

**December
2020**

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

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THE PASTOR PONDERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

“Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully,” the divorce Court Judge said, “and I’ve decided to give your wife \$775 a week.” “That’s very fair, your honor,” the husband said. “And every now and then I’ll try to send her a few bucks myself.”

Christmas always makes me think about how little I have to offer in comparison with what God is doing. I see someone ringing a bell standing by a donation kettle and I pitch in a few dollars. I walk on towards my car feeling good about myself. But it just doesn’t really compare to God’s blessings for me. So, I’ve come to the realization – I can’t out-give God!

Of course I can’t out-give God. But what I can do is give my part from what I have. I am not able to be as big a blessing to someone else as my Savior is to me, but I can be a little blessing. Finding ways to make a difference should be on our minds this Christmas. After all, people are hurting more than usual, and this time of year can be difficult enough for some any given year.

As a church, we can’t go caroling at Christmas. You can do something small that could put a song in someone’s heart, though. We won’t be exchanging Christmas cards at church as we have for many years. You can mail a card or two with a word of cheer (especially to some you think may not receive as many cards). We won’t have a choral/orchestral worship experience, but you can call someone up and offer melodious words of encouragement.

This Christmas is going to be (as everything this past year has been) *way different*. Some things about Christmas, however, will be the same. The heart of the season is still our own personal connection with Jesus as Lord. If anything, some of the fat will be trimmed off (some of the glitzy aspects) and we can emphasize what’s most important. Even more than family, which we will probably not be together with due to traveling concerns and the like, we can place greater focus on Christ.

I wish each of you, even in this horrible covid-filled pandemic, if not a merry Christmas a blessed one!

Working together with you to build the Kingdom of God until Jesus returns *Bro. Bob*

Advent/Christmas Activities

<u>Want To Do</u>	<u>Cannot Do</u>
Christmas Food Boxes for Homebound	Christmas Card Exchange
Children’s Christmas Gift Boxes	Caroling (to Homebound/Nursing Home)
Christmas Eve Online Musical	Church-Wide Dinner
	Christmas Musical

2020 Kentucky Annual Conference

Follow these sessions livestream on Facebook at: facebook.com/kentuckyannualconference

Sunday, December 6, 2020

- **2:00 PM**-Laity Session (available for Lay Members and other observers)
- **3:00 PM**-Clergy Session (limited to credentialed clergy)

Monday, December 7, 2020

- **6:30 PM**-A Legacy of Hope: A Service of Commissioning and Ordination

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

- **9:00 AM**-Opening Worship
- **9:30 AM**-Worshipful Work/Plenary/Ministry Stories
- **1:00 PM**-Mission Celebration/Worshipful Work/Plenary/Ministry Stories

Annual Conference 2020 Mission Offering

Each year, all churches in the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church are invited to participate in a mission offering at Annual Conference. **The Mission Offering for the 2020 Annual Conference** will support seven mission agencies that have traditionally been supported by the Kentucky Annual Conference: **Hillcrest Bruce** (Ashland), **Ida Spence** (Covington), **The Foundry** (Bowling Green), **Nathaniel Mission** (Lexington), **Portland Promise** (Louisville), **Wesley House** (Louisville), and **Lighthouse** (Louisville). **Ten percent** of the offering will go to support the work of The United Methodist Church in **Serbia**.

Children and Scouting Ministries



Children: Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I have put together a Christmas package for our Children. It has an Advent Wreath that the Children can build with their families. There is a magic pencil book. When you color over an image with a pencil a special picture will show up. They have another Christmas book with activities as well. I also included 2 special crafts that include 2 special ornaments. If any parents or members have any ideas or recommendations they would like to see our Children's group do for our children during this unpresented time please reach out and let me know. Each and every family is in my prayers that everyone will stay healthy and happy during this pandemic. I look forward to pictures of your children completing their crafts and activities. I would much rather be in person doing the activities with the children.

Cub scouts: They are all meeting virtual now due to Covid-19. However, we did participate in the National Scouting for Food initiative. We had a total of 14 scouts and 15 Parents participate both weekends in distributing fliers one weekend then the following weekend we went around and collected the food that the community left out. We collected 1640 items for our pack alone. We donated these food items to JAM. We are mailing out Christmas Cards to our Troops.

