

CHURCH MATTERS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 24 DECEMBER 17, 2014

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Please join us this year as we continue to explore, "Mary Did You Know...?" Here is a quick glance at what is still ahead for this season:



December 20 – Children's

Christmas Movie 1:00 p.m.
Come in your PJ's for fun and a movie.

December 21 –Blue

Christmas Service, 5:00 p.m.
Join us for a time to remember the love of Christ in the midst of

hurting and change.

December 24 – Christmas Eve: Children's worship at 5:30 p.m., **Communion and Candlelight** at 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.

December 25 – Christmas Blessing 3:00 p.m. Children are welcome to bring a new toy to be blessed!

BLUE CHRISTMAS



We are just 8 days away from Christmas Day. For many of us, this is a time of happy anticipation with the waiting for the arrival of Jesus marked with joyous occasions, the laughter of children, the lighting of candles and the wrapping of gifts.

Yet we all take our turn when the holidays present more of a challenge because of a loss

or hardship that has occurred in the past year. You, or someone you care deeply about, could be facing a disease or illness, the loss of a relationship, the grief of a loved one's death, or a financial challenge. Any number of situations can make the usual response of joy difficult this season.

Eules First will again be offering a service of hope and healing for those who are struggling. We hope you will consider coming or bringing someone who might benefit from a message of hope this **Sunday evening, December 21, the longest night of the year, at 5:00 p.m.**

Pastor Steve will share with us a word of peace and give you an awareness of the light of Christ even in the darkest of

situations.

This will be a powerful evening of worship as we anticipate the light of Christ coming into the world. The service will include communion.

If you think this invitation might belong to someone else, forward it along and invite them to attend with you. This could be an amazing blessing for them. We understand Christ came to give each one of us this great gift of unconditional love. So, "Come, let us adore him" and receive the gift.

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BLUE CHRISTMAS

What: Service of comfort and hope

When: December 21, 5:00 p.m.

Who: Everyone and their families who suffer from pain, loss, isolation, grief

PRAYER LIST

If your prayer request has been left off, please resubmit it. All requests are for 30 days only and will need to be resubmitted after that time.

