



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

December 2021/ January 2022



From the Pastor's Keyboard

By Daryl Diddle

Tis the Season

staircase get a lot of use on the day after Thanksgiving.

As this edition of the Plumbline arrives in the mail, we will all have just completed our Thanksgiving celebrations and are now looking forward to Christmas. The easing of all the covid complications is making the holiday celebrations especially sweet to most of us. Yet we also remember those in our church family who are missing someone this holiday season due to covid.

The holidays provoke different things in us at different times, I suppose. But I'll tell you one thing that doesn't change in our household – the timing of our holiday decorations.

Annette and I are rather strict traditionalists about Thanksgiving and Christmas with regard to décor. For fall / harvest / Thanksgiving, our home, inside and out, is all pumpkins, gourds and mums with oranges and yellows as the prevailing colors...and these stay put until the day after Thanksgiving.

Then, on Black Friday, the autumn theme is traded out for the reds and greens and trees and wreaths of Christmas.

Boxes (and boxes!) down from the attic...boxes up to the attic. Our attic

I confess there have been years when we have been greatly tempted (by unseasonably warm weather) to decorate for Christmas before Thanksgiving. So far we have resisted, choosing instead to hang our outdoor Christmas wreaths and lights in sub-zero weather if need be...rather than dare to mix the holidays.

And yet, as I think about it, there is a mixing of Thanksgiving and Christmas that can't be avoided, isn't there?

The idea of giving thanks in general, and the holiday, Thanksgiving, in particular, both involve expressing gratitude to God for His blessings that we cannot provide for ourselves. Thanksgiving is the acknowledgement of the truth that, indeed, every good and perfect thing does come from God (James 1:17.)

And isn't Christmas really the ultimate example of God providing a good and perfect "thing" in Jesus and the possibility of salvation and redemption that was born with Him?

I'm not at all appealing to the pagan idea of yin and yang here, but there is, in

fact, always a bit of Christmas in Thanksgiving, just as there is certainly a bit of Thanksgiving in Christmas.

So maybe these two holidays are intertwined more than we realize.

Which means, maybe it's OK to have gourds and pumpkins displayed along with trees and garlands.

Maybe the oranges and yellows don't really clash all that badly with the reds and greens.

Maybe next year we'll put up the outdoor lights and wreaths during those warm few days we always seem to get in early November...all in the interest of good theology...and in gratitude to God for all of His gifts.

Overseas Fellowship

The Overseas Fellowship will meet on Friday, January 14 at 6 pm in the Hospitality Room of Building C. The covered-dish dinner will be followed by the program at 7 pm.

Our speaker for the evening will be Faith Shingledecker, retired World Gospel Missions medical missionary to Kenya. Faith served for many years at Tenwek Hospital, well-known throughout Kenya for its testimony: "We Treat, Jesus Heals."

This fellowship is open to all who have an interest in missions. Come for an evening of inspiration and fellowship.



Merry Christmas to Our Church Staff!

Your church Finance Team invites you to help honor our 15 church staff members with Christmas gifts. Mark your check "Staff Gift" and place them in the basket at the Welcome Center, or give online using the QR code, marking the box labeled, "Staff Gift." The last day to participate is Dec. 12.



(Note that the Finance Team has established parameters for the Staff Christmas Appreciation gifts, and excess contributions will be placed into the church operating reserve.)

Praying on the Lord's Day

By Joseph Hwang

Picture a three-year-old boy dancing around in a long-sleeve shirt a few sizes still too big for him. It doesn't look like what he initially envisioned. Any hope that he would somehow quickly grow tall enough to make them fit has fizzled away. He, instead, realizes how awkward he appears in the mirror and to his parents.

The act of praying on the Lord's Day—more than I care to admit—has felt like moving around in clothes too big for me. Formulaically reciting a liturgical prayer doesn't convey how I truly wish to express the difficult lament in my heart. Singing an unfamiliar hymn can feel disingenuous as if I am going through the motions. Even a thoughtfully prepared prayer of the people can sound distant and unrelatable to my urgent circumstances. Fellow believers—who have not grown up with liturgy, are more accustomed to singing contemporary praise songs, and prefer extemporaneous prayers—have empathetically expressed similar frustrations. Surely, God must notice how long the sleeves on my arms are.

