

CATCH the SPIRIT

A Publication of One Spirit United Methodist Church
November/December 2021



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Past, Present, and Future

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11*

Hello Church Family!

As we wind down this year together, I am already looking toward the new one coming! I feel this tension between the past, the present, and the future all pulling for my focus! I suppose this is what Mr. Scrooge felt like on his very long night of reflection!

On that long night, Mr. Scrooge was taken to his past to see how he had made choices that affected his present. In his reflection of the present, he could see how his actions were harmful for his future. Looking at his future showed him what he did not want to face: the reality of his poor choices leading to a lonely death. He regretted and vowed to do better if he could be given one more chance!

What we learn in this story is the interwoven importance of our past, present, and future. The things we decide, act on, hold onto, and let go of all come together to determine our realities and what will be our future. This Advent season we will be celebrating together with a look at **"An Old Fashioned Christmas!"** But we do so with our eyes on the future. We look back to see connections, we look now to see choices, and we look forward to see what might be coming!

I have used this verse so many times this year, but one more time, hear the word of hope found in Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 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."

This is our reminder as we head into this season of celebrating the coming Savior and we wrap up an interesting year of growth together. God is already in the future, doing new things, and making new ways. We are called to look back only so we can better know where we are going. So let us celebrate together what was and look forward to what will be!

Peace and Blessings on you,
Pastor Erika



AN OLD FASHIONED *Christmas*



Advent Sunday School Class **9:30 AM in Room 102** **Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19**

The Advent study will be from a book by Matt Rawle, **"The Heart that Grew Three Sizes" Finding Faith in the Story of THE GRINCH**. The study will help us rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for this intriguing Advent study. Books are only \$13 and need to be ordered by November 7.

WINTER JUBILEE:

Saturday, December 11 at 6:00 pm

Everyone is invited to the first **Winter Jubilee at One Spirit UMC on December 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM**. A Winter Jubilee is a night of worship that celebrates all of God's doing and work in our lives through music. There have been a lot of challenges in this world lately, but there is nothing quite like the power of worship music (including Christmas music) to bring a sense of the power of God in our lives! We need to know Him more and we are anticipating this will be a life-changing event for everyone!

Longest Night Service:

Sunday, December 19 at 7:00 pm **ONLINE VIRTUALLY ONLY**

Join us on Facebook Live or YouTube Live for a unique worship experience called the Longest Night Service on **Sunday, December 19 at 7:00 pm**. The online access link will be emailed in advance of the service so everyone will have time to get online to watch. This service is scheduled around the winter solstice (the longest night of the calendar year). The long nights before Christmas can be hard for some people including the darkness and grief faced by those living with struggles or loss of any kind. We offer this as a service of hope and comfort.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service **Friday, December 24 at 4:30 pm**

Mark your calendars to join us on **Friday, December 24 at 4:30 pm** as we anticipate together the coming of our Savior with a candle lighting worship service. Join us early this year, before dinner or family get togethers, as we marvel at what it means that Jesus has come and is coming again!

KidsFest was AWESOME!!

One Spirit hosted a fun event on September 18th just for kids to play games and eat lunch! Over 75 people attended with nearly 50 kids having fun with the bounce house, many fun games, and of course, the face painting! Each child received a goody bag with small toys, activity book, and some candy. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make this event possible!

Food Mobile Event

Church of the Resurrection has a new Food Mobile that came to One Spirit on October 21st. A total of 49 families had the opportunity to shop for free healthy food, produce, proteins, dairy, and non-perishables. Those families represented a total of 191 individuals who were able to benefit from the Food Mobile and over 1600 lbs. of much needed food was handed out!!

CHURCH NEWS

Welcome New Member!

Ruth Knutter joined One Spirit on Sunday, September 5, 2021. We are happy to welcome Ruth to our congregation!

Report on the New Vision

Be sure to be in worship on **Sunday, November 21 at 11:30 am** when the focus of the message will be centered on the New Vision announcement for One Spirit UMC. There will be time for a short Q&A session during this time as well.

Let Us Know about Building Needs

One Spirit staff and trustees would like your help!! If you know of something at the church that needs repair or replacement, please report it to the church office so it can receive the needed attention.

Winter Weather Cancellations

During winter months, the church office and activities will be closed on days that the Raytown School district is closed due to inclement weather. One Spirit UMC will post closings on social media and on local television stations when possible.



Reminder: Donuts are available on the 1st Sunday of each month in the Higher Grounds coffee shop!

Check out our website at www.onespiritfamily.org or LIKE us on Facebook at One Spirit United Methodist Church

PLEASE RECYCLE ALUMINUM CANS!
The proceeds help to pay for winter snow removal and summer lawn care.



Meet SANTA!

**Saturday, December 4
12:00 pm—2:00 pm**

One Spirit is hosting a special event for children to meet Santa Claus on **Saturday, December 4 from 12-2 pm**. We invite families to drive through the circle drive in front of the sanctuary where children can get out and meet Santa Claus. Each child will be given a goody bag to take home with crafts, small toys and candy. We will need a few volunteers to direct cars and "elves" to help Santa. Contact the office if you can help.



United Methodist Women

The next UMW meeting will be on **Thursday, November 4 at 1:00 pm** and will feature the World Thank Offering. The In-Gathering will be dolls and toys for the Della Lamb Operation Santa Claus. UMW will also meet on **December 2 at 1:00 pm** for a special Christmas program and the In-gathering will be non-perishable food items and paper goods for REAP.

Bakers-For-Hire

Let UMW bake special treats for your Thanksgiving meal! They will make delicious cakes, cookies, pies and more for your holiday dinner. Order forms will be available at the church or you can call the office or a UMW officer to place an order. **Orders are due no later than November 14.** Completed orders will be available for pick-up at the church on:

Saturday, November 20 from 10 am—12 pm
Sunday, November 21 at 11:30 am after church

Winter Clothing Donations Needed for Westridge Students

New or Gently Used winter coats, gloves/mittens, stocking caps. Kids ages 5-12. Donation baskets are in the Missions Central area.



**ONE SPIRIT
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Holiday Meals in a Bag for REAP

Let's help folks get the necessary items for a special meal during the Christmas Holidays! We are asking for donations of the following items throughout November to benefit our local REAP food pantry. **All items must be at the church by November 28** so that all items can be delivered to REAP in time for the holiday distribution.

NOTE: PLEASE NO GLASS JARS!!!

Boxed Potatoes or Stuffing
Boxed Mac & Cheese
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Canned Sweet Potatoes
Canned Cranberry Sauce
Canned Soup
Packaged Rice
Jiffy Biscuit Mix
Gravy Mix Packets

Cereal or Oatmeal
Peanut Butter
Dessert Mix
Canned Tuna
Box of Crackers
Pasta
Canned Tomato Sauce
Paper Plates, Cutlery, Napkins
Bag of Candy or Candy Canes

Enjoy Online Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube!

Change Jar Donations

Don't forget to save your pocket change and empty it into the Change Jar in the sanctuary every Sunday! The November and December donations will be used to adopt needy families during the holidays.



**TURN YOUR
CLOCKS
BACK!**

**Daylight
Savings
Time Ends on
November 7**