

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 3	Trustees Meeting, 6 PM Kitchen Team Meeting, 7 PM		
Tuesday, December 4		Mark Graham Pat Warren	Vince & Monica Fischer
Wednesday, December 5	Womens Prayer Group 10 AM Community Dinner, 5:30 PM Square Dance, 6:30 PM Youth Group, 6:30 PM Advent Study, 6:30 PM Scottish Society, 7 PM		
Thursday, December 6	Knitting Group, 10 AM Food Truck, 5 PM Praise Team!, 5 PM Chancel Choir, 6:30 PM	Claire Bronkema Cami Valdez	
Saturday, December 8	Caroling, 1:30 PM	Richard Kutschinski	
Sunday, December 9	Foundations Service, 9:15 AM Youth Group, 9:30 AM Fellowship, 10:30 AM IMPACT, 11 AM Staff Meeting, noon	Alarick Parkey	

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$24,743

(48 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$26,593

(4 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$570**

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Wesley Park Weekly

December 2, 2018

Pastor's Page

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Imagine the place where Jesus was born. Sheep and goats and donkeys and chickens baa and bleat, hee-haw and cluck as they share their space with this poor family who have no where else to go. They don't need much. The hay is soft enough for Jesus to lay on. The manger is just right to hold him safely as he sleeps. Mary and Joseph are exhausted and exhilarated at the miracle that came into the world in this place. This holy space. Where the light of heaven came to shine through the darkness of this world.

This traditional place of Jesus' birth is now called the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Directly below the altar in the sanctuary there is a cave-like room called the Grotto of the Nativity where it is believed Jesus was born. Since 1989 light from this holy place has been shared with people around the world. This practice, called *Light Into Darkness*, started in Austria. Each year, a child from Upper Austria fetches the light from the grotto in Bethlehem. The light is then flown to Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries for use at ecumenical services throughout the Continent. Scouts now participate in spreading this light around the world. This week, we will receive this holy, blessed light at Wesley Park United Methodist Church.

We will keep the flame burning through the season of Advent and into Christmas. It will light our Christ Candles and Advent Candles, and the candles we hold on Christmas Eve as we join our voices singing *Silent Night, Holy Night*. We can share the light with anyone who wants to bring a lantern and take it home, or carry it to a place of worship, or light a candle in the dark. This light of Christ will shine in rooms with those who are remembering and grieving. It will shine and bless their tears and will be a reminder of life that has no end. The light will cause our restless hearts to hush and take in the shadows that speak to us as we are joined by the Holy Spirit. The light will illumine the gifts we have to bring: Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh, Kindness, Grace, Compassion, Generosity, Love.

Welcome into this season of Advent. Welcome into the Holy Light. Welcome into the Healing Life of Christ. Do not be afraid. Let the Light Shine.

The Prayers of Our Hearts

David Waugh & Tena Podein - Prayers for my niece in Colorado suffering with seizures. Continued prayers for the treatment plan for our grandson, Jacob. Praise for all our blessings.

Leo DeVries - Pray for my friend, Sandra Carter, on the loss of her husband.

Shirley Diederiks - Beautiful song, Sara, and like always you have such a beautiful way of singing. So glad to be here today. Please pray for Don. He is in terrible pain. Thank you for all your prayers. God bless you all.

Rick & Sheryl Jones - Prayers for Kiarra. She broke her foot on Wednesday.

Esther Fernandez - I am so thankful for God's love, my church family and our God's creation. Thank you Father for everything. Great message Pastor Dean. Thank you Sara. I loved the song.

Ken & Linda McKenney - Thank you Dean for the sermon on the book of Revelations.

Val Rienks - Praise! Thomas is in a bassinet now instead of an incubator.

Nancy Harrington - I am thankful for you, this church and the whole church family. God bless.

Pauline Shinn, Steve & Pam Bravata - Thanks be to God for each and everyone of you.

Kathy DenHollander - Prayers for my niece, Lora, and her girls. It is the first holiday season after a divorce and one of the twins broke her collarbone.

Chuck Johnson - I am thankful for Jane.

Ross & Erin Vanderlaan - Prayers for the Reyburn family as Jeremy is going through major heart issues.

Nancy Carpenter - I am so very blessed. I am loved by my daughters and granddaughters, by my wonderful church family and always by the true living God. So thankful!

Pat Beadle - Prayers of healing for Ruth Noble after her neck surgery and for freedom from the pain she was having!

Jackie Matson - Thank you Pastor Dean for a great sermon!

Ron & Dolores Sanford - Our daughter, Rhonda's, MRI shows good results.

Darlene Pinder - Powerful sermon Dean. I am going to read it again!

Sherry Richards - Please pray for Lisa Aldrich. She will be going to Cleveland for a very difficult surgery on November 28th. She will have a month of recovery.

The Fischer Family - Prayers for Tim's grandma out in Utah. She is on Hospice and not expected to live through the week.

Advent Bible Study

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

Join us November 28th-December 19th on Wednesday nights 6:30pm-8pm. Dinner will be served prior to class beginning. There is also classes for the kiddos.

You can register at the information desk or online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/9I5CuOraH4WGDOyt2>.

Musical Notes

Please join our music ministry and guest musicians as we sing and proclaim the love of God and Christ's birth at our Christmas Cantata. "Come Let Us Adore" will be performed on Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a reception to follow. If you would like to sign up to help with the reception or bring snacks/finger foods there will be a sign up at the Welcome Desk. We hope to see you there!

Also, ALL AGES are invited to participate in a Christmas caroling event at MediLodge Wyoming on Saturday, December 8 at 1:30. We will be meeting at MediLodge a few minutes before and will enjoy singing and fellowship in the common room with the residents.

Craft/Vendor Show

A huge thank you to all the crafters, vendors and shoppers for making the 2nd Annual craft show a success. You all helped raise \$1200 that is going directly to Family Promise. Some of the youth went shopping and purchased gifts for the Christmas Store and the remainder of the funds will get donated to Family Promise to use how they need it most.