

BVUMC *Connection*

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

✘ ...and a Partridge in a Pear Tree ✘

Whatever day it is in this holiday season it seems there is a list! Even the songs of the holidays are lists! This time of year I am reduced to whatever is written on my list. My work schedule, my shopping needs, my everyday tasks, my hopes, my own wish list and of course my continuing list of prayer concerns and thanksgivings. Each day each list makes demands of me and at the end of it I often feel less than accomplished. For many of us as children, the threat of being “on” or “off” a ‘certain man’s’ list was enough to correct behavior and keep the giddy joy of the season at

bay. Is this familiar to any of you at this time of year?

The season is supposed to be about expectancy, about anticipation and hope, peace, love and joy. Where are these on your list?

This year, we are not going to look at another list in worship each week of Advent. Instead, there will be a word to focus us and then we’re going to think, worship and commit to practice the word in ways that might seem “Outside the Box” of our current understanding and expression of the holiday season!

We are also going to invite God to

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☼ God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel ☼

It's hard to believe that as I write this that Christmas is less than two months away, but they are calling for snow tomorrow so it must be true! You know, it always seems to me that beginning the day after Thanksgiving, everything sort of speeds up as we begin hurtling towards the big day. There are so many expectations and demands on our time during these days that it is very easy to forget that we are in the season of Advent, a time of prayerful waiting and reflection. I don't know about you, but it's pretty tough for me to hold onto that side of Christmas when I'm jumping into the crowd at the mall.

My hope for each of you is that you can find some quiet time during Advent to simply reflect on the one very special gift that we have already received; while we pause to celebrate the birth of Jesus we also live with the knowledge that he is already among us. Take advantage of what is being offered here at church. Let it be a place of peace and sanity and a place of warmth and fellowship. Indeed, Christmas is a season that brings many gifts, all wrapped in pretty paper and beautiful bows but none of these can compare with the gift of worshipping our God together each and every week...no matter what the season may be.

May our prayer for 2012 be like that of the prayer of Jabez; “That God would bless us indeed,

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Apportionments

WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR?

Your apportionment dollars are at work through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). For the people of eastern Turkey, this year's Eid-al-Adha feast will be celebrated in tents and temporary shelters after a 7.2-magnitude earthquake caused massive damage and casualties.

A prayerful and joyous occasion, the three-day Islamic feast marks the end of hajj and recalls the willingness of the patriarch Abraham to sacrifice his son and Allah's loving response. Children especially know Eid-al-Adha through the exchange of gifts and treats, and they customarily go from house to house, visiting family and neighbors to retrieve the presents. "The celebration of Eid-al-Adha is a dignity issue," said Muzaffer Baca, vice president of International Blue Crescent (IBC), a Muslim humanitarian aid organization. IBC is an implementing partner of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in Turkey, Somalia, and elsewhere.

More than 600 people are known to have died in the earthquake on October 23, the epicenter of which was in the town of Ercis, on the outskirts of the city of Van. Hundreds more people remained trapped underneath the rubble of more than 2,260 buildings that collapsed. More than 2,600 people were injured.

Baca was hopeful that the schools, livelihoods, and homes would be rebuilt. IBC, with support from UMCOR, has provided emergency relief for the earthquake survivors and already is beginning to turn its attention to long-term recovery in eastern Turkey. Thank you for faithfully pledging your dollars to the church. UMCOR receives support from UMC giving.

Thank You,

Julie Oren: Finance Chair

FINANCE REPORT FOR ENVELOPE GIVING <i>as of October 31, 2011</i>	
Monthly Pledged	\$14,191.67
Received October Pledges	\$13,182.76
Total Pledged (January - October)	\$141,916.70
Total Received (January - October)	\$129,684.99
Year to date Deficit	\$12,231.71
<i>Please Give Generously.</i>	
Apportionments	(\$8,457.00)

...Pear Tree

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be with us – in our worship, our work, our play and in our hearts as we prepare to welcome Jesus.

I invite you now, to put this word at the top of every list you make this season – Church! Attend worship, attend mid-week with Michelle/Oasis, or classes led by Kitty Schaefer and Pastor Kelly and bring those precious children to Sunday School so that they can prepare for the season as well.

