



BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTION Newsletter

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™



Clap On! Clap Off!

Remember those crazy table lamps that would turn on and off when you clapped your hands? My Gram loved those lights! She loved that she could make the light in the room come on without having to get up from bed or her chair. And, it just tickled her that she could have such a gadget in her home! How cool is it to get such pleasure out of turning on and off the lights?!

This Advent we'll be focusing on light once again. The weekly lectionary texts touch on the ever-present existence of darkness (the trials and temptations of our daily living) in the world balanced with the call for the faithful to yet again claim, with grateful hearts, God's presence in the midst.

Does this season "turn on" your faith and focus on Emmanuel – God-with-us? For some, this time of year brings a 'blue' mood because of all of the hype, loss or feelings of loneliness. 'Light' is off; not welcome or fun.

This season is about risking the belief that the birth of a Bethlehem boy many years ago brought an eternal infusion of light for ALL who dared to see him as a gift from God's own heart. It's about waiting with anticipation for light to come with hope, peace, love and joy not because we can just clap our hands to make light come but because by God's grace, no matter how good or bad our lives are going, light does come into every darkness!

This season I am asking: "Are we willing to help bear the light as a community? Are you willing to let light into your personal dark places?"

There is no Sunday morning adult class available – it's a busy month, friends!

Instead, I have invited Susan Troyer to put together an Advent devotional booklet for your use throughout the 4 weeks of Advent. It is

...continued on page 2

Contents

2	<i>Pastor's Columns</i>
3	<i>Pastor's Columns/FSF</i>
4	<i>Events</i>
5	<i>Events</i>
6	<i>Sunday School MinistrySpotlight</i>
7	<i>Events</i>
8	<i>Finance</i>
9	<i>Stewardship</i>
10	<i>LSP/Birthdays</i>
11	<i>Calendar</i>
12	<i>Contact Info</i>



Clap On...

continued from page 1...

my hope that this daily study combined with weekly worship; taking advantage of serving opportunities and educational programming will bring abundant Light to our community come Christmas Eve night!

The bright hearts in our faith family shine year 'round as we worship, serve and help one another and those who come in the doors. Willing hands and servant hearts "clap on" light in many dark spots of need and despair and I give thanks for each of you! Let us take great pleasure gathering together to cast the brightest light we can for God as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Bethlehem boy this Christmas!

May God richly bless each of you this Advent Season!

"It can seem odd that the origin of such a glittering holiday (Christmas) is in the birth of a child long ago, whose arrival had none of the comforts and pleasures we connect with Christmas today...Each Christmas season with all its fanfare gives us an opening to remember the strange and wonderful time when light split the night and God became one of us."

"Christmas: Light Splits the Night" from Infuse.

Pastor Kelly

I'm Trying! I'm Really Trying!

If you heard me recently promoting our Blue Christmas service you know that I'm one of those people for whom the holidays are often an emotional struggle. It is always a challenge to keep my negativity in check, especially as I try to balance between my "church work" and all the hustle and bustle of the secular celebrations.

But maybe there's hope for me yet. I am preaching the first three Sundays in Advent and as I looked at the scriptures for those Sundays I noticed a theme of "thankfulness" running through many of them and that is the message I hope to bring each Sunday, one of thankfulness and hopeful expectation.

As I write this we are just days away from Thanksgiving so maybe it would be good to remind myself, and to share with you, some of the many blessings I am thankful for. Of course, first and foremost is Julie. Her well-earned retirement in June has already taken us off on some new adventures but it is her day-to-day love and support that allows me to be who I am and for her above all else I am most grateful.

Then there's Pastor Kelly! Seriously, I am truly blessed to work with someone who has such a tremendous sense of vision. I have learned so much from her in the time we have been together and I treasure every Sunday we share worship together.

I am also so very grateful for our Memory Cafes. While not a "ministry" per se, it does provide a tremendous "lift" for those who attend, as well as those who serve as hosts. It is a simple gift but one that is so very special...and maybe that's the best kind of gift.

continued on page 3...

Trying...

continued from page 2...

When I think of our life here at church I can't help but say "thank you" time and time again for our wonderful musicians; for Al Eckoldt and Hertha Kornkven who give so much of themselves to others through their Grief Share program; for all the many volunteers who provide our Bread & Jam meal each week and finally for those who come faithfully every Wednesday morning to reflect on the week's scriptures. I know Pastor Kelly and I both gain so much from your voices and your understanding.

