

Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

December 10, 2021

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor

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Ministry to God through prayer and worship.

Ministry to one another through caring discipleship.

Ministry to others by meeting needs and winning them to Christ.

ARTICLE

As you know, Advent is a time of preparation. With our churches reevaluating the relationship with Boy Scout troops, it has reminded me of their motto...

Be Prepared. In 1907, Robert Baden-Powell, an English soldier and one of the founders of scouting, came up with this maxim. Upon hearing it, someone asked him the inevitable follow-up question...“Prepared for what?” “Why, for any old thing,” he replied. He later wrote that to Be Prepared means “you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.”

This time of year, there are many preparations being made. Shopping for and wrapping gifts is a nearly unavoidable prelude to Christmas. Many of you will spend hours in the kitchen preparing goodies and such. Travel plans and reservations are made. These, of course, are not the preparations our faith speaks of.

A common Advent Scripture is Mark 13 which portends coming of the Son of Man. In verse 33 various translations tell us to “keep watch” “Stay alert” “Be on guard” or as the King James Version says, “Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.” These are all ways of saying Be Prepared. I cannot outline all the ways

you may need to be prepared for Jesus' return. There are so many ways we are naughty instead of nice all year round. Instead, honestly ask yourself if you would welcome Jesus coming again while you are living your life as you are currently.

CANTATA

Join us on Dec 18th @ 7:00pm and Dec 19th @ 3:00pm for our Christmas Cantata “Rhapsody in Bluegrass!” Featuring traditional bluegrass music from our musicians and riveting storytelling by Pastor Steve, this Cantata will be something you won't want to miss. Worship with us through song and scripture as we sing in jubilee for the Christmas season!

Sponsorships and donations are still being accepted now through Dec 17th. Please get with Bailey if you would like to honor or memorialize someone through your donation.

CHRISMONS

As you may have noticed, the tree in the sanctuary is different from other Christmas trees. In the United Methodist Church, as well as some other denominations, trees that adorn the sanctuaries are Chrismon Trees. Our ornaments were cross-stitched by the women of the church in the 1980's.

Many hours went into making the beautiful decorations.

Chrismon is the combination of two words: CHRISt and MONogram. A Chrismon is a monogram of Christ or a picture of His names and God's story. Chrismon trees have certain rules. The main decorations are the Chrismons, all things point to Christ. They are to be gold and its hues and white or off white. We are blessed to have such a beautiful tree with meaningful symbols like the Chi Rho, the Jerusalem Cross and the Tau Cross and others.

BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night Adult Bible study group will begin a new six-session series January 5th on The Apostle's Creed. We will once again meet both in person (Unless Omicron gets out of hand) and online via Zoom at 6:30 each week. The books are \$9 each and we will need to order them by December 20th to get them in time. Please let Rev. Doyal know if you want to participate.

CHRISTMAS EVE

We will gather at 5:00 PM on December 24 for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service. We will return to using actual candles this year, but we ask you to please be mindful of not blowing them out in the direction of other people.

MISSION SUPPORT

Missy Weidemann recently returned to Ghana to resume teaching after a prolonged recovery stateside following a severe spider bite and infection. She was recently notified by Rafiki Home Office that her support level is running a significant deficit. If you could prayerfully consider financially

supporting her ministry with Rafiki, she would be very grateful. Please pray that the necessary funds come in.

To donate online:

Go to www.rafikifoundation.org.

Select "Support a Missionary" from the dropdown menu in the upper right.

Type in her name or missionary number (#167), click search in the "Search by keyword" area, and enter the amount that you would like to give. (*You can make a one-time donation or a recurring donation.*) Thank you!

To donate by check, you can send your check to the Rafiki Home Office at PO Box 1988, Eustis, FL 32727 with her name and missionary number (#167) in the memo line.

"We praise God for His faithfulness and goodness. It is truly a blessing to see lives changed by His Word. Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve by your generosity. May God bless you all."
Melissa "Missy" Weidemann