



Tanner Valley Voice



Tanner Valley United Methodist Church

December 2017

If Only in My Dreams

First recorded in 1943 by Bing Crosby the song “I’ll be Home for Christmas” has since become a Christmas Standard. It plays continually throughout this season and has a seemingly endless popularity. Imagine then my surprise that it made number one in the list of top ten “Saddest Christmas Songs”. This song of longing for home and hearth, a song that made me think of the warmth of my mother’s table and how I want to be with family and friends... Sad? Had they mistaken longing for sadness?

Seeking understanding, I went to the lyrics of the song for help:

I'll be home for Christmas
You can plan on me
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents on the tree
Christmas Eve will find me
Where the lovelight gleams...

And there it is... I'd heard it so often that I missed the line, “I’ll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams.” Set against the back drop of WWII Bing Crosby wrote this song to honor our troops who were indeed far from home at Christmas. Oh my, what a sad song! It is a sad because the reality is that many of those listening to the crooning voice of Cole Porter would not make it home. It is sad because the message of Christ’s peace seemed particularly far away in the face a world spinning in the madness of war. It is sad because lovelight gleaming, mistletoe and Christmas trees must have seemed so far away from Europe and the Pacific Theater.

However, even in 2017, it might actually do us some good to remember an important truth in this season of joyful excess. The Christmas story is a story about a longing God. God, seeking to redeem his lost children from the violence of sin. That Jesus came into the world to proclaim an treaty in a world at war with itself. In our yearly boisterous celebrations, we can so easily overlook the deep painful longing God has to restore “Peace on earth and good will toward men...”

Further, it is easy for us unless we ourselves are going through it to remember that this season above all others makes empty chairs at tables, and empty rooms so much more painful. The reality is that this season is a season of loneliness for so many. This season reminds us that God and humanity are alike in their long for a better world. As it says in Romans “All creation is longing...”

In this reminder I have one course of action for everyone reading these words. Pray. Pray for the lonely, the downtrodden. Pray for the broken. Pray for the lost. Pray for those overcome with sorrow. Pray for those dreaming of a better day.

Then listen... listen to the still small voice of the Christ Child. Is Jesus trying to remind you of our great hope? What might he say to give you peace? Is Jesus reminding you of someone who needs hope? What might he have to say to those who need peace? In this season of light in the midst of darkness, Advent and Christmas 2017, what dream and hope might Christmas represent to you, to me, to our entire community?

Rev. Michael Lawson

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Michael Lawson,
Pastor

Church Building:
812.537.4111
Parsonage:
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Adult Sunday School
Sundays—9am
Worship
Sundays—10am
UMW
2nd Thursdays—
6:00 pm in December

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UMW Update

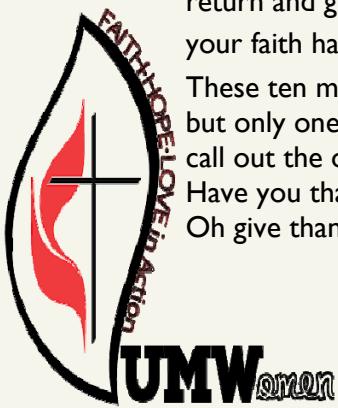
A story found in the Bible book of Luke, Chapter 17.

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

These ten men came before Jesus with the hope of healing. All of them walked away cleansed but only one turned back to praise God and thank Jesus for his healing. Jesus makes it a point to call out the other nine to show the importance of our gratitude.

Have you thanked God today for the multiple blessings we receive daily?

Oh give thanks to the Lord for he us good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 107:1



Thanks to Sharon Huddleston and Mary Schneider for hosting our November meeting. Our next event will be a celebration of Christmas. December 14 we will have a pot luck dinner at 6:00p.m. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy great fellowship with friends.

Nancy

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on November 14th in the Rumble Room with 7 of 14 members present. Pastor Michael opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 119: 33-40 and then a prayer.

Treasurer's Report: The report for the month end 10/31/2017 was presented and reviewed. The following is a summary of that report.

For the General Account, there were \$10,089.00 deposits and \$10,211.52 withdrawals leaving a balance of \$7,534.93. The weekly average income is \$2,228.75 which is \$102.98 below the weekly budget amount of \$2,331.73 through 44 weeks. For the year, that is \$4,531.12 below budget amount. Peg noted that we are below budget income, but all payments have been met and there is a good balance remaining.

For the Special Account, there were \$1,078.06 deposits and \$3,048.39 withdrawals leaving a balance of \$16,309.55. The Capital Improvement Fund has a balance of \$3,031.55.

Budget for 2018: The budget worksheet, developed from the 2017 spending through October month end, was reviewed and line items discussed. The projected budget for 2018 before the review and discussion was \$132,035.07, up from the 2017 budget of \$123,581.91. A significant reason for the increase is the pending \$4800 bill for the AC repair at the parsonage that will be due on March 1, 2018. A revised budget based on the line item changes made during the review will be available prior to the council meeting in December. A final review will be addressed at that meeting.