Certainly there is so much more to be thankful for, not the least of which are the many friends I have here in this place. So as I prepare to enter once more into the season of Christmas I'm going to try really, really hard to focus on all these blessings. May your Christmas season also be one of thankfulness and joy. Amen!

Blessings,

Pastor Andy

First Sunday Forums Calendar

Sponsored by Missions Team

These presentations happen in the Gathering Space or Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. each First Sunday of the month. Get your coffee and come listen and learn about area ministries, agencies and some of our own folks who actively serve others.

December 6th - Kim Schubring of Bay View Community Center (BVCC)

Kim is the Director of Family Programs at BVCC and will talk to us about the programs they offer.

January 3rd - Bread & Jam Free Meal Ministry: "a cooks perspective" - Don DiMartino

February 4th - Adults in Mission: Ann Pier and Mary Kitzman

March 4th - Gayle Burgess speaks on "One Great Hour of Sharing"

One Sunday Mission Challenge: Hand Sanitizer!

We are asking church members who are able to bring in a bottle or two of HAND SANITIZER on or BY December 6th so we can present them to Kim on that day.

From the BVCC website

"With a mission to develop individuals, provide support and strengthen families, the Bay View Community Center has been serving individuals and families in southeastern Wisconsin since 1978. We have programs and services for everyone - from newborns to the older adult!" The food in our pink collection box is donated to the BVCC Food Pantry.

Easy ways to support the center include: Register at iGive.com/bvcc so that when you make online purchases, a percentage will be donated back to the center. If you shop on Amazon, you can register for AmazonSmile and select the BVCC as your charity of choice. You can donate ink jet and laser ink cartridges as well. The center has an ongoing wishlist found at <http://www.bayviewcenter.org/index.php/support-us/wish-list/>

Examples of items on the list include BINGO prizes, AA Batteries and hand sanitizer.

Hanging of the Greens

Trimming of the tree and beautifying our church with garlands and bows will be Saturday, December 5th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We need anyone who could give an hour or more to get the church ready for the Christmas season. Come and enjoy some fellowship and hot cider while we hang the greens and make the church sparkle. Please sign up on The Cube.



Common Ground

We will be hosting the Common Ground strategy team in our Gathering Space on Saturday, December 19th from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.



Children's Worship Celebration

Sunday, December 20th
10:45am Service

Men's Breakfast

With Thanksgiving being on a Thursday and all the hustle and bustle of the season already upon us I decided it would be best to skip November and meet next on Thursday, December 10th. The usual place and time...9:00 a.m. at Castillo's, 5656 S. Packard Ave. (all the construction on Packard is finished!). Hope you can make it!

Caroling

Pr. Andy

We have once again been invited to come and sing Christmas carols at The Polonaise center at Wilson Commons, 1500 W. Sonata Dr. (just off S. 13th St. and south of Howard Ave.) at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 16th. This is a great way to celebrate the season and I have always felt this is both the simplest and the greatest gift we can offer to anyone. And, as I also always say...anyone can sing Christmas carols...even me!

So please add your name to the signup sheet on The Cube. This is a fun night and the residents really appreciate our being there.



Secret Angel Gift Shoppe is Ramping Up!

Saturday, December 5th : 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



The second annual Secret Angel Gift Shoppe is moving to the second floor! We got great feedback last year and now we need your help to make this new vision come to life!

If you have some daytime/evening hours this week (week of November 30th), a little creativity, and a love for Christmas and children then please sign up to help prepare, advertise and work this event.

We will need:

- Event Hosts (greeters, cashiers, wrappers)
- Shopping Companions (angels) shopping day
- Gift Supply (elf) Workers shopping day
- Holiday Café Workers/Bakers
- Elevator Operators
- Character Support (Santa, Rainbow Randa)

Sign up is on The Cube.

Everyone is also invited to donate! Please bring items to the church office. We need:

- Cello tape, holiday gift wrap, assorted gift boxes, white tissue paper
- Items for Purchase - suitable for a child to gift a family member or peer friend on a child's budget:
- New items
- Items in great condition (a great "re-gift" opportunity)
- Crafted items

9th Annual Cookie Walk

Attention all Cookie Bakers and Cookie Eaters!

