

# THE LEAVEN

First Presbyterian Church  
Leavenworth, Kansas



**JANUARY 2018**

## **SOULE SEARCHING**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to each of you! I have to say I have not enjoyed a Christmas season as I did this year in a very long time. From the Progressive Dinner to the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service it was a wonderful month. We dug in quickly to pull off an open house for the Historic Homes Tour with less than four weeks notice. Thanks to Rick Nichols, Liz Williams, Linda Barry and Merna Roe for their enthusiasm, organizational skills and direction. Along with the cooperation and effort of the entire congregation it was a good afternoon and evening for us as we shared our beautiful house of worship with the community. Being part of the live nativity with Debbie Soule and Alice Williams was a tangible reminder to me of the length to which God goes to reach all of humanity with love and grace.

Those who wrote for the Advent Devotional shared with us stories of angels, tragedies, hopes and disappointments that were important in their lives and the growth of their spirits. Thanks to all of you who were willing to take up that challenge. The choir and musicians worked diligently to prepare our souls for the birth of our Savior. Your music was inspiring! The children were taught lessons in church school by a dedicated group of Christian Education leaders who topped the month off with a party and a nativity set for each student. Worshipping with you each week during December and twice on Christmas Eve was a highlight of the month. It is good when we gather together to worship our Lord and Savior...singing, praying, and offering ourselves in humility service to our God.

The week between Christmas and New Year's Day was filled with family. On Christmas we got up early and ventured to our son's home in Overland Park for a beautiful breakfast and exchanging gifts. Debbie and I returned home to prepare for Christmas dinner. Our son and daughter-in-law from Colorado and two grandsons arrived that evening so we were all together for a big meal and more presents. It was a blast! The rest of the week we enjoyed each other and played lots of games. We even attempted to break out of a room at an Escape House in Spring Hill. With two minutes to spare we opened the door. At the end of the week Debbie and I escorted our Colorado kids back home and spent the weekend with them. We were blessed with lots of time with one another.

Now the New Year is upon us. The Christmas decorations are down at our house. We will put them away here at church after worship this Sunday. We have celebrated the God of heaven and earth

coming to be with us in Christ and now we will continue the task as living as Jesus' followers in the year ahead. That is a big task and we need one another to support, encourage and to sustain us in this commitment. I encourage you to make it a resolution to be in worship each week; to pray daily for yourself, your family and the needs of our world and community; to study the issues that confront us as a people and as a congregation. Allow the Spirit of the Living God room to be a big part of the year ahead. You will be surprised where you will go.

Warmest blessings to each of you,

Tim

## **BACKPACK BUDDIES**

This Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> after worship we will be packing for the Backpack Buddies and will finish up on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 8a.m. If you are able to help in any way please meet us in the fellowship hall.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

On Sunday January 14th, Tim Soule will lead a six week study of the newest document in our denomination's Book of Confession. "The Confession of Belhar" was adopted by the 2016 General Assembly and is now part of The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Study guides are available. The class will meet in the Living Room at 9:00am each Sunday. Copies of "The Confession of Belhar" are available in the back of the sanctuary. Come join in the learning.

## **THANK OFFERING**



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Presbyterian women have been making grants to creative ministries through the "Thank Offering" since 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Ministry Society of the United Presbyterian Church in North America as a "thank offering to our Lord." Women gave sacrificially and were credited with saving the worldwide missionary movement of the church at the time. Since then, Presbyterian women have granted support to thousands of ministries world wide and raise millions of dollars for this mission. We will collect for the "Thank Offering" on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> during worship.

## **MISSIONS**

This is the season we are reminded of our many blessings - including plenty to eat. Let's fill our blue barrel with food items several times this month - like every week! The Mission Committee will get these donated food items to the Salvation Army. Bring some canned goods every time you come to church!!

Next community meal will be Tuesday, January 23. If you are a regular volunteer and will be unable to help that night please contact Judy Wiedower.

## Cookies for Backpack Buddies

The cookie sale to benefit Backpack Buddies raised \$2300 in December! That's \$300 more than last year. We Presbyterians contributed over 30 dozen cookies. Thanks so much, bakers!!❤

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Immediate:** Breanna Hoffman (Cindy Scircle's relative), Tom Fairhurst (friend of Rick Nichols), Bob Pickrel (Lorna's cousin), Steve Guentert (Ann Keeling's brother-in-law)

**Ongoing:** Roger Frazer, Marilyn Ferbert (Judy Jahn's daughter), Joe Hudson, Al Pursell, Judy Jahn, Arlene Stovall, Jack Thomas, Dorothy Streiner (Cindy Scircle's relative), Harold Hathaway, David Luther (friend of Ginnie's son), Aunt JB (Kristen Michaels), Ellen Owen (Ann Keeling's neighbor), Katherine Traynham, Gail Garrett

## JANUARY FELLOWSHIP TREATS

Here is the schedule for providing treats for January:

**Jan. 7** –Session

**Jan. 14-Pot Luck** –A,M-S-Desserts D-L-Salads, Side, and/or Bread B,C,T-Z-Main Dish

**Jan. 21**-Deacons **Jan. 28**-Choir and Bell Choir

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

**1**-Jim Schroeder **1**-Kathy Lemke **1**-Linda Barry **5**-James Hughes, Jr.  
**6**-Kristen Michaels **10**-Phil Comstock **15**-Gregg Scircle **20**-Ron Kenton  
**28**-Joe Hudson **31**-Andy Michaels



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

**26**-Bob and Marge Grafke-Doby

**29**-Dick and Ruie Gibson



## VALENTINE'S DINNER

Deacons are sponsoring a Valentine's dinner on February 11<sup>th</sup> more details next month.

# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	S
<b>31</b> Fellowship Treats -Circle 3 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	<b>5</b> Church Office Closed	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Fellowship Treats-Session 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Cody Choralliers</i>	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Circle 3 6:30 PM Circle 5	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 1:30 AM Angels Class 6:00 PM <i>Session Meeting</i>	<b>12</b> Church Office Closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM - 1:00 AM Pot Luck	<b>15</b>  Holiday-Church Office Closed	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>18</b> 4:30 PM PWC Coordinating Team Meeting	<b>19</b> Church Office Closed	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Fellowship Treats-Deacons 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting 2:30 PM Circle 2 PWC-Kathie's Home	<b>22</b> 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 10:00 AM Circle 4 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Cody Choralliers</i>	<b>23</b> 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Community Meal	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Amateur Radio Testing	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Fellowship Treats-Choir and Bell Choir 2:00 AM - 4:00 AM Chambers Shower 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	<b>29</b> 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Cody Choralliers</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>1</b> 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b>