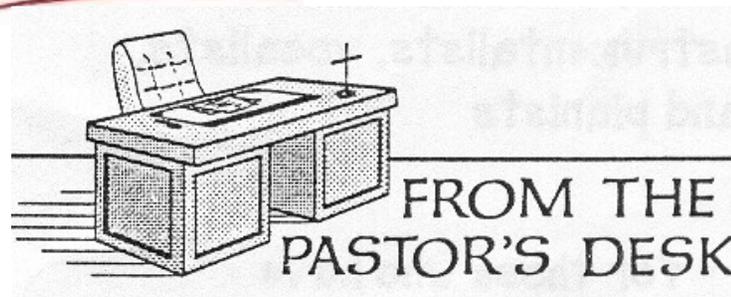


PLACE
STAMP
HERE



January 2018 Issue



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite writers is Anne Lamott. As we bid farewell to 2017 and enter the New Year, I find her words about St. Francis to be immensely beneficial. In her book, *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy* (from the UMW Reading List), Ms. Lamott relates St. Francis' belief that we must first do what is necessary. After doing what is necessary, we move on to what is possible. This challenged me to reflect on how I spend my time: do I just do what I must, what is necessary? Or do I seek to also accomplish what is possible? But Lamott says St. Francis doesn't stop there. She writes, "When we do what is necessary and then do what is possible, we find ourselves doing what is impossible."

How do we accomplish that which is impossible? We walk, as St. Francis did, with God, one step at a time. We do what is necessary, really necessary to keep living. But we also follow where God leads us doing what seems to be possible. This will often take us to places where we find that which seems impossible. What then? When I could no longer do all that needed to be done for my father in his final months, God led me to Home Instead. They came in to do what I could not. In fact, they improved his quality of life in ways that I did not think possible. It seemed that God showed me a way to accomplish the impossible as I followed along doing the necessary and then the possible.

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From the Pastor's Desk continued

As we enter 2018, we re-evaluate our priorities and where we find ourselves in life. It's interesting to me to put what I do into categories of that which is necessary versus possible versus impossible. I want to spend time in life doing more than just the necessary! There has to be more to life than that. Mark 10:27 says, "Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. *Everything is possible with God.*" We are humans and tend to look at life through our human perspective. God sees so much more! God sees a way where we see the impossible.

Perhaps, for you, 2017 has been a year of achieving the impossible. Or perhaps you have struggled just to do the necessary. For most of us, there have been moments at each end of that spectrum, and many in between. The Good News is that we can face the uncertainties of the future with the confidence that God goes with us. There will be moments of struggle to do just the necessary and moments of surprising success. Yet when we face those moments with God and following God's leading, we will find ourselves moving from necessity, to possibility, and even into accomplishing the impossible, because, "Everything is possible with God." I pray that brings you reassurance as you ponder what the future year holds.

As we worship together each week, we will endeavor to follow God's leading that we might, as a church, move beyond necessity to accomplish what others would say is impossible. I am assured that God has "something new" in store for us! Please continue to pray daily the Breakthrough prayer for our congregation. Please pause to pray it now:

Abundant God, we are bursting with anticipation to see the new that you have in store for Faith Church and our community. *Thunder forth your will for fresh possibilities!* You say, "See, I am about to do something new. It begins now! Don't you see it?" (Is. 43:19) Lord, help us to see clearly the next steps on your path. Amen.

In Grace,

Pastor Joy

Redeeming the Time

The bible tells us in Ephesians 5:15-17, Therefore watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise: redeeming the time, because days are evil. Therefore don't be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And Colossians 4:5-6 tells us, walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each other.

Every year in December we give away free calendars for the new year and the people that receive them are pleased to have them. Some will open it up to check a special date to find out what day it falls on. Its kind of funny sometimes because it seems like we just gave them 12 more months to look forward to.

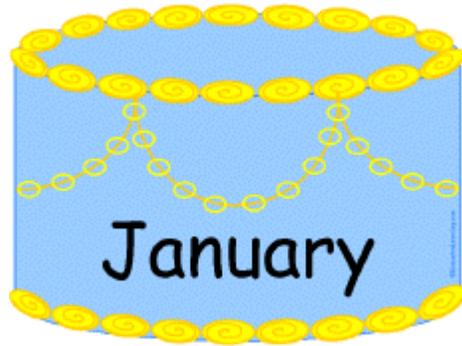
As I think about it that way I decided to look into God's word about how I should use the time He gives me and how I should live and think daily. These two scriptures really got my attention, not just because of what has taken place in my life lately but how at the age of 66 I am still learning what God's will is in my life and how I can better serve Him as I become his hands and feet. I have always felt inadequate to share my faith but as I have learned to rely on His strength in the Holy Spirit within me and not on my own doubts that I am able to redeem the time He has gifted me to enjoy, to share and to be thankful of that gift of time. Every day is a gift from God, that's why we call it the "Present".

Don Wolfe

Isaiah 43:19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Birthdays

Jan 2—Nick Howard
Jan 11—Lari Harper
Jan 23—Phil Kelton
Jan 26—Don Covert



Ezekiel 11:19 *I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.*

Anniversaries

Jan 10—Don & Vicky Wolfe
Jan 25—Jeremy & Amanda Hatfield



Servant Schedule



January 7
Don & Roberta Covert,
Randy & Jeri Schreiber
Liturgist: Marsha Kelly
Communion Stewards:
Mark & Thea Crawmer,
Randy & Jeri Schreiber

January 14
Jim & Barb Tignor,
Chris & Heather DeGarmo
Liturgist: Barb Wolfe

January 21
Mark & Thea Crawmer,
Doug Adams, Bradley Adams
Liturgist: Roberta Covert

January 28
Nick & Cindy Howard,
Floyd & Pat Tolle
Liturgist: Larisa Harper



Newsletter Deadline

February Newsletter Deadline:
January 24 at noon.