Our Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 13th from 9:00a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Bakers

Bakers will want to sign up in the Gathering Space. Make 9 to 10 dozen of each variety. Bring your cookies to the Gathering Space on Saturday, December 12th between 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you have questions about being a cookie walk baker, talk to Kitty Schaefer.

Cookie Eaters

For all cookie eaters, the price will be \$9/pound. You pick the cookies you want. You would be surprised by the number of cookies you get in a pound. And they keep well, so if you don't eat them all right away, save some for your holiday guests. What would Christmas be without a cookie?

There will also be gifts to buy from Go Earth Imports, a fair trade company, in the Library, special treats made by our members, and bean soup mix made by PEP club. The proceeds from our cookie walk go to a variety of neighborhood programs. This is a special day for BVUMC - we hope you can join us!

Kitty Schaefer

Sunday School Update

by Pastor Kelly, Miss Debbie, Miss Judie

The kids are finishing up the "Blessings and Birthright" unit and are moving ahead into preparations for their special expression of Christmas in worship on Sunday, December 20 at 10:45 a.m. Parents please watch for the early December mailing with completed work and use it to talk with your kids about the unit they just finished. Also included will be info about upcoming events and scheduling.

The "Methoduck of the Month" to Begin with the New Year: Revamped!



Rather than a family program it'll be an ALL kid project completed here at church. We're going to add this project to the Kids Church Rotation during the 10:45 a.m. worship hour. Kids will choose a name from among those celebrating birthdays that month. We'll then find that person and do an on-the-spot interview and photo shoot with the presentation of the 'duck-of-the-month' given to that lucky birthday person! The point is for kids to get to know their church family a bit better, little by little. And, visa versa!

Ministry Spotlight

by Katy Meyer

Behind the Scenes at Kids Kloset

I had the opportunity to interview Arlene Miller, one of 3 main volunteers at the Kids Kloset clothing outreach ministry at St Luke's Episcopal Church in Bay View. Kids Kloset has been serving families for over 25 years. When asked how Kids Kloset began Arlene states, "One priest asked one girl if she could make a layette and she said yes... and it just snowballed from there!" Arlene credits Dolly Seidel as an amazing organizer who set up the system of sorting clothes by season and size. She reports that use of Kids Kloset this year is "a little slower" (usual is 500-600 per year), and that an average year includes distributing 80-90 layettes. Layettes for newborns include bottles, clothing, blankets, body care, starter wipes and diapers, etc. Kids Kloset offers families the opportunity to fill one bag of clothing for each child. There is no cost to the families for this service, and they can visit every 4 months with an ID. Kids Kloset has no eligibility requirements.

Arlene reports that clothing in sizes 0-14 is accepted, but they are especially in need of boys and girls clothing sizes 4-8, as well as jackets, boots and shoes in good condition. She adds, "We are always short on socks and underwear!" They also have a lady who is able to replace zippers if needed. The largest donation to the program comes annually after the Greendale Rummage Sale, explains Arlene. If you don't have clothes to donate, consider shopping rummage sales or secondhand stores for items to share with Kids Kloset. Items can be new, used or handmade and should be clean. If you would rather share your time, volunteers are welcome to help sort clothes. Kids Kloset is open Monday 12-3, Tuesday 10-1, and Wednesday 12:30 -3:30pm, but closed when Milwaukee Public schools close. LOOK FOR our Kids Kloset wicker collection basket in the Gathering Space to make your donation!

Christmas/New Year's Church Office Hours

Thursday, December 24th - 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 31st - 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25th - Closed

Friday, January 1st - Closed

Christmas Eve Services

4:30pm Family Friendly

Candlelight Service

10:45pm Candlelight Service



Single Service

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27th

9:45 a.m.

Special Announcement!

Bread & Jam Needs YOU!

Serving 80+ people every week!