Gradually and thankfully though, I've come to appreciate how all the prayers in their various forms—read aloud, said in silence, recited through liturgy, sung with hymns, and chimed with bells, etc.—and prepared in advance, invariably lead God's people to a worshipful posture because they articulate biblical truths and deeply felt sentiments that I would have trouble expressing all on my own. Regardless of where my heart may be and what I may be feeling, anytime attentive and meaningful prayer takes place—thanks to our worship leaders (but even in solitude and in the quotidian activities of our homes)—the body of Christ finds itself before the presence of God in a space that takes shape because of the triune God's open and standing invitation. In turn, as J. Gerald Janzen puts it, we find ourselves “dancing in time to the rhythms of eternity.”

I sense the Holy Spirit's gentle nudge, a holy invitation into his divine presence with the call to worship. Slowly but surely, the prayers said and sung assist me to assume a humility that can receive from the one above—an attitude

**Prayer illumines my
soul's deepest longing
for God's holy presence.**

that is not naturally exercised left to my own devices. Thus, when prayer takes place, I am constantly learning about God, his created world, and my duties in relation to them. Prayer illumines my soul's deepest longing for God's holy presence, the gift of shalom freely given through Christ, the subsequent calling to love my neighbors, and the work of stewardship towards his creation. In this way, God helps me to grow in prayer. It isn't always pretty or easy, but thank God that he controls the rhythm and leads me according to his rhythmic stride.

Getting to Know You

By Sue Adkins

Brad and Carrie Beth moved to Wilmore in June of 2020 so that Brad could take the position of Director of Development at Asbury University. They had been watching WFMC services online for several weeks while the church was still shut down due to Covid, but they began attending in person the first Sunday that the church re-opened and have now become members and are involved in quite a few ministries throughout WFMC.

Brad and Carrie Beth have four children: David, 19, who is a music education major at Asbury University, Jonathan, 15, a sophomore at West Jessamine and twin girls Lily Kate and Violet, 9, both attending Wilmore Elementary. The family stays busy attending soccer games, ballet practices, concerts and many activities at church when they are not traveling to North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia to visit relatives.

Brad and Carrie Beth met at a bible study at Savannah Christian Church. They were both living about an hour away as single young adults in Statesboro, Georgia. They have been married for 20 years.

Brad started his career working for Hargray, the incumbent telephone and internet provider on Hilton Head Island. He worked for them for ten years, but left to take a job in development with the Salvation Army in south GA. He left that job after a

few years to take the position of Divisional Development Director in Baltimore, MD, where he was responsible for development for the Army in Maryland and West Virginia.

Carrie Beth holds a master's degree in gifted education and has taught gifted students at the middle school level, but she currently teaches preschool at Little Elks preschool in Lexington. She is also actively involved in the children's church ministry at WFMC.

As a family, the Atkinsons enjoy playing board games together as well as hiking (some enjoy it more than others!) Brad loves looking for new hiking trails- nothing too high or hard, but he will work to get to a beautiful, scenic view. Brad and the boys also love watching and attending sporting events together, and the girls and Carrie Beth enjoy baking. Carrie Beth loves reading mysteries – Dorothy Sayers is one of her favorite authors – and the girls like drawing and crafting. Jonathan is a sports enthusiast and David enjoys building computers and making music in many different ways.



Carrie Beth asked Jesus into her heart as a 5-year-old at bedtime one night with the help of her mother. She grew up knowing Jesus and seeing His loving servants working all around her. There were many family members who were preachers in her mother's family in south GA. Brad grew up going to church, but he came to know the Lord personally during a significant flood in 1999. He saw the devastation up close, but also saw the Lord at work helping through the difficulty and sought out a church home for himself, which is how Brad and Carrie Beth eventually met!

