

The Voice of Billingsville

December 2024

St. Johns United Church of Christ
14191 Billingsville Road, Boonville, MO 65233-3408
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I WISH EVERYDAY WAS CHRISTMAS

There's a great Christmas song called "I Wish Everyday was Christmas" and it goes something like this:

"I wish everyday was Christmas; All around the world;
Peace, love and harmony; For every boy and girl."

I like the sentiment of this song; it reminds us of the good will that happens this time of the year. Folks who are not normally benevolent will go out of their way to give to others who are in need. Wouldn't it be great if we were all this concerned with our neighbor's well-being every day? Think about the following points:

I wish everyday was Christmas...

- So we would get excited about the opportunity the give more.
- So that large corporations gave money to help feed others.
- So TV programs would have wholesome themes and happy endings.
- Because people just seem to be nicer to each other.
- Because it's quiet on Christmas morning and no one seems to be in a big hurry.
- Because people talk a lot more about Jesus than they normally do.
- Because people seem to go to church a lot more than they usually do.

Let's all make a commitment to be much more benevolent than we have been in the past. James wrote that part of pure religion was "visiting" (James 1:27) which requires action and involvement on our part. It's easy to reach in our pockets and throw some money in a red pot, but until you roll up your sleeves and make personal sacrifices of your time and energy, you're only getting part of the job done. Let's be sure that we have fulfilled our duty as Christians to do good to all (Galatians 6:10).

Jay Launius – 2021
Maud Church of Christ
Maud, TX

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 1: Hanging of the Greens Service at 10:30 am followed by carry-in dinner in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 4: Men's Breakfast at Main Street Diner at 8:00 am; Church Board meeting at 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 5: Friends, Fellowship and Fun at 1:00-3:30 pm

Sunday, December 8: Penny Sunday for ECH; Benevolence Offering

Sunday, December 22: Holy Communion during Morning Worship

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Pageant at 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 29: Fifth Sunday Food Drive

CONTACT US

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GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!

DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS
PSALM 96:3

You may remember seeing this message on the T-shirts that Rhea and Marg wore during the shoebox kick-off and the shoebox collection Sundays. The shoeboxes are missionaries spreading good news and great joy to all of the nations. We praise God for this opportunity!

This is the 25th year our church has prepared shoeboxes and donated postage funds to brighten children's lives and lead them and their families to Christ. We collected 202 boxes and sufficient funds to send these boxes around the world this year.

Thank you to everyone! May God richly bless you for your kindness! You are appreciated! We have collected and sent 1,966 boxes in the past 25 years. I want to also thank Nancy Meyer and Rhea Helmreich for delivering boxes.

We pray that when the Operation Christmas Child volunteers hand out these boxes, they will bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful and Christ's love to the children who receive them. Many of these families are suffering in the midst of natural disasters, violence, and extreme poverty. Please pray for all of the children who receive boxes as well as all of the volunteers who work tirelessly to deliver them around the world.

"We think of prayer as talking to God, but prayer is not a one-way conversation. God listens; do we?"
Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, OCC, Shoebox Project

Love in Christ,
Marg, Rhea, Ruth Ann, and Rita



Bill and Linda Adair, collection chairs at the First Baptist Church, Rhea Helmreich, Marg Scott, and Nancy Meyer.

Hanging of the Greens



Mark your calendars! Our annual Hanging of the Greens and Tree Lighting Ceremony will be **Sunday, December 1st at 10:30 am** followed by a carry-in dinner in Fellowship Hall.

The children will hang their picture ornaments on the tree during this service.

Committee #2 is in charge of the meal: Linda Burnett, Jessica Grathwohl, Laura Grathwohl, Carol Fowler, Pat & Vicki Hilden, Wayne & Rita Kanenbley, Jared Kueckelhan, Justin Kueckelhan, Tim & Julie Kueckelhan, Ed & Lynnd Schler, Linda Simmons, Charles Stegner & Holly Hughes, Don & Ruth Ann Warnke



The Christmas Eve Service and Pageant will be December 24 at 7:00 pm. Anyone participating in the pageant should arrive at 6:30 pm.

FRIENDS, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

Friends, Fellowship, and Fun will meet on Thursday, December 5th from 1:00-3:30 p.m. Bring or invite a friend and come ready to join in a game of Pitch, Rummikube, Skip Bo, or other game. You may bring a snack to share. Ice water and lemonade will be provided.



HEALTH FACTS Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis is a disease that occurs when the body loses too much bone, makes too little bone or both. As a result, bones become weak and may break from a fall or even a minor bump.

Osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because most people don't know they have it until they break a bone.

Regular bone mineral density screening can help detect osteoporosis. Begin screening for women after age 65 and men after age 70.

You can receive medication to reduce bone destruction and practice weight bearing exercises. Ask your health provider for more information regarding screening and treatment and follow the guidelines recommended.

