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Faith United News



December 2018

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Issue 12

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Brotherhood**

Join us for our annual Christmas dinner at the Ground Round on Tuesday, December 18th,

**In Context Bible Study**

We have two meeting left in December. You don’t want to miss, The Resurrection & The greatest Story, so please come join us Wednesday December 5th & 12th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm.

**Faith Circle**

Come join us on Thursday, December 13th, at 7:00 pm at the McCauley’s for our annual Christmas Party. Bring snacks to share and items for the women’s abuse center.

**Women’s Fellowship**

Please join us on Tuesday, December 4th at 6:30 pm. We will be meeting at the Downtown Abbey, 1202 Felix St. The parking lot is located on the south side of the building. Look for the big Blue front door. The program will be given by Gary Westcott, local historian, about Noma Lights in St. Joseph. All women and interested men are invited to attend and enjoy fellowship with us. Refreshments will be served and a brief meeting will follow.

For those needing a ride; Please meet at the church by 6:15 pm.

**White Elephant Christmas Party**

Join us for lots of fun, food, fellowship, and laughs on Friday December 7th, at 6:00 pm for our annual church wide White Elephant Christmas Party!

**Hanging of the Greens**

Join us on Sunday, December 2nd for our Hanging of the Greens service.

**Communion Services**

We will have a separate tray with gluten free crackers for those who need them during our communion services. Please note they will look different from the bread squares.

**Christmas Eve Service**

Join for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

**Thank you**

Brotherhood extends a **“BIG THANK YOU!”** for the attendance and support of our 23rd annual Ham & Bean Dinner. What great fellowship in the kitchen. We received $369 in donations!

Thank you again,

Brotherhood

Thank you to everyone who came to our exchanging of vows and reception, sent cards, and gave gifts. It was a very special day we will never forget. God has blessed us in so many ways in these 50 years.

Thank you again.

Love,

Steve & Dianne Pulley

**2019 Goals budget**

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who filled out and turned in a pledge card on Stewardship Sunday. The total pledged stands at 83% of the goals budget at the current time. This is a very good beginning towards our goal of 90-95% so the goals budget can become our operating budget for next year. If you would still like to turn in a pledge card, they can be given to Debbie Demuth any time up until the annual meeting in January. Thank you.

From The Pastor’s Desk

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**“A Mountain Top Experience”**

Last week, on Thanksgiving, my family and I had the opportunity to go see the Grand Canyon…that’s right…SEE the Grand Canyon. Our day started out wonderfully. We were staying at a Young Life camp up in the mountains and the scenery was breathtaking when you opened up and walked out your front door. The air was crisp and clean. There was a breeze blowing through the pines that made a whistle that you can only hear in the mountains. The scenery only reinforced what I already knew to be the power and beauty of God’s creation. We had partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of rain to the north of the Canyon forecast, and so we all got ready to make our way to see the Grand Canyon.

As we arrived on site, the weather had changed dramatically. About 15 minutes from the entrance it had begun to rain, sleet, and hail…not just a little bit…pounding. We pressed on and made our way to the parking lot where we found a spot close to the sidewalks, bundled up, and made our way to the south rim. What we failed to notice in all of the rain, sleet and snow was the fact that a dense fog was also setting in. When we arrived to the railings to look out into the Canyon all we saw were clouds. There were a few boulders here and there that kind of stood out, but the rest was covered in fog. My first response, as would be for anybody who had traveled 1200 miles to see the Grand Canyon and then not be able to see it was… *“Are you kidding me, 1200 miles for this?”* But then something amazing happened. The sleet, rain, hail, and snow stopped for a couple of minutes and the sun shined on a few spots here and there that began to reveal the beauty that was underneath the clouds. And for those brief few seconds, God revealed himself again to us letting us know that we were not alone.

After those brief few seconds, the rain, snow, sleet and hail returned with a vengeance and we made our way back to camp. As we were driving home and got closer to where our camp was located, the skies became partly cloudy again and the sun began to shine. As I looked up at the top of the surrounding mountaintops, the clouds still covered their peaks and all of a sudden I was reminded of several mountaintop experiences in the Bible.