All in active addiction	Family of Myrtle Wood,	Kellsey Abbott,	Nolan Hardwick,	Sydney Marie Peel, Pat	Eric Sherrer, Justin
All who are dealing	Rex Wood's mother	Sherwood and Cheri	Barbara Collier's	May's great niece	Sherrer, Patric
with aging parents	Family of Sarah Yager,	Abbott's	father	T. White	Owen, and Alan
Alton and Reta Ray	Katie Tindel's best	granddaughter	Odessa Reed	Terron Muller, Les	McClelland,
Anthony Mendez,	friend	Kevin and Donna	Ollie O. Sallis,	Foley's niece	grandnephews of Vic
Denise Foley's son	Family of Virgil Kersey,	Hardwick, Barbara	Christopher, Sean,	Tim and Janna Martin	and Judy Torres
Arthur Schirmer	Darlene Carter's	Collier's cousin	Steven, Latoya, and	and Katelyn	Gail Worofka
Burton family	brother	Kevin Maines	Andrea	TJ Pepper	James Fiaccone, Sue
Cameron Mode	First day of FTO ride-	Kim and Jeremy Jones	Pat Holland, Cindy	Warner Muirhead	Fiaccone's grandson
Candy Klaseen	outs Monday	Kimberly Massey	Balentine's sister	Warren Bennet, Judy	Josh Crow, Annette
Carla Miller	Forrest Powell, Marjorie	Lisa Moffatt, Lynne	Paul Jones	Mulholland's friend	Kelleher's son
Caro and Pierre	Haddock's father	and Alan Moffatt's	Pierre Tshimanga's	Welton (Bill) Bailey,	Justin Knighton
Kenyon	Fred Lucas, Larry Lucas'	daughter-in-law	family	Phil Bailey's father	Sam Weatherby, Gary
Carol Rust, Dottie	father	Lois Weems, Joyce	Preeti Burns, Ann	Woody and Becky	and Carol Turner's
Rust's daughter	Gordon and Linda	Humphrey's mother	Burns' daughter-in-	Kemp	nephew
Cecil Alford, Vera	Roberts, Nancy	Margaret Baker, Kristy	law		Stephen Tate
Bohnet-Farmer's	Bickel's friends	Gatica's friend	Rafael Suarez, Linda and		Travis Thomas
brother	Homeless and Hungry	Maurine Padgett,	Don Martin's friend	Military:	William Crowder,
Charleen Coleson,	Homeless teens	Nancy Bickel's co-	Reed Jolie	Carl Miller	Yvonne Rohlfing's
Kimberly Knighton's	Honor Vaughn, Teresa	worker	Robbie Breaux, Audrey	Charles Everett,	son
mother	Sprague's mother	Maxine and Bill	Coats' friend	Charlotte & Larry	Charles Everett,
Cindy Gravely	James and Ila Gravely	Wallace, Kimberly	Roger and Charlotte	Everett's nephew	Charlotte & Larry
Dana Hibler	Jay Suggs	Knighton's friends	Martin	Chris Mulford, Pat	Everett's nephew
David Viggiano, Nancy	Jeff and Amber Boshier	Michael Mulholland	Roger Ivey	Bailey's grandson	
Bickel's cousin	and Mason and Tucker	Michele Heroux and	Ruby Stevenson, Susan	Colton Hardaway and	
Della Lynn, Jo Kemp's	Joan Owen, Darlene	family, Amber	Downey's	Kayla Davis, son	
friend	Carter's sister	Hawthorne's friend	grandmother	and daughter of	
Doris Alexander,	John Lewis	Michelle and Baker	Shayla Herigan, Eileen	Michael and Lore	
Dottie Rust's sister	Judy Mulholland and	Ingram	Mode's friend	Osborn	
Douglas Stevanelli	family	Mike Sprague, Stephen	Stan Clarke, Sue &	Devan DeBoyington,	
Elida Schirmer	Katherine Mack, Mimi	Sprague's brother	Richard Morrow's	Robin Biles' friend	
Family of Bettye	Maloney's friend	Milford Roop	friend	Dirk Van Ingen, Katie	
Hardwick, Barbara		Nick and Lisa	Stovall family	Lucas' friend	
Collier's aunt		Schoenberger, Ron	Susan McGehee		
		Coats' friends			

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Robert Ledbetter/Children's Ministry: Rex & Paula Wood

In honor of Sherwood Abbott and Jeremy Harrison/Food Pantry: Sharon Menix

In Memory of Myrtle Wood/Memorial Fund: Barbara Ledbetter

CONGRATS

Big congratulations to Carol Bolton for the arrival of her new grandson, Bryce born December 4. His parents, Michaela and Cody Thomas are so excited and doing well.

BIRTHDAYS

December

17 –Teresa Watts

19 –Jeanette Jentsch, Courtney Barton

20 –Rachel Heyduck

21 –Brendan Gerardi, Brenda Hankins, Brenda Hurlbut

22 –William Putnam

24 –Sara Taylor

27 –Jane Everett

30 –Madeline Church, Katie Lewis, Glenda Rose

January

1 –Melba Taylor

2 –Michael Henderson, Don Martin, Doris Rieman

3 –Billy Byers, Jeremy Harrison

ANNIVERSARIE

December

17 –Joe & Jennifer Tindel

18 –Kent & Tami Polenz

19 –Lee & Sandy Swan, Larry & Linda Lewis

20 –Lewis & Linda Moore

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Here is the Food Pantry schedule:

December

- 19 –Phyllis Augustus, Marie Bean, Sheri Roberts, Judy Torres
- 26 –Closed for Christmas

January

- 2 –Helen Davies, Linda Lewis, Hedy Taylor, Judy Tribble
- 9 –Darlene Carter, Kathy Chapman, Gloria Daves, Maggie Lucas,
- 16 –Phyllis Augustus, Marie Bean, Brenda Hurlbut, Sheri Roberts
- 23 –Doris Brown, Dottie Rust, Jill Schaneberg, Judy Torres

Food Pantry Needs: Ramen noodles, canned corn and green beans.

