

Fennimore United
Methodist Church
Stitzer United Methodist Church
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Rev. William "Bud" Budzinski, Pastor

Pastor Yang, Associate Pastor

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“It Would Be a Merrier World”

Some thoughts...

’Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse... Ahhh, peace and quiet. So nice...

When you read this, Christmas will be less than a month away and the hustle and bustle will be going on, things to do and things to buy and people to see. As I write this, Thanksgiving is not even here yet but Christmas lights are already up and Christmas decorations have been for sale in the store since July... well, maybe not THAT early!

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas, but I pray that Christmas this year will be more relaxed for everyone. And a reminder, Christmas is not about getting presents but it IS about giving and kindness and love.

“If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.”
The Hobbit, Chapter 18

The Bible repeatedly urges us to keep material possessions in proper perspective, simply because we can't take them with us when we leave this life. As the apostle Paul wrote, “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6:7). The quote from Thorin says it is better to value food and cheer and song above hoarded gold. Gold, in itself, if shared generously, can be a very good thing. Thorin hadn't been wrong to attempt to recover the gold that rightfully belonged to him, either. His fault had been in hoarding it and in refusing to share it with the people of Laketown. They were starving, despairing, and in need of cheer – and even a modest donation on Thorin's part would have helped provide that food and cheer.

Jesus told a parable about a rich man whose fields had yielded bumper crops – so much so that his existing granaries couldn't contain his overflowing harvest. He could have shared his surplus freely with the poor or sold it to them at a compassionate rate, but instead he decided to build greater barns, hoard every bit of his wealth, and retire in luxury. But God told him he was going to die that very night, so he wouldn't benefit one iota from his hoarded riches. Jesus summed up this lesson: “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:19-21).

How do we become “rich toward God?” By doing good and sharing with others. The rich fool in Jesus' parable had the same problem as Thorin. It wasn't wrong for him to want to “eat, drink and be merry,” but he wanted it all, and that was wrong. He turned his eyes away from those around him who were desperate and needed “food and cheer and song” even more than he did.

Even when we're struggling to make ends meet, we can still enjoy some of the greatest riches this world has to offer. We build strong, happy bonds that last a lifetime when we take time out of our busy schedules to come together for a gathering of family or friends. Moments like those are worth far more than money. The food may be good for our bodies, but the cheer is even better for our souls.

May your Christmas be filled with much cheer!
Merry Christmas! *Pastor Bud and Lori*



Fennimore UMW News:

The meaning of December: "twelfth and last (by modern reckoning) month of the calendar, the month of the winter solstice," late Old English, from Old French decembre, from Latin December, from decem "ten"; tenth month of the old Roman calendar, which began with March.

We are looking forward to our Annual Potluck on Wednesday December 4th. We will enjoy a delicious meal and then have a short meeting and create our cheer plates.

As the year winds down and we rush to prepare our home for the Christmas, may you find ... "Peace with God, peace with others, and peace in your own heart."

The UMW wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

December is a BUSY month for Christian Education! The students have been working hard, preparing for our annual Christmas Program (December 8 at 10:30). We will wrap up this semester next Sunday (December 15) with our Classroom Christmas Parties! There will be NO Christian Education on December 22 or 29. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5 (2020)!

Operation Christmas Child was a HUGE success! Our students were able to pack over 90 boxes — WAY TO GO! We also held a movie night in November! Aladdin was shown, the kids has fun and everyone enjoyed the movie! We also have a Calendar and Holiday Card Sale going as well. Watch for them for sale between Worship Services on December 8 and possibly, December 15 (depending on supply).

Thank You for your support of CE!



Stitzer Administrative Council and UMW will meet on Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 PM with a Potluck Dinner. Following that, Cheer Boxes will be filled. Please bring 2 to 3 dozen Cookies or Other Goodies!



Join us this Christmas Eve!

Service Times:

- 3:00 PM (Fennimore)
- 5:00 PM (Fennimore)
- 7:00 PM (Stitzer)
- 11:00 PM (Fennimore)



Who's Serving in Fennimore in December?

Ushers

Date:	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
12/8/2019	Nelson's	N/A
12/15/2019	Curt Freymiller	Connie Neal
12/22/2019 (9:00 AM)	Carrie F. Jaren K.	
12/29/2019 (9:00 AM)	Linda S. Karen R.	