In Genesis 22, Abraham takes his son, his only son, Isaac, and begins to ascend a mountain to make a sacrifice to God. Unbeknownst to Isaac is the fact that Abraham is to sacrifice him. As they walk up the mountain Isaac asks his father, “*where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”* Abraham calmly tells his son, *“God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”* And when they finally arrive at the spot, they prepare an altar and then Abraham lays his son upon the altar. At the last possible moment, God stops Abraham from sacrificing his son and provides him with a ram. I imagine this taking place not out in the open daylight, but near the top, in the clouds and fog, where the glory of the LORD is around them, watching what is taking place and waiting to reveal an answer.

Elijah ascends a mountain where he is to meet God. Again, Elijah experiences a great wind, an earthquake, and a great fire before hearing God’s voice in a gentle whisper. Again, I imagine all of this taking place near a mountain top shrouded in fog.

And finally in Mark 9, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to a mountain top where he transfigures and the three disciples can see Jesus with Moses and Elijah. Can’t you just imagine this all taking place in an area surrounded by fog and clouds where the glory of the LORD can surround them?

There is a beauty in these mountain top experiences that we don’t always see initially, but eventually it all gets revealed to us in His time. I believe that is what 2019 will be like for us! For our church to have a mountain top experience, we will have to trust the LORD and follow His lead. We may at times be surrounded by fog, rain, hail, and sleet, and not SEE what we are supposed to see, but the glory of the LORD is around all those who stay true and believe. As God slowly reveals His plans for us, we will continue our journey of being “fully alive” and growing toward that potential He has set for us. Proverbs 3: 5-6 says, ***“Trust in the LORD with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your way acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight.”***

A mountain top experience awaits, are you ready for the journey?

Be God’s!

Pastor Jim

**In Our Thoughts & Prayers**

**Praises:** God’s amazing love; new visitors; our beautiful Autumn weather

**Cancer Patients**: Paul Bridenstine (chronic leukemia); Andrew (5yr. old son of Central High teacher Mr. Hart) – is in remission with an inoperable brain tumor; Ryan Frakes (brother of Jack) – cancer; Tricia (friend of Donna Wood) – Hodgkin’s Lymphoma; Lance (Julie Oswald’s cousin in Houston, TX) – brain cancer; Steve Hall (48) – (brother-in-law of Steve Haskey) – diagnosed with colon cancer; Sean Abersold- cancer & starts radiation; Miranda Nill starting chemo (friend of Angela cobb); McClellan’s neighbor – lung cancer; Karen Trump (mother of Jimmy Blanton) – surgery to remove brain tumor (KU); Jo (friend of Donna Wood) – cancer returned & spread throughout body; Missy West’s sister’s mother –in-law – just diagnosed with aggressive bone cancer; Emily ( Teresa Kidwell’s niece) 36 yr. old- mastectomy 11/5/18.

**Other**: Continued prayers for Glenn Spitzer – family unity & health & friends; Donita Sunderland- chronic health issues; Heidi DeSchepper- chronic health issues; Donna Brooks- chronic health issues; Debi Haskey- chronic health issues; Coleman Collins (Linda Trapp’s great-nephew)- 12 yr. old- prayers for serious heart problems; The Catron Family; Andrew Powers (a K-State grad) – spending 3 years teaching in India (2020); The Bryson family- family issues; Scotty Sharp family- family issues; Jill Frakes- eye diseases; Ashley West – teaching in Russia; Edison School – need shoes for pupils – child size 5 thru men’s adult size 9 ½; Hill family friend- serious health issues- possible stoke; Edison 6th grader Corbin- home- has port for meds- trouble holding down food- sleeps a great deal- mom is missing a lot of work; our Nursery attendant, Melissa- mom fell- cracked some ribs & other health issues, also daughter & boyfriend in car accident- bruised & sore; Carla Archdekin (Joed Hill)- hip replacement surgery Oct. 25th- had heart surgery recently; Leonard McCall’s aunt Evelyn- not taking meds, disoriented, not doing well; Carolyn Herple (cousin of the Pulley’s)- triple bypass surgery 10/31; Ace Wilton McFall (grandson of C.W. Townsend)- born 10 weeks early- in NICU at Children’s Mercy

**Traveling Mercies:**

**Sympathy:** Rudy Hernandez & family in the passing of his grandmother; Larry Bryson & family in the death of his brother Dave in Springfield, MO; the family of Jeanette McClellan (Ross’s cousin) who passed leaving her husband Gary, children, grandchildren, & sister

**Finally:** all our people & programs; Recharge Worship Service & Portions Worship series; In Context Bible Study; 2019 Stewardship Campaign- Fully Alive; our website; our Music Director, Steve Haskey; our youth Director, Alex King; Our Pastor Jim Oswald and their families; be Of Good Courage! **–** No opportunity is too small!

