



From Pastor John

We're to the season of Advent and for all the things that are changing, there are still many things that remain the same. We are still in a season of preparation and expectation. I know many of us are struggling with changes related to work, holiday parties and fun, school, and even church.

This is normally one of the biggest times of year for us. I was looking back at the past few years and before I'd have a big list of all the things going on and all of the different ways that we can give to others.

We have fewer activities than normal, how we can give has changed some, and we're still figuring out what worship is going to look like through this season. That being said, this is an opportunity for us to figure some things out. Our desire is to reach out for the things that we know, and yet many of those things are beyond us right now. Instead, now is the time to reach out to someplace different.

Mary and Joseph found themselves in a similar place. In a normal time they would have been married and then started a family. However, they had the competing burdens of Mary being pregnant before they were officially married, and then needed to travel to another town right before the time she was supposed to give birth.

I imagine they did like a lot of us are doing right now and they grumbled....probably a lot, about all of the things that they wish they could be doing in that moment. But they still found themselves in a stable laying their newborn son in a manger.

Our journey through this season may, or may not, feel as dramatic as theirs. What we can do to make our way through it is to lean in. To know that even if we don't understand how, God is at work. Now is the time to rediscover what old traditions mean, let go of those that have lost their meaning, and to discover what is new.

For the Church, the new year started last Sunday (11/29). This is our time to live in a new world, with a God that knows our struggles and challenges, but who still walks with us each day.

Peace,
Pastor John

Monthly Calendar

Mondays

7am-7:30am Scripture Reading on KDWD 99.1

Tuesdays

4pm Centering Prayer Live on our [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/marcelineumc/live) facebook.com/marcelineumc/live

Fridays

7am-7:30am Scripture Reading on KDWD 99.1

Sundays

Online Worship on [our website](https://marceline.com/worship) marceline.com/worship (click on the link for Sunday's date)

9am Facebook Worship facebook.com/marcelineumc

9am Worship in the Sanctuary (when in person)

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary (when in person)

Other Church Events

12/3 3pm: Christmas Program Practice

12/7 3pm-5pm: The Food Pantry is open in the Fellowship hall

12/12: [Salvation Army Bell Ringing](#) click link or email Pastor John johnpinkstonii@gmail.com

12/13: CAKE Christmas Program (watch for more details)

12/21 3pm-5pm: The Food Pantry is open in the Fellowship hall

12/24: Christmas Eve Service in Ripley Park (time TBD)

12/25: Christmas Day

12/31: New Year's Eve

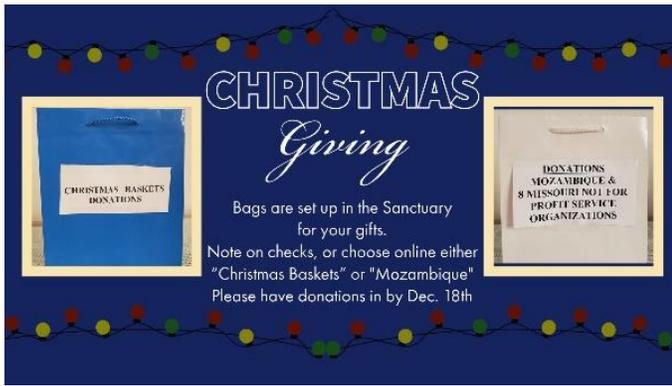
Office Hours

Beth: Call the office and she can meet you at the church

Pastor John: Monday all day, others by appointment (or stop in)

Christmas Program & Christmas Eve

Things will look a little different this year. Our Christmas Program is set for Dec. 12th and our kids and youth have been working hard on recording it. We're hoping that part of it will be live if possible. Christmas Eve this year will be outside at Ripley Park. It will be a different service than we're used to, but still a good night to be in worship. Watch for the time to be announced in the next week or so.



Our annual "March to the Manger" will be handled differently this year due our safety restrictions. The "March" is when the congregation is invited to donate money to help our covenant church, Betula United Methodist Church, in Mozambique. Our goal each year is \$1,000. This year there will be a sack in the back of the sanctuary where you can leave donations or you can go to our [online giving](#) and choose Mozambique from the drop down. Any money beyond the \$1,000 will be split between the eight Missouri based service agencies we donate to through our Sharing Table we normally hold throughout the summer and at Christmas. We were not able to hold the Sharing Tables this year due to the pandemic, so this is our way of donating to the agencies this year.

We have seven families this year for our Christmas baskets. If you would like to give, you can put your donations in the bag in the Sanctuary, or [give online](#) and choose Christmas Baskets from the drop down.



Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. What an opportunity we have to practice that with our annual UMC Giving Tree event. The following was listed by our local school nurse as items of need: They are:

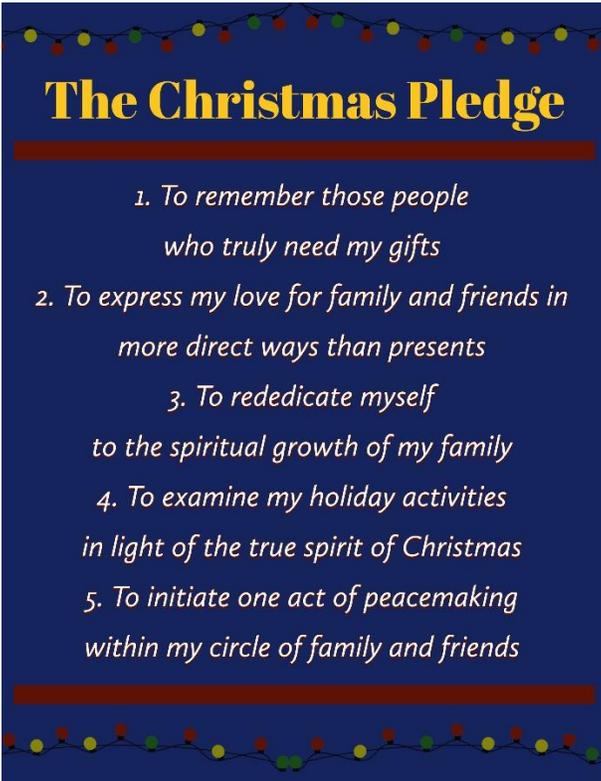
- no show socks
- girls underwear sizes 4-6
- boys briefs sizes 4-6
- sweatpants: blue or black
- gloves: blue or black
- Kleenex
- Chapstick
- shampoo
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- deodorant
- lice kits
- "clear" water bottles
- gift cards to Dollar General & Pengers

