



Spirit *connection*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DEWEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JANUARY 2019

A Prayer for Families

by MaryJane Pierce Norton

Prayer:

Gracious God, who created all of humankind and showed to us the importance of relationships with one another,

we commend to your care all the families of our community and our world.

We pray that each home may be a home where love is felt.

We pray for homes where, instead of love, hurt, abuse, and suffering abide.

We pray for children, youth, and

adults, recognizing the importance of and the gift of every age as we grow.

May your grace be present to all.

Grant us wisdom to know where there is no love, courage to act out of love for others, and peace to trust in your grace.

Help us to live so that the commandments of love for you and love for others are shown in the ways we live together.

Amen.

The Gift of Prayer

Use the prayer above, or find others online at umc.org.

If you've committed to pray more in 2019, use this prayer as a starting point, along with the Lord's Prayer. And as God knows your heart, He also knows your words. Talk to Him like a friend!

Church Events

Jan. 6

10 am Consider the Birds

Jan. 8

5 pm Food Pantry Meeting

Jan. 13

10 am Rumors of Wars

Jan. 15

6 pm United Methodist Men Meeting

Jan. 19

2 pm Quilting Class

Jan. 20

10 am #FOMO & #JOMO
2 pm Movie Night

Jan. 27

10 am U R Important
5 pm Everything is Absurd Party
Feb. 10

Winter Jam

Weekly Events

Sundays

9 am Sunday School
10 am Worship
6:30 pm Chick-Lits

Wednesdays

5 pm One:10 Youth
6 pm Choir Practice

Two Goats and a Gift

A Message from Bishop Jimmy Nunn

One of the bishops from the Congo shared the story of how he met and married his wife. He believed that God had a purpose for his life. So, he studied the Bible every day. He met a young lady and quickly fell in love. He became her Bible teacher. He was always quoting scripture, praying, encouraging her to be more godly. It was the perfect match. Or so he thought. One day she informed him that she did not want to marry the Bible.

He did not give up so easily, however. He began to pray and felt God was pulling the two of them together. He learned to relate better and things progressed. When he asked her father for the hand of his bride, the price was set. It was \$200, some food, and two goats.

It was a high price to pay in that context, but he began the task. He secured the money for the \$200 gift and to purchase the food. He placed his brother in charge of finding and purchasing the goats.

The brother found two goats. They were skinny, scrawny little things. The father-in-law had not specified what kind of goats. So, he set out for the journey. He knocked at the door, presented the money, the food, and the underwhelming goats.

The response was swift. "You want to marry my daughter and you bring me skinny goats? She is worth more than that."

He left feeling dejected. And as he left he prayed. "God, I feel I have heard your voice telling me that this woman is to be my wife. Show me the goats."

To make a much longer story short, he found two goats that were well fed, plump goats, worthy of being part of a dowry. And he married his wife.

At first glance, this story reveals the deep cultural differences of United Methodists around the world. But it is also a story of faith, with insights that bridge cultural divides.

This season of Advent, it is easy to focus on the "skinny goats." Jesus gave us a mission to make disciples of all people. We have received a wonderful inheritance through our Methodist tradition. Yet, we worry about personal and family problems, rising costs, division within the church, and the increasing secular society around us. Those worries are skinny goats not worthy of our calling.

The word Advent means "coming." Our job is to prepare for that coming of Jesus Christ. The essential ingredient of preparation

is hope.

When my colleague left his future father in law, he left dejected. But he had depended on someone else to find the goats. This was really his job. And when he shook off dejection and began to look around, he found what he needed.

Have we sent someone else to look for our "goats"? Are we dejected because others have failed to do what we were tasked to do?

We are people of hope! Now let's find the worthy goats!

2 Timothy 1:7

"For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."

This verse has three main themes - fearlessness, strength and love.

We realize that while we may have weakness, doubt, fear, and anger inside ourselves, God's true purpose for us is to return to the image in which He made us:

Fearless, Strong, and Loving.



A sermon series on the effects of modern reality on our life and work.

January 6 • Consider the Birds

January 13 • Rumors of Wars

January 20 • #FOMO & #JOMO

January 27 • U R Important

News Blotter

A bit of news about what's going on in the life of the church...

Quilting Class

Starting at 2 pm Saturday, Jan. 19, the Lost Art of Quilting will be rediscovered in a class facilitated by our own Clois Bengé. If you're not sure if this class is for you, plan to attend the first session for more information.

Movie Night

The movie "What If" will come to DUMC Gym at 2 pm on Sunday, Jan. 20. Bring the family! If needed, we'll add a second screen for young kids. Hosted by the Family Life Committee.

Food Pantry

Start collecting canned goods now. As the year progresses, the Food Pantry Committee will share more information about this upcoming ministry.