Jesus inspires us to live, to create and to care outside of every prescribed box that oppresses or lacks simple joy. Together, let us bring Emmanuel (God with us) into every corner of our living and being this holiday season.

“The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.”

John 1:1-2 MSG

Joy-fully,

Pastor Kelly

...Emmanuel

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and enlarge our territory” bringing to us those who are yearning for a place to worship and a place where they are accepted and loved. We have such a great opportunity to be a beacon of light and hope here in our community. May it be so, this Christmas and every day!

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you and may you know the peace of Christ in the midst of these busy days.

Pastor Andy

Lay Speaker Training

THURSDAY NIGHTS: CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Metro Lay Servant Ministries announces a new class, Today's Disciple in Lay Servant Ministries. This is a foundational course that lays the framework for leadership in preaching, story telling, stewardship, youth ministries, caring ministries and many more areas. The course is being coordinated by Tom Bolton, a Lay Servant at First United Methodist Church of West Allis. The sessions will be led by Pastor Rachel Olson and several Lay Servants from the Milwaukee Metro Region.

The class targets new members, current members, and all leaders, including lay members to annual conference, lay leaders, council members, committee members, teachers, lay servants and aspiring lay servants. Topics include: servant and spiritual leadership; caring ministries; basic communication skills; sharing your faith; leading meetings; resources and opportunities.

The text used is **Lay Speaking Ministries, Participant's Book: Basic Course**, by Sandy Zeigler Jackson & Brian Jackson. There is no registration fee, but you will need to order the book from Upper Room, Amazon, or Cokesbury. You will need a Bible, notebook or journal, or a pen/pencil.

The class will be held at West Allis: Calvary United Methodist Church, 3177 S 107th St, West Allis, WI 53227-4123, and will run on Thursday nights at 6:30pm starting January 12 and continuing through February 9. The class is limited in size and preregistration is required. To register, contact Tom Bolton 414-744-7478, thomas_bolton2000@sbcglobal.net or visit <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dGVKRUZrLVZ1d1E5RVA1UUIISHVqbmc6MA>

Maternity Leave Volunteers Needed

Erin's maternity leave is just around the corner and your help is needed to staff the Church Office while Erin is home. We would like to ask for volunteers from mid December through February, a five to ten week span, to assist Pastor Kelly in the office until Erin and Baby are ready to come back to work. If you are unavailable for the entire time period, you can still volunteer when you are available.

All volunteers, please contact Erin at the Church Office or Nancy Grzesiak (Staff Parish) 414.481.5286. Thank you.

Holiday Alkathon

We will be the host site again this year for the South Side "Alkathon" which provides recovering folks with a safe and dependable place for relief and support through the holidays. Christmas Alkathon begins December 24 at noon and ends at midnight after Christmas Day. New Year's Alkathon begins on December 31 at noon and ends at Midnight after New Year's Day. Please lift the Alkathon planning team and all those who will make use of this program in your prayers.

CONNECTION ARTICLE DUE DATES

December holds Christmas and Erin's due date. In anticipation of both of these events, January Connection items will be due on **December 9th**.

This is a firm date, please be timely with your submissions. Articles may be submitted in paper form to Erin's mailbox, the basket outside of the office, or they can be emailed to officeadmin@bayviewumc.org.

Advent Study Opportunities

FOR WORSHIP AND REFLECTION TOGETHER:

Advent begins on November 27. Are you ready? Many of our Christmas preparations focus on boxes: gifts to be bought, wrapped, mailed...and returned. We say that Jesus is a gift, but what does that mean in our Christmas celebrations? This year, we will think "outside the box" as we change our focus from opening up presents on Christmas morning and opening ourselves to remembering the birth of Christ and the promise of Christ's return in new ways.

Advent Study

STUDY WITH KITTY

Sunday Mornings, 9:15am

Join us for an Advent study using **The Lord is Near** based on the works of Henri J.M. Nouwen. It is a series of daily devotions for Advent that we will use for discussion starting on Sunday, November 27 during the education hour at 9:30 in the Library. Books will be available that Sunday.

Open Up!