Nancy Meyer,
Health Minister

FROM THE EDITOR...

This will be my last newsletter as Editor of the Voice of Billingsville.

Thank you everyone who has sent articles and information for me to include each month.

I appreciate everyone who supported me and gave me grace when I made errors or omitted information.

I pray someone will be called to take over this task. If you have any questions about what it entails or the compensation, let one of our Church Council members know.

Julie

NOVEMBER STATISTICS

	Offering	Benevolence	Attendance
03	\$1,755	\$0	31
10	\$981	\$80 Penny Sun: \$34	33
17	\$862	\$25 Blanket Sun: \$290	25
24	\$827	\$155	45



Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th. There will be a carry-in dinner following morning worship and preceding the meeting.

Committee #3 is in charge of the meal: Pat Friedrich, Scott & Peggy Grissum, Rhea Helmreich, Garrett Hundley, Jason & Melissa Hundley, Kamrynn Hundley, Ted & Billie Litton, Dave & Ann Muntzel, Abigail Pannell, Tracy Pannell, Don & Marg Scott, Ed Wassmann, and Ginger Wenger

Jared Kueckelhan and Ed Schler have served two terms on the Church Council. We will need elect their replacements.

Tracy Pannell is up for re-election to the Board of Christian Education.

Ed Wassmann is up for re-election to the Cemetery Board.

	Worship Leader	Greeters & Ushers	Messenger
01	Women's Guild	Kenneth & Janet Stegner	Women's Guild
08	Melissa Hundley	Scott Grissum & Jim Farris	Rev. Andy Mockridge
15	Janet Stegner	Donna Kammerich & Marg Scott	Pastor Kurt Grathwohl
22	Vicki Hilden	Jason & Melissa Hundley	Rev. Jeff Glandon
29	Marg Scott	Kenneth & Janet Stegner	Rev. Jeff Glandon

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joan Pannell	01
Jason Gerhardt	03
Lori Woods	03
Kevin Simmons	04
Khale Bohlken	10
Carol Fowler	10
Bob Painter	10
Haley Floyd	11
Cody Gerhardt	11
Bill Forst	11
Pat Hilden	11
Jim Friedrich	16
Noel Schler	16
Austin Edwards	20
Charlie Jean Smith	21
Cliff Smith	21
Jessica Grathwohl	22
Dee Ann Riley	22
Ruth Searfoss	23
Chris Hawley	25
Kim Searfoss	25
Tracy Pannell	26
Jamie Swalwell	26
Kyler Alvis	29
Nancy Meyer	29

✠ BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES ✠

Julie Ann Miller Kueckelhan	03
Melissa Sue Helmreich Hundley	04
Madilyn Maureen Carmichael	08
Mary Francis Friedrich Bail	11
Charles Edward Schler, Jr.	14
Janice Kathleen Gerhardt Cooper	16
Myrtle Joan Pannell	16
Aaron Luke Geiger	19
Jace Steven Hawley	22
Carson Reynolds Bail	30

Please let these homebound and nursing home friends know you are thinking about them with a visit or a card.

Sandy Farris

Katy Manor P.O. Box 8, Pilot Grove, MO 65276

Arlene & Sonny Friedrich

Katy Manor P.O. Box 8, Pilot Grove, MO 65276

Iris Gerhardt

2613 Trenchard Dr, Independence, MO 64057

Ruth Searfoss

Katy Manor P.O. Box 8, Pilot Grove, MO 65276

Dorothy Vieth

Lenoir 3710 Lenoir St, Columbia, MO 65201

PRAYER CHAIN

- Jack Deuschle, Parkinson's disease
- Pastor Jim Elliott, cancer treatments
- Sharon Elliott, hospice
- Sandy Farris, cancer
- John Ferguson, heart issues
- Courtney Franklin, brain cancer
- Iris Gerhardt
- Tim Harvey
- Lauren Helmreich, cancer
- Betty (Vicki's cousin), cancer
- Holly's brother, open heart surgery
- Aimee Jacobs (Don & Ruth Ann's niece), surgery
- Jennifer Kirchner, chemotherapy
- Ava LeCave
- Joe Lohnes (friend of Don & Ruth Ann), Lou Gehrig's
- Don & Mary Neckermann
- Marilyn Overstreet, broken hip
- Marilyn Rethemeyer, cancer
- Clifford Richey (Charles' friend)
- Karen Schnetzler
- Hunter Simmons, Leukemia (in remission!)
- Charles Stegner, recovering from broken hip
- Levi Sullivan, health issues
- Lincoln (Ginger's grandson), digestive issues
- Shelly (Ginger's daughter), recovering from accident
- Shawn (Ginger's son), recovering from accident

Serving in our military:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Landon Bail | Jeff Burgoyne | Tony Davis |
| Natalie Meng | Blayne Vickery | James Walker |