The Food Pantry were recipients of a big Food Drive at The Mary Lib Saleh Euleless Public Library. We received 927 pounds of food, bottled water and paper goods that we can now distribute to our clients. Our "Thanks" go out to the employees and residents of Euleless for their donations and to our *Loading Crew* that loaded, hauled, and unloaded nearly a 1,000 pounds of food for our Pantry.

We handed out 168 Thanksgiving

Bags to our clients during the month of November! Thank You to all that helped with this privilege of sharing the season with those in need.

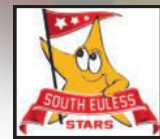
We are now in the process of giving our clients a small Christmas bag, stocking stuffers, and any unused Christmas decorations. Any donations are needed. We served 35 Families on December 5.

Our next FOOD BANK DAY is on January 21, 2015. We could use your help!



NIGHT OF WONDER

December 15, Euleless First was excited to participate in 6Stone's Night of Wonder at South Euleless Elementary School. Thank you to our volunteers, as well as your financial support and prayers. Here are some pictures from the wonderful event. We were excited to help hundreds of kids have a better holiday. Together we share the gift of Christ with others!



T-SHIRTS

We still have Church Shirts available for purchase. Each shirt has the church logo on the upper left. Here are the sizes left:

- Pale Pink Medium T-Shirt \$15

- Ladies Blue Lake Large Polo Shirt \$35
- Ladies Blue Lake X-Large Polo Shirt \$35
- Yellow Large T-Shirt \$10

- Yellow 2X-Large T-Shirt \$12

If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact Barbara or Bob Collier.

FLOWER CALENDAR

The flowers that grace our sanctuary each Sunday are a beautiful contribution to worship as well as a special way to honor or remember your loved ones or

special events.

NOW is the time to make your reservations for the 2015 Flower Calendar. Please contact the church office to reserve your

special dates, request a special kind of arrangement, and designate who you want to honor/remember in 2015. You can also send an email to: church-office@fumceuleless.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY



E1ement Students had a wonderful progressive dinner on December 6th. A big

Ron & Audrey Coats, and Linda & Dave Lewis.

shout out to our hosts during the progressive dinner: Kent & Tami Polenz,



PRESCHOOL



“Someone Has a Birthday”

Come see the Preschool children perform in their adorable

Christmas program!

December 16 & 17

10:00 a.m.

In the church sanctuary.

Eules FUMC Preschool is

proud to announce they were the winners of the Parks and Community Service Board’s Float Award for the *Eules Parade of Lights*. The kids were so sweet as they designed their own box to wear to represent a Christmas package under a beautifully decorated patriotic tree.

Our Christmas programs are December 16 and 17 at 10:00 a.m. They will present “*Someone Has a Birthday*.” After they sing, “*Happy Birthday, Jesus*,” the audience is sure to be in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas parties will be

December 18 and 19. Then we will enjoy a Christmas break from December 22 –January 2 and will return on January 5.

We wish everyone the Merriest of Christmases and as our students sing – “Happy Birthday, Jesus! I’m so glad it’s Christmas! All the tinsel and lights and the presents are nice, but the real gift is you!...Jesus, I love you!”



CHILDREN’S MINISTRY



Christmas is coming! Children are excited about the season and all that it holds. We want to help make this a time of celebration with a Children’s Ministry Movie event of a movie. Join us December 20, 1:00 p.m. for Disney’s *Frozen*. There will be cookies and hot chocolate.

We could also use some additional help with this event. If you are able to help, please let Aubree Marlow, Children’s

Ministry Director know.

Children Sunday School classes will be celebrating Christ’s birthday with parties on December 21. You are welcome to come by and sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus Or better yet ask a child how the party was.

Finally, you are invited to join us Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. for a Children’s Service that includes a spontaneous nativity, starring all the children in attendance. We

will have costumes for everyone! We hope you will join us for a time to tell the Christmas story, sing beautiful music, worship God, and maybe most importantly share the Christ story with others!