Music Ministries Update

SPECIAL DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR CHRISTMAS 2021

**Sunday morning,
December 5th, 8:30 & 11:00a.m.**

**Sunday night,
December 5th, 6:00p.m.**

The Adult Christmas Choir, the Youth Choir, and Heaven's Harmony children's choir will present a variety of songs, as individual choirs and as combined choirs. After being on "hiatus" over the past Christmas season, these ensembles are thrilled to be together again to share music that honors our coming King!

All-church Christmas Caroling will take place beginning at 6:00p.m. We will be caroling to neighborhoods within the Nicholasville and Wilmore areas. Come ready to sing and ready for good fellowship, food, and fun!



Special thanks

Wow! What can we say?! We really missed having our ensembles together over the past year and a half. We, the music committee, are beyond grateful for your enthusiastic return and participation in these groups. It is so wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to welcome many new ones as well. Welcome back. We missed you and it's good to make music and lead in worship again with you!

In case you forgot...

Sometimes we get so familiar with the "way we do things" that we can forget that others, especially visitors, may not be so familiar with the way we approach music. As you notice folks around you who may not be familiar with a hymnal or worship guide/insert, please help them out, show them the hymnal, the worship supplement, or just a kind smile! We want everyone to feel free to participate in corporate worship, no matter their background.

Volunteers Needed

We are in immediate need for adult volunteers in our nursery - once a month at both the morning worship services and the evening worship service. If you are an adult and would like to be part of the nursery team, contact Carol at cblankenship@wfmcc.net, or at 859-401



Library News

New Children’s Books (three week check out)

The Spider Who Saved Christmas – Raymond Arroyo
 In the Shadow of the Christ – Anne Provost
 The Newborn King – Cindy R. Waters
 Noah’s 2-by-2 Adventures – Carol Wedeven
 The Littlest Angel – Charles Tazewell
 Thank You for Thanksgiving – Dandi Daley Mackall
 Christmas Angels – Gwen Ellis
 The First Christmas- Carol Heyer
 Thanksgiving: A Harvest Celebration – Julie Stiegemeyer

New Adult Books (three week check out)

Ruby, Opal, Pearl and Amethyst – Lauraine Snelling
 Sensible Shoes – Sharon Garlough Brown
 Two Step Forward, Barefoot – Sharon Garlough Brown
 An Extra Mile – Sharon Garlough Brown
 Grace in Thine Eyes – Liz Curtis Higgs
 To Live is Christ: Embracing the Passion of Paul – Beth Moore
 Hope Valley War – Brock Thoene
 A Charge to Keep –George W. Bush
 No Greater Glory: The Four Immortal Chaplains – Dan Kurzman

Book Reviews

Thank You For Thanksgiving

With Thanksgiving coming soon you may wish to read a book about Thanksgiving to your child. I suggest *Thank You for Thanksgiving* written by Dandi Daley Mackall. Various aspects of that holiday are shared in the text. The homey illustrations were done by John Walker. Suggested age level would be 3 to 10 years of age. - By Beverly Jennings

Christmas Angels

A Christmas pop-up book is just the thing to share with your child. The title is *Christmas Angels* and was written by Gwen Ellis. The Christmas story is told through modern illustrations by Steve Smallman. Any child aged 3 through 8 would enjoy this book. - By Beverly Jennings

The First Christmas

For older children choose *The First Christmas* by Carol Heyer. She has painted the pictures and they are absolutely beautiful. This book was produced by the company that formerly produced Ideals magazines. - By Beverly Jennings

Ruby, Opal, Pearl, and Amethyst

Heartwarming new-frontier series: *Ruby, Opal, Pearl* and *Amethyst* written by Lauraine Snelling is each named for a character in her saga about four women who move from the bustling East to a small outpost called Little Missouri in the Dakota Territories. This series captures all the charm and turmoil of the old west as these women make the best of a bad situation and end up “winning friends and influencing people” in their new surroundings. - By Bonnie Lashbrook

Sensible Shoes, Two Steps Forward, Barefoot, and An Extra Mile

The Sensible Shoes series by Sharon Garlough Brown offers readers a new understanding of key spiritual practices and support for those who wish to travel deeper into life with God themselves. It's about four women, each one coming from a different place spiritually. As their lives intersect and they become friends, the reader will see herself and others in ways that will enrich self and relationships. - By Bonnie Lashbrook



Please Renew Items Promptly

If you need to renew any items, please check with the librarian, Bonnie Koteskey, at 858-3436, or leave a note on the library bulletin board. It is important to return the materials when they are due so that others can check them out.