E-mail submissions to:
fumcza@gmail.com, and be sure to
put "for February newsletter" in your
subject field.



United Methodist Women

Eventide Circle

Eventide Circle will not meet in January. The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 1st at Helen Purcell.

New Hope Circle

Members of New Hope Circle will meet at 6:30PM on Sunday, January 14th. Susie Dunlap will host.

Faith's Head Start Project

Head Start began meeting here in September of this year. They have 17 children, three teachers, and one aid. As our Breakthrough Team continued daily to pray our church's Breakthrough Prayer, we felt strongly that God has placed these 21 people in our building for a reason. Phrases like, "Thunder forth your will for fresh possibilities!" and, "See, I am about to do something new. It begins now! Don't you see it?" have impressed upon the Team that we are called to offer more than space to these folks and their families. Knowing that Head Start families are almost always on the lowest end of the income scale and that they struggle with "food insecurity", and after conversation with their teachers and administration, we have found three ways to be involved and supportive of the little ones and their families:

Breakthrough Prayer

Abundant God, we are bursting with anticipation to see the new that you have in store for Faith Church and our community.

Thunder forth your will for fresh possibilities!

You say in your word,

"See I am about to do something new.

It begins now! Don't you see it?" (Is. 43:19)

Lord, help us to see clearly the next steps on your path. Amen.



Lamentations 3:22-23 *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

Doug Adams
Kay Baker
Jim Boetcher
Sherry Brooks
John & Kim Cain
Clinton Cox
Karen Curtin
Shannon Davis
Bobby Dudley
Marlene Farley
Matthew Farus
Dalton Fitz
Chris Flynn
Chad Foster
Daniel Ghrist
Gayle Ghrist
Jim Grosscup
John Herman
Steve & David Inman
Jeannita Johnson
Ron Kelly
Robbie Mack & Family
Peggy McGee
Don Miller
Paul Mills
Jimmy Moore
Joesy Moore
Bill & Judy Muck
James Osborne
Joey & Sam Osborne & Family
Debbie Paul
Jim Porter

Jeri Quinn
Bonnie Reichenbach
Lori Rivercomb
Todd Sands
Carole Sayre
Ronald Shaffer
Heather Shepherd
Shellie Siefert
Stimpert Family
Family of Pam Thomas
Erin Watts
Don West
Tara Wilson
Vicky & Don Wolfe
Logan Wolford
Melissa Wood

Peace, Faith UMC, the homeless, abused, sick, imprisoned, those who have not yet accepted Christ and those who only minimally follow the teachings of Christ.

Medical Faith shut-ins:
Kathleen McCutcheon and Frances Johnson.



Faith's Head Start Project cont.

Throw a Christmas Party for them!

Tuesday, December 19th at 4pm, we held a party for the Head Start children which included a snack, games, and a gift. Many of you participated in providing the gifts. Thank you! It is important that each child receive a similar gift and we encourage you to continue praying for the child.

Provide extra food for over the break.

Many families will sacrifice purchasing food so that they can provide a present for their child. In poverty circles, we say that the rent eats first. That means parents and children having food is a lesser priority than keeping a roof over their heads. By working together to provide a box of some staple food items, hopefully there will be fewer meals missed.

Beginning in January, "Blessing Bags".

It is a statistical fact that parents rely on school to feed their children during the week. When there is no school, children in poverty often do not eat or scarcely eat. For this reason, many churches around the country have begun putting together bags of food that are easily accessible for a child to eat on his or her own over the weekend. Simple foods like peanut butter crackers, juice boxes, and fruit cups, can help supplement any food at home and relieve some of the stress within the family. When you are doing your weekly grocery shopping, please consider picking something "kid friendly" up and donating it to the church. This will enable our team to devise gallon zip-lock bags to send home with each child on weekends.

Together, we are making a difference!

...Continued on page 7

Isaiah 65:17 "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 7

Sunday School 9:30AM

Worship 10:30AM

Sunday, January 14

Sunday School 9:30AM

Worship 10:30AM

New Hope Circle 6:30PM

Tuesday, January 16

Finance Committee 6:00PM

Leadership Committee 6:45PM

Sunday, January 21

Sunday School 9:30AM

Worship 10:30AM

Sunday, January 28

Sunday School 9:30AM

Worship 10:30AM

UMW Assembly Baby Hats



The Assembly planners are inviting United Methodist Women who have skills in knitting, crocheting or sewing to create baby hats for those in need. The baby hats may be made from fabric, fleece or yarn. You may use a pattern you have or if you need a pattern contact Marsha Kelly and she will share her patterns for fabric or fleece.

We will have a blessing of the hats before we take them to the Assembly. That date will be announced later.

Some of the hats will be displayed in the Assembly prayer and meditation room. At the end of the Assembly the baby hats will be distributed to those in need through the Maternal Health network.

Faith's Head Start Project cont.

Your Breakthrough Team

Pastor Joy Nick Howard

Betty Howard Barb Tignor

Ed McAuley Orlen Bates

Dennis Cebulsky

Here are some ideas for "Blessings Bag" food:

Cereal (individual size)

Chef Boyardee Dinner Cup

Pull tab soup

Easy Mac Cups

Applesauce or Fruit Cups

Apples or Oranges

Green Beans or Corn (pull tab)

Juice boxes

Jell-O Cups or Pudding Cups

Peanuts or Almonds (individual packets)

Granola Bars

Peanut Butter with Cheese Crackers

Handi-Snacks Breadsticks and Cheese

Trail Mix or Godfish (individual size)

Jif to Go Peanut Butter

Beef Jerky

Revelation 21:5 *He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*