Due to Covid concerns, boxes will be placed at both keyed entrances to the church for drop off of items beginning November 29th. If you are unsure of the code to the doors, contact Pastor John



We're ringing the bell at Walmart in Brookfield on Dec. 12 from 10am-7pm. We're looking for volunteers to ring and help our community. Marceline receives a lot of help from the Salvation Army through the course of the year because of the generous donations that come through bell ringing. Add your name to the time(s) that you can ring by clicking on the link below.

[Salvation Army Sign-Up](#) or contact Pastor John johnpinkstonii@gmail.com 816-520-7841



The Christmas Pledge

1. *To remember those people*

who truly need my gifts

2. *To express my love for family and friends in*

more direct ways than presents

3. *To rededicate myself*

to the spiritual growth of my family

4. *To examine my holiday activities*

in light of the true spirit of Christmas

5. *To initiate one act of peacemaking*

within my circle of family and friends

Through our Advent season this year, you're invited to take part in the Christmas Pledge. This is to help us work through this time of year in a new way as we navigate its challenges.

To help with that, we have a number of resources to work with us through this season and to grow deeper in our faith.

You can find all of these by clicking on the link below.

[The Christmas Pledge](http://marceline.com/blog) marceline.com/blog

Birthdays

1 - Parker Wellman
2 - Michael Eakins
2 - Emanuel Moore
3 - Colby Sims
3 - Tom Hoover
6 - Steve Lake
7 - Kris Sims
8 - Jim Tolliver
8 - Vicki Helton
9 - Naomi Sparks
9 - Alex Schoenfelt
10 - Hollie Paalhar
10 - Beth Teeter
10 - Shaunna Stallo
13 - Beth Anders
14 - Josh Moore
14 - Scott Anders

14 - Holly Burk
16 - Kimi Brooks
17 - Emma Sheerman
17 - Bailey Bennett
18 - Laurel Curry
19 - Linda Munson
23 - Leonard Langwell
23 - Adrianna Graves
24 - Carol Logue
25 - Inez Johnson
27 - Bailee Gerdes
30 - Cole Hoover

Anniversaries

4 - Dan & Bonnie Brooks
13 - Jeff & Shelly Huffman
23 - Richard & Mary Beth Switzer
27 - John & Donna Moore

SIGN-UP TO HELP PROVIDE PART OF A MEAL FOR CELEBRATE RECOVERY

January 11: Eleanor Ravens-1. 3.	2.
February 8: Mary Beth Switzer-1. 3.	2.
March: Georgia Smith-1. 3.	2.
April: Kathy Stark-1. 3.	2.
May: Beth Anders-1. 3.	2.
June: Carol Klingsmith-1. 3.	2.

Celebrate Recovery

Beginning in January, 2021, our church is helping provide dinner once a month for Celebrate Recovery held at the Assembly of God. We'll take a meal on the second Monday of the month from January through June. There are volunteers from our church to be in charge each month. They each need three volunteers to help to provide a portion of the meal and/or to deliver the food.

All food needs to be at our church kitchen by 4:45 on the assigned Monday. Even if you cannot provide items the day of the meal, there will be opportunities for you to bring food that does not need to be refrigerated or items that can be stored in the refrigerator prior to the delivery day and time.

If you are willing to help, please click on the link, or contact Eleanor Ravens eleanorravens123@gmail.com

[Meal Sign-Up](#)

The person in charge of that month's meal will contact you ahead of time to discuss what is needed and how many people we will be serving. The Celebrate Recovery team appreciates our willingness to support their important service to citizens of our community.

Prayer List

Ongoing Concerns

Covid-19 Emergency, Youth, Young Adults, newcomers, Victims of Violence, Gary Taylor, Billy Acten Family, Kenny Bailey, Dick Mull Family, Rev. Sue Lambert, Angie Builder, Pat Magee, Kyle Lake, Pearl Miller, Zoe Tolliver, Amber Carmichael, Nathan Cook, Lynn Bishop, Sarah Cavanah (married to Brad), Bobby & Rita Peterson, Joan Sportsman, Shane Cavanah, Dan Brooks, Sandy Hoskins, Wayne Heins, Ruth Farris, Linda Korte, Mary Saylor, Tom Hoover, Lynn Fellmann, Mark & Linda Ewigman, C.A. Lain, Steve Yates, Thomas Wellman
Economy, Families, Nation Leaders

Pioneer

Mabel Worley, John Haynes, Jim Payden

Bristol Manor

Annie George, Shirley Coram

Lenior Woods

Ed McLachlan

Military Service

Patric Munson, Nick Cain, LTC John Casey Welch, Tyler Nanneman, Jeffrey Tucker, Kelly Tucker, Brett Wellman, Brandon Wellman, Heath Floray, Steve Graves, Michael Pyrtle, William Leukenotte, Kerry Lowrey