

BVUMC *Connection*

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

Hope

Wow! What a year in the life of this amazing community of faith! We celebrated our 125th anniversary with a new photo directory, a new launch for ministry with children, confirmation with our new Bishop presiding and a new financial freedom with the full payment of the building mortgage! Thanks be to God!

And so, there is Hope.

But, what should we, can we hope for?

As we enter the season of Advent, hope is for the safe delivery of the baby, Jesus – first into the world and then into our hearts. Whether this will be a new revelation this Christmas or a renewing opportunity to celebrate your faith;

I Hope.

Sensing the looming frenzy of holiday activity and expectation we can become disconnected from the true gift of the season. No matter how

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The Perfect Christmas? Ha!

We all enter this season of Advent with our hearts and minds set once more on achieving the perfect Christmas. But rarely does everything come off as planned. So what else is new? We know that first Christmas was anything but smooth. No jingle bells, no festive parties, no glittering packages with flowery bows. It was pretty much a mess all the way around.

How would you like to be nine months pregnant when the IRS suddenly orders you to take a last-minute trip? Off to the next state, away from your doctor, your mother, your home, your well-stocked nursery...just so you and your husband can stand in line with hundreds of other disgusted people filling out paperwork and paying taxes.

This was not what you had in mind for your first experience of childbirth. And did we mention there was no place to stay? Your desperate husband finally arranges for a shed off of some back alley so at least you'll have a roof over your head.

And then, sure enough, the labor pains begin. "...and she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 (NRSV)

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Thankful Heart...

...Continued from Page 1

busy you get this Christmas, take time to breathe; I Hope.

Wondering ahead to our ministry for the coming year. How will you hear God's call to work together to bring others to know the love of God in a real way? How will you celebrate the gifts God blesses you with for use in the kin-dom here in this place and beyond? Let us be open to hearing God's call to be God's people with Hope.

Looking ahead to the new-year can offer us a chance for a new beginning. So, let go of your regrets, unmet goals and disappointments and Hope.

May the God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer and Friend and the Spirit that Guides us ALL be with you each day of this holiday season.

With Hope.

Pastor Kelly

The Perfect Christmas...

...Continued from Page 1

What Mary and Joseph only half-realized at the time...and what we often miss...is that Christmas is not about everything being perfect. It is rather quite the opposite...God stepping into a messed-up world with an offbeat approach to making things better.

There, my friends, is the Good News...that God continues to step into our lives with the intent of making all things new. And of course the greatest gift we can offer to anyone is this same willingness to help make things better. How we go about doing that will be as different as each one of us is one from another. That's what makes it so wonderful...every gift is different and every gift is precious. So may God bless you each and everyone as you give yourself to a world in great need of what you have to offer. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you ALL!

Pastor Andy

Cookie Walk & Music of the Season Open Rehearsal

Sunday, December 8th

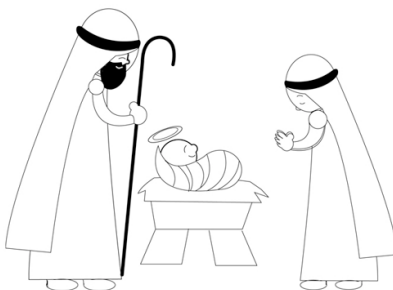
Cookie Walk 9am-4pm

We begin rehearsing music of the season at 12:30pm. Come listen and enjoy. As our music ministries prepare for Christmas they welcome you to join in!

Children's Worship Celebration

Sunday, December 15th

10:45am Service



Christmas Eve Services

**4:30pm Family Friendly
Candlelight Service**

**10:45pm Musical Prelude
& Candlelight Service**

Bread & Jam Expands!

This ministry welcomes ALL to participate!

There is work enough, on a weekly basis, for ALL to get involved!

Here's what the ministry needs looks like:

More BREAD & More JAM!

Every Sunday at 3pm Beginning December 1st

Volunteer Sign-Up is in the Gathering Space

EVERY Sunday December 1, 2013 – March 30, 2014 – We welcome our guests!