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 David Diddle, Lily Prochina
- 2 Mark Davila
- 3 Andy Bowen, Noel Taylor
- 4 Pam Hiatt
- 5 Patti Butterworth, Victoria Kusche, Lorrie Liversedge, Carol McGlothlin, *Eduardo & Cindi Angelo*
- 6 Rose Branan, Bernie Cobb, Kate Madill
- 7 Emilia Adams
- 8 Don Butterworth
- 9 Dennis Adams, Paul Diddle, John Swaim
- 10 Johnson Cannon, Juliana Gomez
- 11 Jon Steury, Bennett Weinberger
- 13 Juanice Battin, Matthew VanLaningham, *Johnson & Amy Cannon*
- 14 Barb Crouse
- 15 Joel Amstutz, Lynne Neyman, Todd Padgett, Julie Wells, *Tony & Adina Headley, Cazavion & Sarah Joiner*
- 16 John Ireland, Liam Reifsnnyder
- 17 *Brian & RoseMary Nowitzki*
- 19 Gary Martin
- 20 Joe Dongell, Dwight Winter, *Ted & Jackie Moon*
- 21 Barbara Barker, Roy Lauter
- 23 Doug Adkins, Ken Thompson
- 24 Donna Bruner, Zerahiah Hwang
- 25 Aaron Hall
- 26 Carol Coulliette, Alexis Kierstead, Jill Land, Seth Langford, Jenny Madill, Lorraine Mink, Tyler Zweifel, *Leonard & Emily Fitch*
- 27 Bea VanValin, Gary Weinberger, Kyla Winter
- 28 *Kevin & Carolyn Hale, Ed & Sarah Kusche, Jonathan & Irene Raymond*
- 29 Daniel Jacobson
- 30 Sue Lauter

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 *Patrick & Grace Tillson*
- 4 Don Schreiner, Curtis Allen
- 5 Marcia Burgess, Mike Reynen, Genaea Sarantakos
- 6 Teresa Cassidy
- 7 Sara Grace Bailey, Krista Padgett, Pat Tillson
- 8 Royce Bourne
- 9 Kaye Payne, *Brian & Cheryl Faul*
- 10 Sandy Miller, Ken Proctor III, Matt Zahniser
- 11 Elijah Kidwell, Bob Peterson
- 13 *Glenn & Grace McGlothlin*
- 14 Ted Moon, Nathan Riffell
- 15 Scott Wells, *Arv & Judy Metcalf*
- 17 Kevin Hale
- 18 Joy Rice, Coleman Shafer
- 19 Carrie Beth Atkinson, Allen Holmes
- 20 *Gary & Mary Ellen Martin*
- 21 Alison Calhoun, Carol Matthews, Norma Miller
- 22 Mollie Robson
- 23 Jonah Evans
- 24 Breanna Bowers, Eleanor Dobie, Paul Langford, Marilyn Van Horn, Bob Willems, Garrison Wright
- 25 Bob Barnard
- 26 Susanna Branan
- 27 Susie Bourne, Ron Johns, Ralph Kester
- 29 Alma Cornett, Grace McGlothlin
- 31 Sue Hamann, Pat Tillson

December 2021

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January 2022

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Community Service Center Update

DONATIONS WITH DIGNITY

Will you help the CSC express dignity and respect to its customers by donating gently used (not worn out, ripped, etc) winter coats for all ages, men's shoes, and blankets? Donations are accepted during CSC Thrift Shop hours.

Monday: 9am-3pm,
 Tues: 12-4pm
 Wednesday: 9am-4pm
 Thurs: 9am-4pm
 Saturday 9am-3pm

- ◇ 15 oz can of yams
- ◇ Mini-marshmallows
- ◇ 15 oz can green beans
- ◇ 15 oz can of cream of mushroom soup
- ◇ 6 oz french fried onions
- ◇ 15 oz can cranberry sauce
- ◇ 6 oz box of dressing
- ◇ Brownie/cake mixes
- ◇ 1 lb box of crackers
- ◇ Soups
- ◇ 1 lb box of spaghetti
- ◇ 24 oz pasta sauce

FOOD DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated food for our Thanksgiving food distribution! We were able to bless many people through your generosity. The CSC Christmas food distribution is just around the corner on Dec18! The deadline for donations is Wednesday, Dec 15. Below is a list of the food items for December.