Greeter (Sanctuary)

Date:	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
12/8/2019	Carlin's	N/A
12/15/2019	Miller's	Sue Hentschel
12/22/2019 (9:00 AM)	Shawn H. Cecelia H.	
12/29/2019 (9:00 AM)	Torgerson's	

Liturgist

Date:	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
12/8/2019	Judy Nelson	N/A
12/15/2019		Connie Neal
12/22/2019 (9:00 AM)	McKenna Oyen	
12/29/2019 (9:00 AM)	Linda S.	

December Food Pantry Needs:

Canned Carrots
Mixed Vegetables
Tuna
Canned Fruit
Peanut Butter
Ramen Noodles

December 2019 Mission

Angel Tree:

We are sponsoring the Angel Tree again this year which helps with the Grant County Holiday Project. As we've done in previous years, we obtain names of individuals and/or families that are in need of assistance to have a little bit of Christmas Blessings! Social Services indicates the needs of the families and tries to choose necessary items vs. wants.

We ask that the gifts you purchase be wrapped, bagged, and labeled with the angel, so we know what gifts go with the various angels, so they can be picked up or delivered. Please have the gifts returned NO

LATER THAN

Monday, December 9th.

Thoughts
In your time
of sorrow, my
ARE WITH YOU

Our
deepest Christian Sympathy to the
Families and Friends of:

Janis Schaefer

Jim Kloosterboer

Glenda Moon

Remember our Friends at:

Orchard Manor

Doris Schneider

Lancaster Care Center

Jeannette Schneiderwind

Divine Rehab and Nursing

Nip Leffler, Dave Lindow, Gerry McReynolds,

Dennis Freymillerr

Sunset Fields

Donna Blackburn and Paul Rector

"THE ASSOCIATE'S CORNER"

PASTOR YANG

Waiting for Jesus

When I was a child I use to share a bedroom with my father, mother, and younger brother. Unfortunately my father worked 1st shift and my mother worked 2nd. As one can imagine this often times made for some strange sleeping and waking hours. So while my brother and I slept my dad would wake up earlier and go off to work and every night my mom would return home between 11:00 – 11:30 PM which by the time both my brother and I were fast asleep. Occasionally though on Friday my father and my brother and I would stay up late and wait for my mom to get home. I still remember that after the news and WWF wrestling I knew my mom would come through the door any minute. The joy that my heart felt when that door flung open and my mom showed her face was one of the most delightful times for me as a child. Those moments I'll never forget the rest of my life.

During the Advent season we will also be waiting on someone our savior and redeemer Jesus. It is a time to remember what Jesus means to us and what he has done for us. Jesus is more than just a healer or a person who can control the elements of nature - Jesus is savior our lives and the reason we no longer fear the penalty of death or the punishment of hell.

Why only celebrate Jesus once a year when you can do the same multiple times a year? Why not celebrate Jesus every day? Why not celebrate Jesus every second of our lives? In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul advises the followers to "pray without ceasing" and continues in verse 18 saying "give thanks in all circumstances...". So praying without ceasing being thankful and grateful to God every moment of our lives. By doing this we start to

realize just how present God is in our lives and just how awesome our Creator really is. Also in this way we discover new things about God and maybe even new things about ourselves and others as well.

I personally believe that God is steadily opening the doors to Heaven to humanity over time. It's not because God is teasing humanity or creation but more like humanity has yet to catch up to the reality of just how awesome God and the kingdom God has made is. As more and more people realize just who God is and what Jesus did to save us. Just like my mother would slowly open the door for us I hope that each and every one of us will wait in anticipation for the day when the doors God's Kingdom will be flung wide opened and all the world will see just how great and awesome God is. When will this day come? Even Jesus said he does not know when he will return to Earth (Mark 13:32 and Matthew 24:36) but as we wait we also have responsibilities here on Earth. We are to not only love God with all that we have but we must also love our neighbors as ourselves as well. Through our love and dedication to God we also invite others to do the same increasing God's truth around Earth and sharing hope of God's grace to all those who did not have any before.

Glory
to God on the
highest
Luke 2:14