Sock Tree

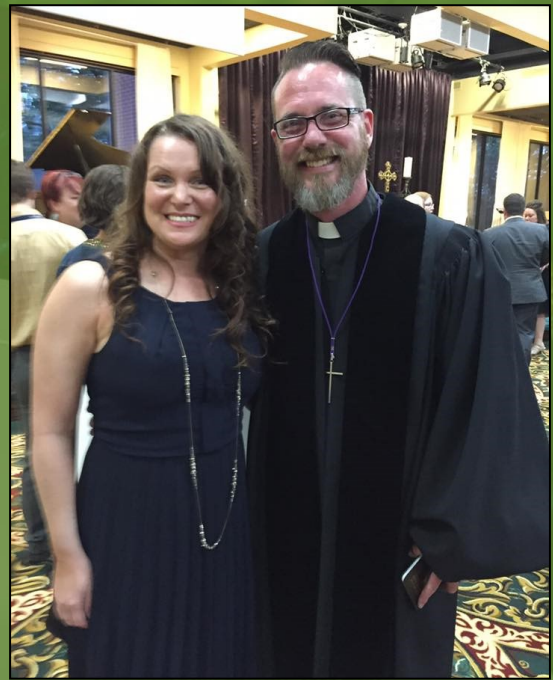
We gathered over 100 pairs of socks as part of our Sock Tree collection during Advent. These socks will keep Dewey students' feet warm this winter! Thank you!

Christmas Eve Offering

The offering collected on Christmas Eve totaled \$694. The funds will be halved between Dewey Elementary School and the Senior Center. All gifts are appreciated and will go to two worthy causes.

Christmas

We hosted several successful events during Christmas, including the Cantata, Crafting Christmas, and the Youth Christmas Party.



Hello 2019!

A Message from Pastor Jinx

Where has the year gone?

I once had a Harvard trained psychology professor give me the following in response to the question, "Why do the years seem to get faster as we get older?" He said that any new experience has to forge a pathway for the impulses to take in the new thing. Just like walking through a waist high field, it takes some effort. The more you have the experience, the more you walk down that proverbial path, and the more you do, the easier it is to traverse.

You can see this metaphor at work in most public parks and universities. There is the sidewalk, and then there are the various paths that have been worn into the earth by people who are taking a more efficient route. In our brains as those pathways get worn, we do not experience the same wonder or joy, because they become normal.

Our faith journey can be much like this. When we first encounter God, or when we experience new things on our faith walk, we experience them as extraordinary. But the more and more we experience them, the less of our brain actually spends on them. I am no different. As I am hoping to make 2019 a year of personal and spiritual growth, I invite you to come along. I mentioned this in our stewardship series, I am going to be intentional about growing in my Prayers, Presence, Service, Gifts and Witness (these are also our membership vows).

May we all experience God in new and wonderful ways in this new year. If you have any questions about how you can get involved, just ask.

THANK YOU!

This year's Christmas Outreach was another splendid success! Each year, Dewey UMC members and friends come together to pull off a feat of genuine generosity by filling pantries and Christmas trees for Dewey families.

This year's helpers included Alyssa Hamilton, Cala Lynch, Carl & LouAnn McKelvain, Cheryl Johnson, Courtney Frye, Donny Eckert, Ellen Ikenberry, Gayle Miller, George McAfee, Gerry Becker, Heidi Smith, Jane Hodges, Jeanie Gilliland, Jena Barber, Jerri Moore, Jinx Barber, Jodi Beffer, John Elam, Cadence Barber, Kathy Davis, Lynnette Gunter, Marilyn McAfee, Mary Lou Burdett, Natalie Epps, Patti Bogle, Sherri Lowery, Susan Simmons, Ted Bogle, Troy Deutsch & family, Vicki Vaughan, Virginia Chew, Wayne & Glenda Kahre, Yas Majors, the Youth and the United Methodist Men.

We hope we haven't missed anyone—but if we did, please know that we truly appreciate your contribution to this very worthwhile ministry.

As the saying goes, "it takes a village." And this church is an extra special village serving the residents of Dewey as Jesus served. We are truly blessed to be in service to others as we serve the Lord.

Contact Us

Phone 918-534-2328 • Web www.deweymc.com
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Dewey, OK 74029

CARDS & LETTERS

Do you know someone who is stuck at home or at a nursing home, hospital, college, or even jail?

Would that person benefit from personal notes from caring church members? If so, please let the church office know and we'll add them to this list:

Carol Shriver

2300 SE 28th St., Rm. 211
Bentonville, AR 72712

Jeanette Stone

Pleasant Valley Nursing
1120 Illinois St., Rm. 45B
Muskogee, OK 74403

Kali Adams

Box 712
340 W. 1st St., Rm. 712
Norman, OK 73072
479-236-0994

Send a card or note to let them know you're thinking of them. If you need a card and/or stamp, we have extras in the church office.

SO ABSURD!

5 pm • Sunday, January 27

This all-ages event has everything! Plan to attend and participate in any or all of the events listed:

ASPIC CONTEST

Have you seen those absurd gelatin molds with who-knows-what inside them? Use your creativity and make your own ABSURD aspic dish out of edible ingredients. Additionally, we'll challenge those who are willing to try each of the clever creations!

COSTUME CONTEST

What's your most absurd outfit? Now go one step farther and join us at the party!

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

Our own "Monty Hall" will present a rousing trivia game complete with prizes and Doors #1, 2 and 3! You won't want to miss out on the fun!

ETC.

We'd love donations of prizes (small or large!). Prize donations can be dropped off at the church any time between now and the day of the event. Please feel free to bring finger foods to share (the more absurd the better).