The CSC continues to provide shelter and utility assistance for Wilmore/High Bridge residents who are in financial crisis. So far over 70 households have received assistance.



Young Adult Ministry

Young Adults, there is a place for you!

Once a month, we gather together, usually the third or fourth weekend. So far, we've enjoyed a cookout with homemade ice cream, a taco dinner and pizza night! We'd love to see you there! Watch the bulletin for details or give your email/cell number to the church office to be included in a personal invite.

If you aren't already attending an Adult Bible Fellowship, you are welcome to join the On Purpose ABF led by Pastor Dwight and Kim Barnard. Everything we talk about from Scripture to practical issues helps us to live our lives "On Purpose" as young adults. Come join us!

Prison Ministry

Why prison ministry? Prison ministry bring encouragement and hope to people who seek a new direction. While imprisonment is an extreme hardship, it forces residents to reflect on the past and ponder the future. At this point, the church frequently comes into focus. Many prisoners have Christian roots, and during their darkest hours these roots are remembered. Prison life leads individuals to look to the spiritual realm for solutions to their problems. They come to know the claims and promises of Jesus Christ and His church.



Personal guilt and an adverse environment makes spiritual advancements difficult. Within Christ and His church, however, solutions to various problems do exist. Not only can inmates find relief from their agonizing guilt, but they discover that Christ promises to provide the sustaining grace they desperately need. The church offers the grace of encouragement and support and a feeling of self-worth and belonging. As a result, personal transformation and an outreach to others begins in prison.

Regardless how we perceive prison ministry or the validity of inmate responses to religion, the church serves as a continuing source of grace and hope for those who truly desire to change their lives. Even when prisoners refuse to respond to the gospel, the church remains a positive influence and call to every sinner because it offers forgiveness and a new life in Jesus Christ.

Many thanks for your continued prayers as we seek to minister to those in our isolated communities.

-- Ted Moon, Charlie Payne and Craig Saunders.

Ladies Night Out

Many ladies have been enjoying that one night out that is just for them, but there's always room for more! Ladies Night Out is an invitation to all ladies in the church (bring a friend, if you'd like) who enjoy eating dinner with friends at a local restaurant, just for fun. We have a blast and hope you will join us at 6:00pm the first Monday of each month. Post the following schedule on your calendar and look forward to a great time! Contact Ginny Proctor by calling or texting to 859-553-9784 with any questions.



- December 6 at 6:00pm - Fazoli's, North Main Street, Nicholasville
- January 3 at 6:00pm - El Rio Grande, Nicholasville
- February 7 at 6:00pm - Sonny's BBQ, Nicholasville
- March 7 at 6:00pm - Panera, Brannon Crossing
- April 4 at 6:00pm - Smashing Tomato, Fayette Plaza (behind the mall)
- May 9 at 6:00pm - Belle Notte Italian Restaurant, Lexington

I look forward to seeing you there!



Youth Ministry Update

We have been having fun and learning lots! We were able to do a pancake brunch in October and a biscuit bar brunch in November on days where the youth were off from school. The Cooper's hosted us on their beautiful property and we had fun despite the thunder storm. On October 9, we took a trip to Devine's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch. Many youth helped with the Trunk or Treat event. And we were able to go to Fall Retreat at Eagle Ridge! Amidst all the fun we have also been learning more about God and about each other! During prayer breakfast we have engaged in prayer for the missionaries in our church family, and are learning the components of the A.C.T.S. prayer. During youth group we have discussed potential dangers of media usage and ways to find peace in Jesus. We were also blessed to hear from Dan and Katy Beth Searls who did an activity with the youth about the difficulty but necessity of evangelism.