BSA Troop: They have had a few boys working on their Eagle Scout projects. They also participated in the National Scouting for Food initiative. They collected 1907 items and also donated them to JAM (Jeffersontown Area Ministries).



Worship and Music Ministry

Dear Church Family,

The time has come for me to make the huge decision to retire from church music/worship leading. My insurance business interests have become even more involved with the taking on of a partner and establishing a new agency, Bluegrass Insurance Advisors, LLC.

Sunday, December 20th will be my last. I know I leave you in good hands and you have tremendous talent and energy with your leaders and those involved in music and worship ministry. I will do all I can to hand off my resources, contacts and supplies that I will no longer need to help make the future easier.

This year has been a tremendous challenge for us all in many ways, and while Covid19 has made our in-person worship nearly impossible, that is not my main reason for leaving. After 45+ years, it is just time.

Thank you for all you have done to make the Jeffersontown UMC part of my journey so blessed and fulfilling. Thanks for all your support and encouragement, your dedication and hard work, tears and laughs shared. Thanks for your financial support of the worship and music ministry, even throughout our financially lean times a few years ago. Your support has enabled us to present what we hoped were inspired weekly worship and special seasonal services. Thanks to Pastor Bob for being the easiest pastor to work with in my church music career, and to our great church secretary, Teresa. Patsy is a saint to have put up with me all these years and through many changes.

You will all always be in my thoughts, prayers, and memories.

--Michael (and Renee and family!)

Christian Love and Sympathy to the Family and Friends of . . .

. . . Jim Gatewood who died Friday, October 30th, 2020.

. . . Mary Jo Smart who died November 2nd, 2020.

. . . Margie Davis who died November 5th, 2020.

Memorial Donations Received

In memory of Frank Giatras

by: Albin Hayes, Rogers & Marilyn Queen

In memory of Jim Gatewood

by: Neil & Debbie Bennett, Amy Bickett, Ray & Mildred Farmer, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Thomas & Barbara Gatewood, Lee & Kay Hart (Endowment Fund), Albin Hayes, Jerry & Norma Littlefield, Bart & JoAnn Magill, Mason-Dixon Athletic Club, Ken & Rhoda Peters, Rogers & Marilyn Queen, Elizabeth Sharber, Lewis & Kitty Sharber, John & Leslie Smart, Sue Spencer, Dave & Cooky Thomas, Ed & Judy Walton

2020 Stewardship Campaign Update

Thanks goes to everyone who have returned their 2021 pledge card. For those of you who have not done so, please try and drop off or mail your 2021 pledge card to the church as soon as possible. We will give an update on where we are in this process in the January church newsletter, and hopefully be able to finalize the 2021 church budget by this time as well.

Thank You

The family of Jim Gatewood would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers after his death. My father loved this church and was a faithful servant his entire life. Thank you!

--*Andrea, Joe, Andrew & Benjamin Heger*

Thanks so much to everyone who sends me such beautiful cards. I appreciate all of them! I have sold my patio home and now reside in the Wesley Manor main building. **Please change my mailing address** to: 5012 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40219.

–*Sincerely, Shirley Harmon*

I would like to thank everyone that sent cards following my foster brother's death. The cards meant a lot. –*from Cheryl Boss*

Thanks to everyone who donated gift cards for the Jeffersontown Area Ministries' **Christmas Is For Kids** program. We received quite a few that were dropped off at the church (others may have been taken directly to JAM). They will make Christmas special for children in the area.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

12/1-Kitty Sharber, 12/2-Bob Duncan, 12/5-Ron Million, 12/6-John Ingram, 12/8-Sandra Heaton, Karen Speer, *Bart & JoAnn Magill, *Jacob & Kara Mattingly, 12/9-Fran Pullias, 12/18-Betty Hicks, 12/19-Kay Eskridge, 12/20-Bill Shewmaker, 12/20-*Bobby & Mildred Bruner, 12/24-Marilyn Queen, 12/27-Barbara Johnson, Michael Zeckner, 12/30-Chip (William) Bland, 1/6-Norma Littlefield, Rhett Westfall, 1/7-David Ridenour, Caroline Westfall, 1/9-Brian Bennett *Happy belated birthday* to Linda Million (11/16)

Portland Promise Center

The Portland Promise Center will still be holding their **annual Christmas Store for Parents** for one week (December 14th-18th), with limited guests in the building at any given time (no waiting room with refreshments & games, and no gift wrap). You can help by donating new toys; donating money to purchase new toys; or just be in prayer for their staff and parents. Donations can be dropped off any time between 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM Monday-Friday (1831 Baird Street) **by December 11th**. If you have questions, call Eurana at (502) 776-2635, ext. 106. A "Wish List" is posted on the bulletin board in the JUMC Gathering Area, or can be emailed to you (request a list by emailing the church at: churchoffice@jtownumc.org).