See Volunteer Info on the Back Cover



Winter Camp! – January 15–17, 2016

This great weekend happens at Lake Lucerne near Neshkoro, WI. “Camping” means heated cabins with bedding/towels furnished, flush toilets and hot showers (2ea/cabin) and camp staff prepared meals. This weekend is not about “roughing it” but rather about savoring time with our extended church family. Indoor and outdoor activities: planned and spontaneous, group and individual, spiritual and just good fun, it’s all a part of the time we spend at this beautiful UM Wisconsin Camp. This long-standing weekend tradition (over 50 years!) has room for YOU and welcomes YOUR participation. Check out the sign up just outside the center door entrance to the Sanctuary. See Judie Liebenstein for questions and more detailed information.



TOPS Club, Inc. - New Small Group Opportunity

Alyssa McNamee - Outreach Assistant

This is NOT a weight loss program! This is a non-profit, lifestyle group that encourages the wellness of body, mind, and spirit in the company of your friends. What a great gift to give yourself this holiday season! Alyssa McNamee will be here on Sunday, December 6th at 12pm in the Gathering Space to discuss TOPS. ALL are invited to attend, listen, and ask questions.

Finance Team and Pastor Kelly Invite You to #GivingTuesday

Dear Church –

Questions of conscience come around each year at this time regarding how to give with a heart for justice and how to make holiday spending make a difference.

The Missions Team has a table below their board in the Gathering Space with catalog ideas from Habitat and World Vision. Below are two other internet options through our connectional system that allow your gift purchasing to serve others in need.

Pr. Kelly

How will you put Christ's love into action to change lives as part of UMC #GivingTuesday?

Giving Tuesday is Dec. 1. In this season of giving gifts to family and friends, Giving Tuesday affords us the opportunity give to help those we may not even know and make a difference in their lives.

For some, when electricity goes out, it's an annoyance. You can't watch TV. You have to conserve the battery life on your phone or laptop.

Now imagine you're trying to deliver a baby or perform surgery.

In many parts of the world, where electricity is inconsistent at best, it's common for doctors to operate by candlelight. Inexpensive solar-charged lights could literally save a life.

United Methodist Communications' ICT4D (Information and Communications Technologies for Development) Church Initiatives works to put such life-changing devices in the hands of those who need them.

Visit umcom.org/givingtuesday and consider giving through The United Methodist Church. For just a few dollars, you could be the light in someone's life. Find resources and toolkits to help you change the world by promoting an Advance project.

When you **make an [online donation on Dec. 1](#)**, you will “Activate Love. Transform Lives. Change the World.” As always, when you give through The Advance, 100 percent of your gift directly supports the ministry you designate; overhead costs are covered through other channels. Every gift made online through The Advance at umcmmission.org/give on Dec. 1, 2015 will be **matched up to \$1 million.***



**Global Ministries will allocate matching funds dollar for dollar up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online on Dec. 1, 2015, between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. CT. A maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds. A project may receive a maximum of \$25,000 in matching funds.*

Support JustPeace on #GivingTuesday

Your donation will be matched \$1 for \$1, up to \$150,000.

We're excited to announce that JustPeace has joined the #GivingTuesday movement. Coinciding with the Thanksgiving Holiday and the kickoff of the holiday shopping season,



#GivingTuesday inspires people to take collaborative action to give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they support and help create a better world.

Stewardship Team Announces 2016 Pledge Drive a Success!

The Stewardship Team thanks everyone for a successful 2016 Pledge drive. The campaign is instrumental in completing the 2016 church budget, which was approved and presented at the Church Conference on Monday, November 16. Highlights of the campaign include :

- Enormous amounts of prayer and consideration by every church member and friend.
- Increase from last year of 7 new pledging families .
 - * General envelope pledges – \$139,082.68
 - * Apportionment pledges – \$23, 480.00

This will give us the impetus needed for the work, ministry and mission of the church for the coming year.

Julie Oren - Finance Team Lead

2015 November Giving Record						
Fund	Rec'd This Month	Needed Monthly	(Short)/ Over This Month	Rec'd This Year	Needed This Year	(Short)/ Over This Year
General	\$15,201	\$17,851	(\$2,830)	\$154,316	\$196,366	(\$42,050)
Apportionment*	\$1,826	\$2,361	(\$535)	\$23,807	\$25,971	(\$2,164)
Totals	\$16,847	\$20,212	(\$3,365)	\$178,123	\$222,337	(\$44,214)

*Though not collected, the total apportionment of \$2361.00 was paid this month

Thank you to all who bought cookie Dough.
Orders will come in on Dec. 15th.