Family Ministry Team



Greetings from the Family Ministry team! We're excited to announce the Book Club, a new short-term, small group opportunity designed specifically for parents. Once a week, for about a month's time, we will meet in the WPMC hospitality room to discuss a book. You bring your favorite drink, we'll provide the snacks. While childcare is not provided, The gym will be available for younger kids to play, while parents meet just inside the hospitality room. Of course, babies and younger kiddos are welcome, and if you've got an older child that would like to bring homework, we can accommodate them as well. We know that family life is busy, and we want you to be here! Our aim is

to make it easy for parents to attend family ministry events, and we hope you'll find this time beneficial and accessible.

Watch the worship folder for details and how to sign-up! Interested in joining the family ministry team? Contact Gary and Rachel Weinberger.

Primetimers

Primetimers is the name of our senior fun ministries. We meet once a month for lunch and a program. The goal is to enjoy good food, friendly fellowship, and share in a fun or enlightening program together. We welcome newcomers!

Some of you who are receiving your AARP invitations and Medicare cards think that you're still too young for us. You'd be surprised! We are the same people who are in your ABFs. Some of us are in one of the praise bands. We sing in the choir. We ring bells. We help with VBS. We teach Sunday school and care for the babies in the nursery. We serve on the Social Committee to make the church potlucks happen. In other words, the rocking chairs on the front porch are still waiting for most of us! We invite you to give us a test run!

Our Christmas potluck luncheon will be held on Thursday, Dec 2, at noon in Building C at the church. The planning committee will supply the meat, rolls, and drinks. The membership is asked to supply the rest according to the first letter of your last name. Please bring a dish to share.

A-F Vegetable sides
G-L Christmas desserts
K-S Holiday casseroles
T-Z Any kind of salads

Realistically, you might have a favorite that you want to make and we understand that, so please feel free to call a friend in the category you want to make and ask if s/he will swap with you. Our goal is to have an equitable variety of everything. One year almost everyone brought a cranberry salad!

Our Christmas program will be singing Christmas carols and holiday songs with Rose Evans and Janis Riffell.



We do not meet in January or February. A January luncheon is often too close to the holidays and the February weather has been such that we have had to cancel too often.

If you are not on the Primetimers' email list to receive the monthly newsletter and updates about what's going on and would like to be, please contact Bonnie Lashbrook at lashbrook2@gmail.com

with your name and email address. If you prefer to receive the monthly newsletter by mail, please contact the church office with your name and mailing address. Ask to be added to the mailing list for the Primetimers' Newsletter.



Joy to the World!

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Wilmore Free Methodist Church

Vision Statement

A Community that Reflects
Jesus's Vision and Values

Mission Statement

Wilmore Free Methodist Church
will faithfully offer
members and neighbors
the Word of God,
the love of the Father,
the grace of Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
We will be Christ's presence
in our world.



The Plumbl ine

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December 2021 / January 2022

2021 Advent Schedule

The Advent morning message series will be called, "Sing in Exultation," and we'll be looking at the less known, but super significant lines from the most popular Christmas carols. Please make note of these important times and dates for our gatherings during the 2021 holiday season. Note some service times are altered and other gatherings cancelled.

Dec. 5 – Morning Worship (8:30 and 11:00) – Musical Celebration of Christmas

Dec. 5 – 6:00 p.m. – Caroling to our shut-ins and communities

Dec. 19 – Morning Worship (8:30 and 11:00) No Sunday school, YBF, ABF

Dec. 19 – 6:00 p.m. Home Group gatherings

Dec. 22 – Church offices close at noon – through January 2

Dec. 22 – No Wednesday evening activities

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship, 5:00, 6:30 and 11:00 p.m.

Dec. 26 – Morning Worship Services, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., no Sunday school, YBF, ABF

Dec. 26 – No 6:00 p.m. worship / events

Dec. 29 – No Wednesday evening activities

Jan. 2 – Morning Worship Services, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., All Church Breakfast – 9:40

Jan. 5 – Wednesday activities resume as normal

Jan. 9 – Morning Worship and Education classes resume as normal

Jan. 9 – John Wesley Covenant Worship, 6:00 p.m.