United Methodist Mountain Mission Pickup-Monday, December 14th

We will accept donations Monday, December 7th through noon on Monday, December 14th.

Urgent needs: Men's and Children's winter clothes; new toys for Christmas; Christmas Decorations & Gifts; Socks & Underwear; Children's Shoes & Coats; Good Pots & Pans; Good Used Furniture. **For the Processing Plant:** 16 oz. & 8 oz. coffee cups; Air Fresheners (aerosol cans); Dust Mops; Toilet Bowl Cleaner; Toilet Tissue; Sanitizing Wipes; Paper Towels; Furniture Polish; Windex; Liquid Hand Soap. *Please place your donations* (boxed, if possible), **marked "Mountain Mission" in the foyer off the parking lot by noon on Monday, Dec. 14th.**

Continuing Ministries

Jeffersontown Area Ministries--*Our JAM wagon is now in its new permanent location*

(foyer off the parking) for donations of shelf-stable food, infant and personal care items.

Coca Cola Codes for Red Bird-On bottle caps, and multi-pack end flaps (**inside the end flap**-not the bar code on the outside). Place in the Campbells Soup tin in the Gathering Area.

Harvest Food Program-We partner with KFC & Starbucks, making 2 pick ups each week at both restaurants and deliver it to our homebound *members* and others.

Mask Ministry-Face masks made by and donated by church members. On the table in the Gathering Area. No cost. If you need a mask, feel free to take one.

Water Step-New or gently used shoes. Proceeds from the sale of these shoes go to purchase equipment to provide clean water worldwide. Place in collection box in foyer off parking lot.

Laundromat Ministry-Dayron Reyes is currently using quarters donated this year at the Fresh Air laundromat on Wednesday afternoons to pay for client's laundry fees.

Date	General Offering
11/1/2020	\$7,633.84
11/8/2020	\$5,907.00
11/15/2020	\$2,454.00
11/22/2020	\$5,390.00

Statistical Report

November General Offering (through 11/22): \$23,504.67

Designated: KY U.M. Homes for Children and Youth (5th Sunday)=\$25

As a Member of Jeffersontown United Methodist Church, you pledged to faithfully participate in its ministries by your

prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. (The U.M. Hymnal, pg 38)

Donations Other Than Tithe-The Tellers request that you please write a separate check for donations to the church other than your tithe (such as: Capital Fund, COVID-19, Holiday offerings, etc.).

Charitable Donations-The JUMC Administrative Council voted to not distribute or endorse requests for donations to charities outside The United Methodist connection.

Pre-Paying Your Pledge-There are tax advantages for persons age 70 & ½ and older who are required to make annual withdrawals from their IRA (if you donate money from that account to the church). Several church members have done this in the past. If you'd like more information, call Lee Hart so he can explain the process & tax advantages 502-267-8066 (wk); 502-254-1682 (home).

Church Staff (Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8A-2P)

Pastor-Rev. Bob Howell-Cell#502-819-1160;

E-mail: ukyhowell@gmail.com

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator-Dayron Reyes

Cell#786-448-8014;

E-mail: dayronreyes17@yahoo.com

Music Director-Michael Bleau; Cell# 502-341-8222;

E-mail: musicianmichael@bellsouth.net

Children's Ministry Coordinator-Kara Mattingly

Cell#270-505-9519;

E-mail: kara.mattingly1208@gmail.com

Pianist-Patsy O'Neal-Cell#502-930-5357;

E-mail: sing.peagreen@hotmail.com

Secretary-Teresa Allen*

E-mail: churchoffice@jtownumc.org

Nursery Attendant-Jessica McNeill*

Child Development Center Director-Jennifer Webster

Ph# 502-261-2867; E-mail: jumcdc@gmail.com

*Please call the church (502-267-1437) to reach these persons.