Anytime Sunday morning after 8:15am worship is finished:

- Make 100 peanut butter sandwiches

- Pack 100 lunches (for guest to take as they depart)

- Wrap silverware

- Set tables

After 10:45am worship:

- Food prep

Arriving to work at 2:45pm:

- Greeters

- Welcoming Prayer

- Servers (this is an "in the kitchen job and requires a little orientation)

- Table companions (you just eat and chat and enjoy our guests)

- Dessert servers (this is a great job for children/youth)

Arriving 3:45pm:

- Dining Room Clean Up

- Kitchen Clean Up

These tasks are not hard and require just a bit of your time.

Please pray about how you can give of your time and talent.

Take a moment to ask questions of the Bread and Jam board coordinating this pilot program. They are:

Mary Kitzman, Jan Colson, Yvonne Smith, Maya Elliott and Don Dimartino.



Good News, Great Joy

Sunday School Update: **Pay It Forward Project**

Thanks to everyone who donated sample sized toiletries and personal care items for this project! Sunday, December 8th while the rest of the church is abuzz with the Cookie Walk, our Sunday school will be upstairs together for "bag it" day during the Sunday School hour.

We will also be bagging treats for the holiday and everything will be accompanied by a special message written by the kids. Be watching for pictures from this fun day ahead.



Winter Camp! Winter Camp! Winter Camp!

The following are NOT reasons to skip camp:

- Kids are grown
- Kids are too small for a weekend away
- I don't have kids
- I just had ankle surgery

Everyone should consider Winter Camp 2014! UM Camp Lucerne (an easy 2 hour drive) is a camp setting that has all the comforts of home – just a better view! The mantra, “It takes a village” is lived out at camp as we all share chores, child care and leadership so that everyone has a great time! This is a weekend of fun, fellowship and play with members, friends and staff of the church with no other agenda than to enjoy our time together as church family. This weekend is affordable and extends to ALL kinds, sizes and definitions of family. Information and sign-up will be posted on the CUBE the first Sunday in November. This camp does fill quickly and fewer spots are available this year due to a cabin renovation so check your calendars and commit early! The weekend is January 17-19, 2014.

An optional pre-camp dinner invitation is available off-site on Friday evening. See Judie Liebenstein, our camping coordinator, with your questions and ask her to share about her 40+ years of winter camp experience!

Important Information About Connection

We have been informed that 2014 brings new standard mailing regulations. Upon researching these new regulations, we have found that purchasing the software required would be cost-prohibitive. Not purchasing the software would cost us almost as in fees and additional postage. The cost increase is at least 100% of what we already spend on mailing the Connection, which is already 1/10 of the office operating budget. The solution reached by Ad Council is one that will not only cut budget costs, but will save on our use of paper and will make the Connection more accessible to the majority of Bay View UMC members. Beginning in January, Connection will be available in the Gathering Space, will be emailed directly to members and friends on our list, added monthly to our Facebook page and our website, and will be mailed only to those who can not make it to church on their own or live out of state AND do not have access to electronic copies. In order to make sure you receive your copy of Connection, send your email address to the church office at officeadmin@bayviewumc.org. We will also have information slips available for you to fill out in the Gathering Space if you need them, and a form on the website for you to print out if you need it. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.

Also, I would like to thank everyone who has helped with mailing the Connection newsletter over the years. Your service to the congregation has been greatly appreciated! Thank you,

Paula - Office Administrator



PEP New Year Party January 5th Potluck

Hearty Bean Soup Mix

...for sale. \$5 by PEP to support outreach to the shut-ins and a tithe to apportionments. Please call Al Eckoldt (414) 483-1347 for questions.

Stewardship and Finance

When we Christians donate a pittance to God and lavish the remainder on ourselves, we become spiritual embezzlers. (If God Is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World by Philip Gulley, James Mulholland)

Congress has reauthorized the IRA Charitable Rollover for 2013! This means that if you are age 70 1/2 or older, and have a Traditional or Roth IRA, you can make a charitable gift from the IRA directly to your church or any other United Methodist Ministry before December 31, 2013. The gift may qualify for their required minimum distribution and you will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount given from their IRA to charity. If the required minimum distribution from an IRA is made directly to charity, is not taxable, but no charitable deduction allowed.

