

# THE WHITFIELD



# SPIRIT

For Members and Friends of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church  
December 11-December 17, 2016

## *Rejoice in the Word*

Dear Whitfield Family,

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ. Recently, Reverend Jessica LaGrone, Dean of the Chapel at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky shared the following words. God is using these words to speak to my heart. May they speak to your hearts, as well.

*The point of Bible study is not to get through the Bible. It is to let the Bible get through you.*

These powerful words of truth remind me of the following words shared by Henri J. M. Nouwen. They are originally from his book *Here and Now* and shared in his subsequent work *Unto Us a Child is Born: Daily Advent Meditations and Prayers*. God is using these words to bless and encourage me. May they bless and encourage you, as well.

*The purpose of spiritual reading...is not to master knowledge or information, but to let God's Spirit master us. Strange as it may sound, spiritual reading means to let ourselves be read by God! We can read the story of Jesus' birth with curiosity and ask ourselves, "Did this really happen? Who put this story together and how? But we can also read that same story with spiritual attentiveness and wonder: "How does God speak to me here and call me to a more generous love?" We can read the daily news simply to have something to talk about at work. But we can also read it to become more aware of the reality of a world that needs God's words and saving actions.*

As we read familiar, well-loved Advent and Christmas scriptures that are near and dear to our hearts, may we ask God, through His Word, to speak to our hearts in fresh and powerful ways. May the greatest message about the greatest gift, God's gift of Himself to the world, be on our minds and lips during and following the Advent and Christmas season. As my friend and colleague Reverend Robin Crews Wilson says, Christians have the privilege of sharing the old story with a new people on a new day. As individuals, families and a family of faith, may we rejoice in the Word and pray, "Lord and Counselor, may your holy Word dwell richly within me during this Advent season and always. Amen." May we share God and His Word with a world that is in desperate need of the healing and hope that He alone can bring!

Rejoicing,

*Carolyn*

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16

**Weekly Focused Corporate Prayer:** Please pray that non-believers will come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

### Staff Christmas Gift



It has been our tradition at Whitfield to give cash gifts to our staff at Christmas. We would like to do so again this year. We will collect gifts through Sunday, December 18 and give the staff the gifts prior to the Christmas break. If you would like to contribute, please designate on your check or envelope "Staff Christmas Gift." You can place your donation in the offering plate on December 4, 11 or 18 or drop it off at the church office. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Earl Heath, Lay Leader

**A BIG THANKS** to everyone who came to decorate the church this past Saturday. We had about 10 people helping and we all had a blast with the decorating fun!!!



### **SPIRITUAL FORMATION** by Gloria Wilson

Although there are many definitions of Spiritual formation, the late professor at Asbury Seminary, Robert Mulholland constructed the well-known and well-used definition of Spiritual formation. Spiritual formation he says is "a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others." He develops this definition in his book, Invitation to a Journey. In the Christian tradition, we claim spiritual formation is a heart transforming process with a specific goal in mind, to love as God loves. In both the Old and New Testaments, Scripture places an emphasis upon the condition of the heart. All of these scriptures leave us with the conviction that we must diligently watch over the heart, for our heart is the truest expression of who we really are. In a world filled with hostile, self-destructive attitudes, would not the state of the heart continue to be of utmost concern to God? Isn't it why Christ came into the world? Should it not continue to be a concern for those who are "partakers of the divine nature?"

Let us not forget during the Advent season that what we celebrate in Christ's coming to us is the hope that our hearts and the hearts of all people can be changed in order that we may love God, others and ourselves more intentionally.

### **The Holiday Season will soon be upon us. Please mark your calendars for these special services and events:**

December 8 - Kempters Christmas Concert, Frazer UMC  
6:00 pm

**December 11 - Children's Christmas Pageant,  
10:00 am**

December 16 - Kindergarten Program, 11:00 a.m.

**December 18 - Chancel Choir Service of Lessons & Carols, 10:00 am**

December 24 - Candlelight Communion Service, 4:00 pm

**December 25 - Christmas Worship, 10:00 am  
NO Sunday School**

**January 1 - Fellowship Breakfast, 9:00 am  
New Year's Day Covenant Renewal Service,  
10:00 am**

January 8 - Epiphany Service, 8:15 & 10:30 am

**Bold Sundays are Advent Schedule:  
9:00 am Sunday School, 10:00 Worship**



The cradle cross and rosebud on the altar Sunday December 11 will be in honor of the birth of **CHLOE MARIE CHENEY** on December 1, 2016 in Dearborn, Michigan. Chloe is welcomed by her parents Garrett & Christine Cheney, proud grandparents Karen and Bob Cheney, Jr. and her great-grandmother Ann Cheney.

### **In Sympathy**

We extend our sincere sympathies to the Rodney & Kathi Blankenship and family upon the death of Rodney's mother, Frances Blankenship on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 in Alexander City, Alabama.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The poinsettias on the altar December 11 are offered to the Glory of God in memory and in honor of our friends and loved ones.