**ENCOURAGING VERSE FOR THE MONTH!**

**“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”**

**Ephesians 6:10**

**Calendar of Events**

Dec. 1st - Set up for Hanging of the Greens 9:00 am

Dec. 2nd - Hanging of the Greens Service 10:15 am

Dec. 4th - Women’s Fellowship meeting

@ Downtown Abbey 6:30 pm

Dec. 4th - Visitation Committee 11:15 am

Dec. 7th - White Elephant Party 6:00 pm

Dec. 9th - Communion Sunday

Dec. 11th - Food Kitchen Team #2 5:00 pm

Dec. 13th - Faith Circle Christmas party

@ the McCauley’s 7:00 pm

Dec. 18th - Brotherhood dinner

@ Ground Round 6:00 pm

Dec. 20th - Leader’s Night 7:00 pm

Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

Dec. 25th - Christmas Day – Offices Closed

Nov. 22nd - Thanksgiving

**Communion Assistants**

Dec. 2nd - Debbie Demuth & Carolyn Sagasar

**Acolytes**

Dec. 2nd - Montana Frakes & Josh Oswald

Dec. 9th - Rawlins Brant & Montana Frakes

Dec. 16th - Josh Oswald & Rawlins Brant

Dec. 23rd - Montana Frakes & Josh Oswald

Dec. 30th -

**Van Drivers**

Dec. 2nd - Corey

Dec. 9th - Roy

Dec. 16th - Brent

Dec. 23rd - Corey

Dec. 24th - Corey

Dec. 30th - Roy

Report Current Fund Building Fund

Oct. 28th - $1,843.00 $280.00

Nov. 4th - $3,748.00 $230.00

Nov. 11th - $2,043.00 $40.00

Nov. 18th - $2,439.00 $145.00

Totals: **$10,073.00**  **$695.00**

**$11,291.00** needed each month to meet current expenses.

Attendance Service Sunday School

Oct. 28th - 70 33

Nov. 4th - 77 41

Nov. 11th - 93 31

Nov. 18th - 87 33

***Board of Stewards Annual***

***Potato Bar***

***On Sunday, September 24th following the Church service***

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***Please come and join us for great food and fellowship!***

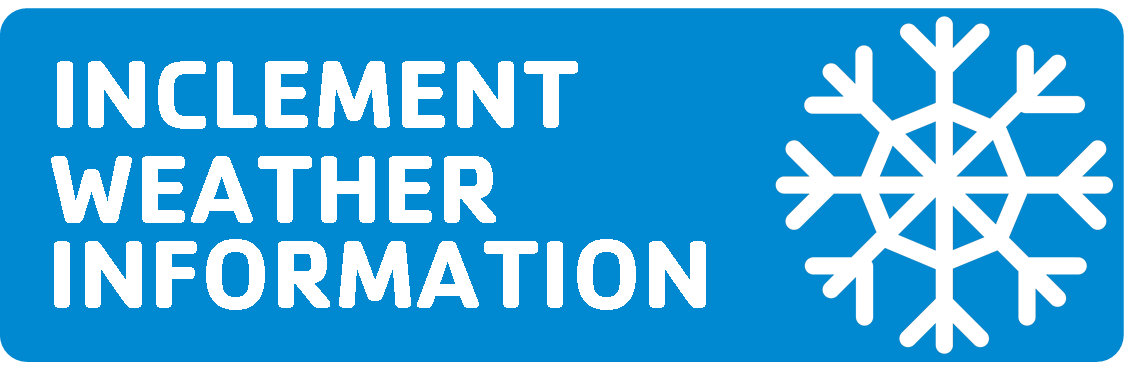
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**If bad weather is imminent, please, before heading out to a church service, check Facebook, our website, and your email, just in case it doesn’t make it on KQ2.**

**Your safety is important to us!**