FROM THE PASTOR

I hope you are enjoying the Advent booklets that we put together. I want to thank our staff and all of you who wrote devotionals. We also thank Mark and Vicki Baker for having so many decisions made far earlier than our usual schedule. Mostly, thanks to Rachel Heyduck for making this happen.

This booklet helps prepare us for Christmas. Notice I did not say that this booklet helps us prepare for Christmas, though it does that, too. My point here is that this booklet, printed before Thanksgiving to carry us to Christmas Day, helps prepare us for Christmas.

How?

I'm glad you asked.

Almost as soon as it was printed, we made some changes. Dr. Eugene Robertson is participating in several of the services, but is not included in the printed orders of worship. We will have a special visitor on Sunday, the 21st. A few songs will have changed. We've even found some spelling errors. This after at least a half dozen efforts at proofreading!

But, you see, all the preparation in the world does not MAKE things work. All the preparation in the world cannot account for the way the world works.

Should we throw up our hands and not prepare? No. In fact, here it is appropriate to say, "Heavens, no!"

Preparation is about facing uncertainty, not ending it.

Christmas is about the way God faces uncertainty - head on, moving into it: "... while we were still sinners, Christ died for us..." (Romans 5:8)

May all of your preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth bring you closer to the One who moves toward uncertainty on our behalf. May the light of Christ come to shine in the darkness that is within each of us!

BEQUEST

Eddie Massie has blessed Eules First United Methodist Church with a significant gift in loving memory of his father,

James Massie. James had been a long time member here when he died last July. Eddie grew up in this church, and has donated

towards a substantial audio and technological upgrade for our ministries.

HIGHWAY UPDATE

No news on the highway project. As I was typing that sentence, though, this computer thought I meant to type 'prophecy' where I typed 'project.'

I imagine there have been many attempts at prophecy over the last

25 or so years, regarding the expansion of Airport Freeway. Sometimes they may have felt helpful. Sometimes not.

This is a good time to clarify what prophecy really means. It is more about proclaiming God's word

than about predicting the future.

As we proceed toward whatever God and TxDOT have in store, may we seek God's will more than specific predictions about what the future holds.



ABUNDANCE

Eules First's annual stewardship campaign concluded on Sunday, November 25 with our Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful month of learning about *Abundance: Giving is Receiving*.

A big thank you to those who have already pledged! We are approaching \$300,000 in

pledges and already have 13 new families pledging for 2015 who had not pledged previously!

We have quite a few pledge cards still out, but your Finance Committee hopes to reach \$400,000 before the end of the year.

Thank you for your support and your participation in the ministries

of our church! If you have not yet turned your pledge, cards are available in the church office. It is never too late to turn in your pledge card! We know that discipleship and number of pledges are directly related. We are encouraged about the results of this barometer.



Online Giving Link

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Years Day 6:30 MEN'S COFFEE 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN	3 8:00 CHURCH COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION
4 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 WORSHIP 5:00 ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS	5 7:00 TRUSTEES MEETING	6 10:00 HARMONY HOPE	7 10:00 COVENANT BIBLE STUDY 6:30 CONFIRMATION 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	8 6:30 MEN'S COFFEE 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER 6:00 FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	9 9:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN	10
11 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 WORSHIP 12:00 UMW INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS 5:00 COVENANT BIBLE STUDY	12 6:00 UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:00 FINANCE MEETING	13 6:30 ALPHA IN-TRO DINNER	14 10:00 COVENANT BIBLE STUDY 6:30 CONFIRMATION 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	15 6:30 MEN'S COFFEE 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER	16 9:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN	17
18 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:30 BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 WORSHIP 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS-YOUTH SERVICE RETREAT 5:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN 5:00 COVENANT BIBLE STUDY	19 MLK HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	20 6:30 ALPHA	21 10:00 COVENANT BIBLE STUDY 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	22 6:30 MEN'S COFFEE 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER	23 9:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN	24 9:00 GOD GRAND PLOT
25 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 WORSHIP 12:00 YOUTH CHILI COOK-OFF 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS 5:00 COVENANT BIBLE STUDY	26	27 3:00 BEACH CLUB 6:30 ALPHA	28 10:00 COVENANT BIBLE STUDY 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	29 6:30 MEN'S COFFEE 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER	30 7:00 ASHANTI CHILDREN'S CHOIR	31 9:00 LAUNDROMAT MINISTRY

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Is Christ leading you to respond with compassion to children, youth, or adults who are affected by HIV/AIDS? We pray for people on World AIDS Day, December 1. In this season of giving, you may feel led to support one of the many excellent ministry programs that are being carefully implemented in different contexts through the Advance for Christ and His Church.