STUDY WITH PASTOR MICHELLE

Wednesday Evenings 6pm

We have heard the Christmas story so many times; we may forget they are stories of real people. Join Michelle as we "open up" the stories of the people who were a part of the Christmas story.

Alive Now! Hope

STUDY WITH PASTOR KELLY

Wednesday afternoons at 4pm

The Upper Room devotional "Alive Now" focuses us on the theme of Hope in November and December. You are invited to join in this one hour discussion of the theme and your journey through Advent. Please stay for the Oasis food fellowship followed by Michelle's class and a short service of worship.

Week 1	November 27	Open up...expectation
Week 2	December 4	Open up...acceptance
Week 3	December 11	Open up...family
Week 4	December 18	Open up...yourself

"Expecting the Word"

A WORDS MATTER DAILY DEVOTIONAL STUDY WITH KELLY

Women's Saturday Morning Study, 9am: FIXX Coffee House

Please join Pastor Kelly from 9-10am on Saturday mornings (starting December 3, and concluding on December 24) at FIXX Coffee House (3558 E Sivyer St, St. Francis). The women of the church are invited to come together to use this devotional, put together by the NCC Women's Ministries of the National Council of Churches, USA. "Words Matter is a project that explores the importance of paying attention to the words we use... Are our stories part of the Sacred Story? What makes a story "holy"? What is our responsibility to articulate for ourselves the words and images for God that speak to our own souls? This Advent devotional will explore these questions, offering a diversity of stories and meditations for contemplation during Advent." [from the Study's Introduction]

Other Advent Opportunities

FOR FELLOWSHIP:

Wednesday nights

MAKE IT CHURCH NIGHT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

- 4:00 Alive Now! Study with Pastor Kelly
- 5:00 Oasis – Join your church family for a meal
- 6:00 Band practice
Children's program rehearsal (see more below)
Adult class: Open up! with Pastor Michelle
- 7:00 Advent worship in the Sanctuary

Children's Service Rehearsal

On Sunday, December 11 (10:45 service) our children will help lead us in worship as we prepare to welcome Jesus. We will be leading the children in rehearsal of music and readings at 6:00 pm on November 30 and December 7. After rehearsal, the children will watch a movie until the worship time at 7:00. On December 14 and 21, the children are invited to continue to meet while adults are in band practice or in the adult class. Please direct any questions to Sally Warkaske at 418-8923 or swarkaske@wi.rr.com

Grief Share

“SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS”

We will be having seminars on Saturday, December 10th from 2 until 4pm and Tuesday, December 13th from 6:30 until 8:30pm. Grief Share will continue its regular meetings on Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

This seminar features practical suggestions and reassurances through video interviews with counselors, grief experts and ordinary people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Why the holidays are difficult
- What to expect
- How to prepare
- How to manage relationships and holiday social events
- Using the holidays to help you heal.

There is a charge of \$5 for the optional **Surviving the Holidays** guide book, which includes a 30-day devotional that will provide additional insights and ideas on holiday survival.

Advent Devotions

“The journey from Advent to Bethlehem is never easy. It is filled with lots of noise and many distractions, and some whom you will meet along the way aren't really going to Bethlehem.” This year's Advent devotion, **The True Gifts of Christmas** are available in the Gathering Space. A donation of \$1 is appreciated.



To register:

Call Allan Eckoldt at 414-483-1347 or 414-628-4671

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd

Wendy Boedecker

3rd

Kim Payne
Doris VanDervort

6th

Linda Balfanz

8th

Magdalena Bernal

9th

Jarod Felber

11th

Jose Bernal

14th

Dorothy Bauman
Doris Koss

18th

Maya Elliott
Paul Warkaske



19th

Elisabeth Comp

22nd

Arnold Balfanz
Jacqueline Felber
Maynard Pribek
Rodge Taylor

24th

Kirsten Decker

26th

Ron Grennier

30th

Angel Davis

Grateful for the Many Gifts

I am taking this moment of personal privilege to offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the many gifts and wonderful sentiments offered to me for my recent 50th birthday celebration. I am particularly grateful to Muriel Blackwood and Judie Liebenstein for offering such a perfect message to all of us in worship and to the SPR for the beautiful cake fellowship time.

As I wait to be inspired with the wisdom age brings, I simply say, "Thank You, dear friends of Bay View UMC for your love and care!"