Also, a gift of appreciated stock (which is administered by Robert W. Baird without charge through the Foundation) does qualify for a deduction at its current value. Example, if you bought 100 shares of IBM at \$50, and it's now \$183, your charitable deductions is \$18,300. Assuming a 15% federal tax bracket, total tax savings, State and Federal would be \$3,060! If sold, the tax due would be at least \$1,800. There are limits on the deductions, but any amount limited is carried forward indefinitely, to be claimed in a future year.

Please contact us to learn how you can use this IRA rollover to fund the church operating budget, contribute to a special church fund or establish a permanent endowment fund to benefit your church in perpetuity. Call Julie at (414) 665-5201 for more information.

2013 Giving Record				
Fund	Needed Monthly	Received in November	Needed Yearly	Received so far
General	\$15,770	\$9,974	\$189,240	\$129,317
Building Debt	\$2,421	\$1,566	\$29,052	\$25,305
Apportionment	\$2,222	\$578	\$26,664	\$8,902

Christmas is coming and we are getting ready for our Christmas Family Sing Along on Dec 18th. We will be dressing up for pictures, learning songs and making gifts for our families. We plan to bake gingerbread men soon, so if you open the oven, don't let them run away! To learn about giving to others we will bring food for the Bay View Community Center food pantry and coins to help Bread and Jam. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season.



Miss Martha, Miss Dawn, Miss Mary and Miss Karen

December Birthdays

2nd

Wendy Boedecker

3rd

Doris Van Dervort

6th

Linda Balfanz

8th

Magdelana Bernal

11th

Jose Bernal

14th

Doris Koss



18th

Maya Elliott
Henry McJorin
Paul Warkaske

19th

Elizabeth Comp

22nd

Arnold Balfanz
Maynard Pribek
Rodge Taylor

24th

Kirsten Decker

31st

Marlyn Schroeder

Calendar 2013

December

KEY:

LSP: Loving Start Preschool
 Outpost: Alternative High School
 SECA: South East Clergy
 SPR: Staff Parish Relations
 Wesleyan: Wesleyan Bells
 WF AA: Women's Freedom AA
 PEP: People Enjoying People
 NA: Narcotics Anonymous

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Coffee 10:45am Worship 12pm Hanging of the Greens 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	2 8:45am LSP 7pm AA	3 8:45am LSP 10am AA 12:15pm LSP 5:30pm AA	4 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 3pm SECA Mtg	5 8:45am LSP 12:15pm LSP 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan Bells	6 8:45am LSP 5:30pm Suzuki Strings 7pm NA Mtg	7 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA
8 8:15am Worship 9am Cookie Walk 9:15am Sunday 10:45am Worship 12pm Music Rehearsal 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	9 8:45am LSP 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7PM Ad Council 7pm AA	10 8:45am LSP 10am AA 12:15pm LSP 5:30pm AA	11 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Card Ministry 7pm Quilt Ministry	12 8:45am LSP 12:15pm LSP 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan Bells	13 8:45am LSP 7pm NA Mtg	14 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA
15 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Coffee 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	16 8:45am LSP 7pm AA 7pm District 28 AA	17 8:45am LSP 10am AA 12:15pm LSP 5:30pm AA 7:30pm Core Team	18 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 6:30pm LSP Christmas Program	19 8:45am LSP 12:15pm LSP 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan Bells	20 8:45am LSP 5:30pm Suzuki Strings 7pm NA Mtg	21 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA
22 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Coffee 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	23 7pm AA	24 10am AA 4:30pm Candlelight Service 10:45pm Singing & Candlelight Service !<-12pm - Holiday Alkathon - 12am ->!	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 7pm Keystone AA	27 7pm NA Mtg	28 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA
29 8:15am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Coffee 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	30 7pm AA	31 10am AA New Years Eve !<-12pm - Holiday Alkathon - 12am ->!	1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA 7:30pm Wesleyan Bells	3 7pm NA Mtg	4 10am Grief Share 10:30am WF AA

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December
2013

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



Out of the Heart of our Community
ALL Are Welcome at Bay View
United Methodist Church

2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave
bayviewumc.org
(414) 744 - 4036

C e l e b r a t i n g 1 2 5 Y e a r s

FALL SERVICES:

8:15am Worship
9:15am Coffee Hour & Sunday
School
10:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday
Thursday, Friday
8:30am - 2:00pm

Wednesday
8:30am - 1:30pm