We can contribute to new life flourishing for people around the world, from America to Zambia, through The Advance for Christ and His Church. Truly, 100 percent of gifts reach their goal because apportionments cover administrative costs. At www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/search-for-projects/Advance-Project-Search, more than 850 programs and ministries are connected and accountable to United Methodist partners. You can search by key word or category, focus area, population, region, missionary or UMCOR. Curious to learn more about the range of options, I did a search on programs that mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS. Here are some highlights of the treasures that I found.

In the African countries of Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, children orphaned by AIDS and other vulnerable children are enabled to help themselves through an effective three-year empowerment program called ZOE. ZOE means "life" in Greek, and the program began as the Zimbabwe Orphans Endeavor. Since 2007, this program has helped more than 30,000 children to be able to support themselves and younger siblings. Read about their story found at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to

-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/982023.

The Armenia Development programs assist people in many practical ways, including education about the spread of HIV/AIDS. This is a great example of the reach of The United Methodist Church to spread hope and practical help in diverse areas of our global community. Read more here.

In Haiti, Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic takes care of children and families who are coping with TB, HIV/AIDS, and chronic illness. Time has passed since the 2010 earthquake, so donations to this health care center will show that we still care about their plight. Find out about it at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/418520.

In India, three orphanages with children whose parents died of AIDS are nurtured by the work of Global Hope, which also has locations in Kenya and Romania. Care givers and educators are committed to providing shelter, meals, clothing, education, school supplies, and loving Christian parental care to these children. Discover more at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/15087A.

In China, people recovering from drug addiction are given a fresh start at the "Born Again Garden" through the Amity Support for Gospel Voluntary Drug Rehabilitation Center. They may have contracted HIV/AIDS through sharing drug needles. Graduating from the 1 ½ year program means that participants have received farm training and experience, education, Bible study, and even enjoyed

wholesome activities like basketball. Learn about this ministry at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/3021560.

In Nicaragua, Acción Medica Cristiana (AMC) upholds its mission to "empower poor communities through leadership and capacity-building, for health and development." The range of their important work in this poor country is described at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/14846A.

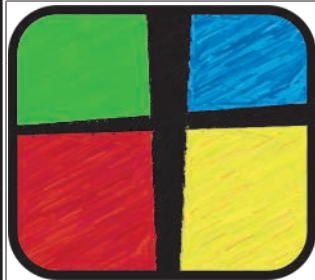
In Thailand, an AIDS Orphanage called Angels' Haven is thoughtfully and joyfully led by missionary husband and wife team, Cindy and Gary Moon. Your support will help the children living there thrive. Discover more about the ministry at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/3021209.

Closer to home in America, Christ House in Washington, D.C., provides healthcare to homeless men and women, some of whom are living with HIV/AIDS. Christian fellowship is sustained through the Kairos Program, a spiritually-based recovery community to foster addiction recovery while also managing residents' chronic illnesses. Read more at www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/381215.

No matter where you choose to give, your monetary gift will help bring the love of God and a whole new chapter of life to people in need. Through your generous financial support, the church is further equipped to help people experience new life now. Thanks be to God!



The Advance



Euleless

First United Methodist Church


Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

106 N. Main St.

Euleless, TX 76040


Phone: 817-283-4421

fumceuleless.org

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 [Pinterest.com/EulelessFirstUMC](https://pinterest.com/EulelessFirstUMC)

 [Instagram.com/EulelessFirstUMC](https://instagram.com/EulelessFirstUMC)

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Return Service Requested

Euleless, TX 76039

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Euleless First United Methodist Church

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