec. 4. This meeting is held in the Church, meeting in the kitchen at 0730; then to the Multipurpose room to discuss different subjects and maybe a Guest Speaker. This Group is open to all men of the church and their guests.

All men are welcome to attend.



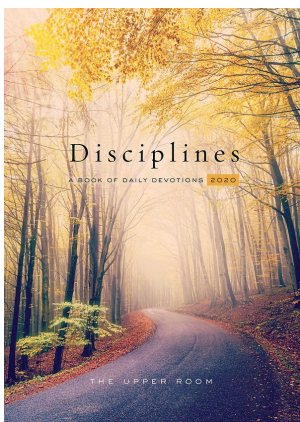
The Choir invites everyone to a Soup and Salad Supper with light entertainment. Save the date: Sunday, January 5th 4-6 pm

At: The Chino Valley United Methodist Church

### 2020 Disciplines

We will be ordering the 2020 Disciplines in early December this year. This is a daily devotional, based on the Sunday readings for the week. For each day, there is a short reading and a commentary to help people understand the Scripture.

We will only order enough books for those who are interested. The cost will be \$11 plus shipping (or 13.50 plus shipping for large-print). Please let the office know not later than December 10 if you would like a copy.



Missions, evangelism, stewardship. All have something in common. The foundation of being a Christian.

A true testament to the above was our recent participation in the Town of Chino Valley Trick or Treat event. Our volunteers, as usual went above and beyond, ensuring our commitment to community exceeded expectations.

Another event exceeding expectations was the Soul Sister's Craft and Bake Sale. Everything handmade and homemade. Wonderful positive comments from community and outside vendors that participated in the event.

People Who Care, our November Love offering is an important organization in our area to help those who cannot do many things for themselves. We are blessed to have their office located in our church.

In reality, our commitment showcases the godness and compassion for each other; striving to be better Christians.

## *Committees and Groups, etc.*



### **From the Finance Committee**

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2020. If you haven't turned yours in yet, you can do so at any time.

### **A Friendly Reminder...**

If you wish your contributions to the church to be included on your 2019 contribution statement, by IRS tax code, they must meet one of the following date requirements:

- They must be received by the church by December 31, 2019. The church office will be closed from December 25 through January 1. This means they must be in the offering plate on December 29; OR
- They must be mailed and postmarked by December 31.

If you have any questions, please call Ray Benny at 848-2158 or Sue at the church office, 636-2969.

### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND BASKET AUCTION**

The annual Christmas Dinner and Basket Auction will be on Friday, December 6, at 5:00. We would love to make this one of our biggest dinners ever. We will provide the turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy as in past years and we will ask for the congregation to sign up to bring something.

We will pass around a sign-up sheet in the next couple of weeks so you can tell us what you would like to bring to share. Donations to help pay for the turkeys are requested.

Also, please plan on making a basket for the auction. We would love to have a lot of baskets to auction off. It is always fun to see the baskets and find out who won. Please, let's make this a very special evening for all.



### **MISSION PROJECT - HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**

The children and youth are raising funds to help people in other countries who are poor and do not have enough to eat. We will send the funds to Heifer International who will send animals to families in need. Last year we sent funds to buy chickens. The gift of a flock of chicks can change the lives of an entire family. For \$20, we can help lift a family out of poverty with a flock of chicks. The family can have meat and eggs to eat and sell. The youth will have sodas and bottled water at church events for a donation to their mission project. Funds will be sent in by mid-December. For more information, contact Mary Taken or one of our youth.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



## BIRTHDAYS

12/4 Bob Reese  
 12/8 Lyall Miller  
 12/18 Joani Rose  
 12/19 Janet Bailey  
 12/29 Tony Botel

## ANNIVERSARIES

12/20 Gary & Jean Henry  
 12/26 Dave & Kathy West  
 12/27 John & Ilona Dean

## Readers and Ushers

### December 1

#### Readers:

T. J., Don & Carrie Sappington

**Ushers:** Ray Benny, Marti Hays, Don Sappington, Joyce Wise

### December 8

#### Readers:

Molly Schnieder, Monte Colucci

**Ushers:** Bob Haslett, Jean Henry, Bill Brooks, Janet Bailey

### December 15

#### Readers:

Monte, Don, Molly, Dave, Roger, Karen, Boston, Mary, Pastor Clare

**Ushers:** Deryl Jevons, Tony Botel, Irene Rampley, Bill Mitchell

### December 22

#### Readers:

Dave West, Marti Hays

**Ushers:** Pat Clingman, Nancy Mitchell, Ann Moses

### December 29

#### Readers:

Janet Warren

**Ushers:** Ray Benny, Marti Hays, Don Sappington, Joyce Wise

## Prayers are asked for..

In our thoughts and prayers this month: Our church & church family, Pastor Clare, our youth, President Trump, our country and its leaders, our military men & women, Chino Valley Police Department, Chino Valley Fire Department, those in nursing homes.

**Home bound:** Alma Holt, Pat Jones, Bob Reese, Coleen Siler, Beth Vandenberg, Jack & Janis Heller, Jessica Benny. **Church members:** Ellie & John Magarrell, Richard Boller, Pastor Mike Keffer, Barbara Starnes and family in the loss of Dave. **Friends & family of members:** Merle Houston, Chris Everidge, Alice Herod, Caitlin, Kyle Larsen, JoAnne Ledbetter, Marge & Don Mastin.

If you would like a name added or deleted from the prayer list, please call the church office.

## CHINO VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—12 noon

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

## Coming Events

**Watch this space each month for  
coming events in the next few  
months.**

December 6 ~ Annual Christmas Dinner &  
Basket Auction

December 15 ~ Lessons & Carols

December 15 ~ Pioneer Home

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Service

December 25 ~ Christmas Day, office closed

December 26 -January 1 ~ Office Closed