### **Attendance December 4, 2016**

Sunday School 63      Morning Worship 91

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

### **Sunday, December 11**

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday School                        | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Choir Practice                       | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Worship Service - Children's Pageant | 10:00 a.m. |
| Handbell Practice                    | 4:00 p.m.  |
| UMYF—Meet at Zoo                     | 4:30 p.m.  |

### **Monday, December 12**

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Walking Group (M-F)    | 7:15 a.m.  |
| UMW Christmas Luncheon | 12:00 p.m. |

### **Tuesday, December 13**

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Prayer Group | 7:15 a.m. |
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### **Wednesday, December 14**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Prayer Group   | 2:30 p.m. |
| Choir Practice | 6:45 p.m. |

### **Thursday, December 15**

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Holy Cross Basketball Practice | 4:30 p.m. |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

### **Friday, December 16**

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Kindergarten Christmas Program | 11:00 a.m. |
|--------------------------------|------------|

### **Saturday, December 17**

No Events Currently Scheduled

## **Youth News**

Our Trip planning meeting was rescheduled for this Sunday after Church and the rest of our tentative schedule outside of regular Church events is:

**Dec 11** Zoo Christmas lights (meet at church at 430pm)

**Dec 17** Christmas movie meeting time to be determined

**Dec 21** Bowling Party

**Jan 8** Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

**Jan 14** Lake Junaluska Praise, Worship, and Ski Trip!

Praise The Lord!

Beverly

### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:**

Peanut butter, Jelly, Large Cans of fruit, Vegetables, Large Cans of meat, Dried Milk, Dried Beans, Toothpaste.



## You Are In Our Prayers!!

### **Whitfield Members**

Vivian Rogers, Kirk Wood, Jay Byrd, Peggy Brown, Martha Parker, Henrietta Cusick, Elmer Rogers, Alma Reynolds, Jo Moody, Peter Brambir, Betty Woodson, Libby Richardson, Joan Rodgers, Thursa Brown, John Woodson, Dottie Suber, Charlotte Brambir, Mildred Jones, Betty Fuller, Kay Littlepage, Brownie Brown, Lib Cain, Tom Burns, Caryll Carrick, Elmer Stelk, Eloise Parsons, Bill Fischer, Allison East, Jim Solomon, Edna Kohn, Jim Vice, Helon Haack, Susan Richardson, Louise Gargus, Helen Maples, Bob Haack

### **Home Bound Members (in-town)**

Lois Payne, Nealie Pruitt, Emmett Turner, Teresa Chavers, Rubye Solomon, Margaret Deacy, Wayne Read, Delores Dodson, Mitzi Warren

### **Home Bound Members (out of town)**

Elaine McBride, Martha Payne, Juanita Pritchett, Katie Hopper

### **Friends of Whitfield**

*Wayne Russell, Verna Stevens, Mary Mellott, Bill Miller, Jeff Varner, Doug Dennis, Sharon Brugh, Margaret Ann Batley, Emma Hope Shaw, Joy Lushington, Marty Trawick, Doug Estes, Dan & Kate Lindsey, Myrtle Knight, Mona Pirsig, Kenneth Means, Nathan Hamilton, Mary Ellen Millis, Paul Lanier, Myles Wright, Ashley Dunwoody, Beverly Cornwell, Jean Cantey, Teresa Kempter, Mac Macready, Darlene Fox, Judy Snyder, JoAnne Westery, Wayne Merritt*

### **Peace for the nations and protection for all those who live and serve in harm's way.**

**Note:** Please submit any names you would like added to the church via telephone (281-2467) or e-mail (whitumc@bellsouth.net) All names submitted are kept on the prayer list for **four weeks** unless otherwise notified. *Those names in Italics are in need of long term prayers.*

Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**WHITFIELD STAFF MEMBERS**

**Pastor**

Reverend Carolyn Nelson  
cnelson@whitfieldumc.org

**Music Director**

Angie Mitchell  
amitchell@whitfieldumc.org

**Youth Director**

Beverly Brown  
bbrown@whitfieldumc.org

**Financial Assistant**

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**Nursery Director**

Daisy Stelk

**Administrative Assistant**

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whitumc@bellsouth.net

**Program Director**

Patty Macready  
pmacready@whitfieldumc.org

**Organist**

Telsie Davis  
tdavis@whitfieldumc.org

**Kindergarten Director**

Jane Ruud  
jruud@whitfieldumc.org

**Nursery Co-Director**

Mary Stone

**Custodian**

Larry London

**Phone:** 334-281-2467; **Fax:** 334-281-2698

**E-mail:** whitumc@bellsouth.net

**Church Office Hours:**

8:15-12:30 and 1:30-4:15, M-Th

8:15-12:30 p.m. Friday

**Sunday Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.**

**Worship Assistants - December 11  
(2nd Sunday)**

**Ushers:** (10:00) Ken Carrick,  
Jim Solomon, Jeannie Anderson,  
Brownie Brown

**Counters:** Gene Holsenbeck,  
Steve Duffee

**Van Driver:** Pam Merritt

**Soundboard:** (10:00) Vic Bradsher

**Readers:** (10:00) Emma Duffee

**Children's Worship:** Briana Hazen,  
Patty Macready

**Advent Wreath:** The Reese Family