Christmas is coming and we are getting ready for our Christmas Family Sing Along on Dec 16th. We will be dressing up for pictures, learning songs. We plan to make gifts for our families and look forward to hearing many Christmas stories. 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 peanut butter and jelly to help Bread and Jam. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Miss Martha, Miss Debbie, Miss Mary and Miss Karen, Miss Nicole

LOVING START
PRESCHOOL



Birthdays

December 2nd

Wendy Boedecker

December 3rd

Andrew Kosanke
Doris Van Dervort

December 6th

Linda Balfanz

December 8th

Magdalena Bernal

December 11th

Jose Bernal

December 14th

Doris Koss

December 18th

Maya Elliott
Henry McJorin

December 19th

Elizabeth Comp
Mitch Wagner

December 22nd

Arnold Balfanz
Rodge Taylor

December 24th

Kirsten Decker

December 31st

Marlyn Schroeder

December 2015

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
 ESCP: East Side Chamber Players
 FSF: First Sunday Forum - Missions
 LSP: Loving Start Preschool
 NA: Narcotics Anonymous
 PEP: People Enjoying People
 SECA: South East Clergy
 SPR: Staff Parish Relations
 WBC: Wesleyan Bell Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 8:15am Worship 9:15am Coffee Hour 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	30 8:45am LSP 6:30pm TOPS Wellness 7pm AA Mtg	1 8:45am LSP 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 7:15pm SPR	2 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 12:30pm SECA	3 8:45am LSP 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm AA Mtg 7:30pm WBC	4 8:45am LSP 4:30pm Suzuki Strings 7pm NA Mtg	5 8:30am Secret Angel Gift Shoppe 10:30am AA Mtg 1pm Hanging of the Greens
6 8:15am Worship 9:15am Coffee Hour 9:15am FSF 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12pm TOPS 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	7 8:45am LSP 7pm AA Mtg	8 8:45am LSP 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 6pm Trustees Mtg 6:30pm Praise Band	9 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Cards 6:30pm Craft Club	10 8:45am LSP 9am Men's Breakfast 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm AA Mtg 7:30pm WBC	11 8:45am LSP 7pm NA Mtg	12 10:30am AA Mtg
13 8:15am Worship 9am Cookie Walk 9:15am Coffee Hour 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 2pm Grief Share 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	14 8:45am LSP 6pm Finance Mtg 7pm AA Mtg	15 8:45am LSP 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	16 8:45am LSP 10am Bible Study 6:30pm LSP Christmas Program	17 8:45am LSP 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm AA Mtg 7:30pm WBC	18 8:45am LSP 4:30pm Suzuki Strings 7pm NA Mtg	19 10:30am AA Mtg 2:30pm Common Ground Mtg
20 8:15am Worship 9:15am Coffee Hour 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	21 8:45am LSP 1pm Memory Café 7pm District 28 AA 7pm AA Mtg	22 8:45am LSP 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	23 8:45am LSP	24 4:30pm Candlelight Service 10:45pm Candlelight Service Christmas Eve Holiday Alkathon 12pm Dec 24 - 11:59pm Dec 25	25 7pm NA Mtg Office Closed Christmas	26 10:30am AA Mtg
27 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	28 7pm AA Mtg	29 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	30	31 New Year's Eve Holiday Alkathon 12pm Dec 31 - 11:59pm Jan 1	1 7pm NA Mtg Office Closed New Year's Day	2 10:30am AA Mtg

BAY VIEW United Methodist Church

2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Phone: 414-744-4036
Fax: 414-744-4928
Email: officeadmin@bayviewumc.org

Pastor Kelly Fowler

Phone: 414-378-4012
Email: pastorkelly@bayviewumc.org

Pastor Andy Oren

Phone: 414-744-3927
Email: pastorandy@bayviewumc.org

December
2015

We're on the web:
bayviewumc.org

Looking to Volunteer?

Use the QR Code
OR click the
button below
OR contact
Jan Colson



== Hope is here. ♥ Love is here. ♡ Family is here.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAYS:
8:15am Worship
9:15am Coffee Hour
10am Sunday School
10:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday
8:30am - 1:30pm
Tuesday through Friday
8:30am - 2:00pm