Pastor Kelly

Prayers

Remember to pray for our outreach ministries to children and youth: Loving Start Preschool (led by Martha, Francine, Dawn and Joan) and Bay View High School Outpost (led by Dale).

Loving Start Preschool News

Did you smell the smells and hear the voices of a Thanksgiving Feast coming from the Preschool? We had a delicious feast of chicken nuggets, corn chips, fruit, muffins and carrots.

You have probably been hearing the sweet sounds of children's voices and seeing little reindeer, Santas, Marys and Josephs running around as we prepare for our Christmas Family Sing-Along. You are invited to join us on Monday, December 19th at 7pm in the Church Sanctuary. There will be a reception in the Dining Room following the Sing-Along.

We bought toys, clothes, and grocery store gift certificates for two families with the money our Loving Start Preschool students collected in our Giving Jars.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year from Loving Start Preschool.

Miss Martha, Miss Francine, Miss Joan, Miss Dawn



December 2011 Calendar

KEY:

CW: Cookie Walk
 LSP: Loving Start Preschool
 Outpost: Alternative High School
 SECA: South East Clergy Association
 SPR: Staff Parish Relations
 WF AA: Women's Freedom AA
 YAH: Young At Hearts

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 12pm Charge Conf 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	28 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	29 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30 Grief Share	30 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 4pm Alive Now! 5pm Oasis 6pm Praise Band 6pm Open Up! 6pm Kid's Rehearsal 7pm Advent Worship	1 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:30pm Faith Slingers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan	2 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	3 10am WF AA
4 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 9:15am Cookie Walk 10:45am Worship 2pm Holiday Concert 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	5 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6pm Music Meeting	6 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30pm Lay Ministry 6:30 Grief Share 7:15pm SPR Meeting	7 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 4pm Alive Now! 5pm Oasis 6pm Praise Band 6pm Open Up! 6pm Kid's Rehearsal 7pm Advent Worship	8 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:30pm Faith Slingers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan	9 Connection Items Due 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	10 10am WF AA 2pm Holiday Grief Share
11 TBD Bell Ringing 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 9:15am Baby Shower 10:45am Children's Service 7pm AA	12 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:30pm Finance Mtg	13 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6pm Trustees 6:30pm Grief Share 7pm Yarn Ministry	14 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 4pm Alive Now! 5pm Oasis 6pm Praise Band 6pm Open Up! 6pm Kid's Meeting 7pm Advent Worship	15 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:30pm Faith Slingers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan	16 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	17 10am WF AA
18 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 7pm AA	19 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 7pm District 28AA 7pm Preschool Prgm	20 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30 Grief Share	21 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 9am Connection 4pm Alive Now! 5pm Oasis 6pm Praise Band 6pm Open Up! 6pm Kid's Meeting 7pm Advent Worship	22 6:30pm Faith Slingers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan	23	24 Christmas Eve 10am WF AA 12pm Alkathon 4:30pm Family Svc. 10:45pm Worship
25 Christmas Day 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Alkathon ends at Midnight	26 Office Closed	27 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30 Grief Share 7pm Yarn Ministry	28 12:30pm Card Min. 6pm Praise Band	29 6:30pm Faith Slingers 7pm Keystone AA	30	31 New Year's Eve 10am WF AA 12pm Alkathon

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December

2011

We're on the web:
www.bayviewumc.org

Calendar Highlights

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Grief Share
Wednesdays	(See page 5)	
Saturdays	9am	Women's Devotional
Sundays	Worship and Education at Usual Times	Except December 25 and January 1
November 27	12pm	Church Conference
December 4	9am	Cookie Walk
December 11	9:15am	Erin's Baby Shower
	10:45am	Children's Service
	TBD	Wesleyan Bells at Clair Heights
	TBD	Wesleyan Bells at Meadowmere
December 24	4:30pm	Family Worship
	10:45pm	Worship
December 25	10:45am	Christmas Day Worship (one service)
January 1	10:45am	New Year's Day Worship (one service)

WINTER HOURS

8:15am Worship
9:15am Sunday School
10:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday- Thursday
9:00am - 2:30pm
Friday
9:00am - 2:00pm