New Business: In the last council meeting, there was discussion on replacing the carpet in the Fellowship Hall. As a result of that discussion, a visit to Home Furniture Flooring was made to obtain a directional quote. The purpose was to see the cost versus the amount in the Carpet Fund, \$4,968.77. The estimate provided for carpet tile and base board material and installation was \$4,882.00 with church members removing and disposing of the existing carpet and baseboard. Home Furniture would charge an additional \$600 to do the removal and disposal for a total of \$5,482.00. The hall and the stairs would need replacement also, and no estimate was available for that. No decision was made at this meeting, but it was good to know that this could be done with reasonable cost was good to know.

Missions Committee

December is one of the best times of year to ‘share the love’ with our neighbors. The TVUMC Missions Committee and several others in our church are doing just that. Following is our holiday service activities calendar. Please join us in sharing our own and Jesus’ love with others this season.



FAITH PROMISE: (completed) On Sunday, November 12th Jake Brooks shared his passion for “Game Church” with us. He was an excellent speaker and got several interested in this mission. Keep your pledges coming in. We are well on our way to serving needs locally, state wide, and nationally in 2017-2018. Last year’s money paid for the shipping for our OCC boxes and several other mission needs.

ANGEL TREE GIVING: (Gifts due December 5th or the 6th) We are gifting the children of North Dearborn Pantry patrons and the teenagers of the Y.E.S. Home. Please return gifts with Angel tags attached and wrappings included. There are large Christmas bags in the Narthex for each family.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE OFFS (Dec. 7th and 21st) We are baking and decorating Christmas cookies at Heart House Homeless Shelter and Y.E.S. Home. Volunteers and donations would be wonderful! We need sugar cookie dough, chocolate cookie dough, and gingerbread cookie dough (homemade or store bought). We also need cookie cutters (large), icing tubes in all colors, sprinkles, rolling pins, and cookie sheets.

Y.E.S. Home – December 7th at 6:30 (leave church about 5:45)

Heart House Homeless Shelter – December 21st 12:30 pm (leave church about 12 noon)

Missions encourages everyone to come and share in the joy and fun of these holiday activities. Please contact Jean Schmeltzer or Mary Schneider if interested. Many thanks as always for everyone’s donations of money, items for OCC, and hours of your time to help make all our missions possible. Our little church makes a BIG difference in our community and all around the world!

Mission’s committee will meet again on December 4th at 7pm. Please come and help us make plans to help others.

Jean Schmeltzer / Mary Schneider

WORSHIP SERVANTS

December 3

Greeter

Gerald & Lucy Bowell

Acolyte

Christopher Delp

Reader

Nancy Hesse

December 10

Greeter

Connie Fox

Acolyte

Christopher Delp

Reader

Tracy Meyer

Ushers

The Titkemeyers, The Hoffbauers

GIC

Nancy Hesse, Billie Stockum

December 17

Greeter

Mary Mitchell

Acolyte

Christopher Delp

Reader

Lori Blanco

Ushers

The Schmeltzers, The Robertsons

GIC

Donna Morgan, Volunteer

December 24

Greeter

Clara Lewis

Acolyte

Christopher Delp

Reader

Larry Delp

Ushers

J. Vandermuellan, J. Huddleston, D. Chapman, R. Hesse

GIC

J.Schmeltzer, P. VanDyke

December 31

Greeter

Harriet Mellott

Acolyte

Christopher Delp

Reader

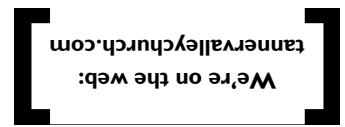
Kim Schmeltzer

Ushers

D & C Dorsel, B & A Delp

NOTE: Assigned Worship Servants are requested to find a replacement if they will not be able to fulfill their duties on the date indicated. Trading places a week or so before avoids any confusion on the assigned date.

Thank you for volunteering and for serving.



JESUS CHRIST...
...MAKING DISCIPLES OF

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19235 State Road 1

Methodist Church

Tanner Valley United



Operation Christmas Child

TVUMC has been a drop-off center for OCC for about 15 years. This year we collected about 800 OCC boxes, crated, and delivered them to the collection center on November 19th and 20th. TV made 112 OCC boxes with the help of VBS (Christian Education) and UMW. Committee Collaboration is a wonderful thing!



"The Back Page"



December 2017

...MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	10 pm Christmas Eve Service	25	Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
31						

January 2018



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	
			6pm- Prayer & Communion			
			7pm PPR	6:30pm Heart House		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			11:30 am Taking Down the Greens	6pm Memorial	6pm- Prayer & Communion	10am Rivertown Quilters
			7pm Christian Ed.			
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Martin Luther King Day		6pm- Prayer & Communion			
			6:30pm Feed My Sheep			
			7pm RiverTown Quilters			
			Newsletter Articles Due			6pm Knife & Fork
	22	23	24	25	26	27
				6pm- Prayer & Communion		
				6pm- Prayer & Communion		
	28	29	30	31	1	2
	6pm Lullaby Nights					
					Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall	Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall

BIRTHDAYS: 6-Michael Lawson, Nancy Hesse; 8-Jacob Dorsel; ANNIVERSARIES: No anniversaries for the month of January.
20-Richard Goble; 31-Dylan Williams