

**St. James United Methodist Church
Mid Week News
December 12, 2018**

Connecting Points

Merry Christmas! I mean, Happy Advent! This is a confusing time of the year and season of the gospel. Is it Christmas or Advent? Is Christmas a season or a day. And if its a season, is it before Christmas Day or after it? Maybe we should just say Happy Holidays! Don't take offense. Holiday comes from the word Holy. So what we are saying is Happy Holy Days. That's what Advent really is when you stop and think about it. It's a Holy time. Holy means set apart and we set a part the days leading up to Christmas Day to prepare ourselves. We prepare by singing hymns and praying prayers that speak of waiting in hope for God to show up; once again on Christmas Day. Advent is like Lent except its shorter. That and no one has Easter parities during Lent. We are less likely to get distracted during Lent but Advent is another story all together. Most people don't get excited about going to an Advent party so we have Christmas parties; during Advent. Someone, somewhere knew how challenging Advent is and so they gave us a break this Sunday. The candle for the third Sunday of Advent is rose or pink. It represents joy and acknowledges that Christ has already been born and so it's never wrong to celebrate Christmas regardless of what day or season it is. We are never not Easter people and we are never not Christmas people. We just have BIG Easter and BIG Christmas and little Easters and little Christmases. This Sunday is little Christmas. And by now, "we need a little Christmas, right this very minute, Candles in the window, Carols at the spinet. Yes, we need a little Christmas right this very minute. Slice up the fruitcake; it's time we hung some tinsel on that evergreen bough. For we need a little music, Need a little laughter, Need a little singing, Ringing through the rafter, and we need a little snappy, Happy ever after, Need a little Christmas now." So this Sunday we will have a little Christmas as we hear what the movie "Christmas Story" has to do with Gabriel's visit to Mary. In the mean time,
Merry Christmas!

Join us Sunday Evening, Dec. 16th 5pm thru 8pm for our Live Nativity. We need you to bring Chili, Soups & Stews. Santa Manley (the prettiest Santa in all the land) will be there from 5-7. He will be telling the story of Jesus at 5:30 and again at 6:30. Please plan to bring your child to one of those so that they can receive that blessing. Also, we will have him set up for pictures, but you will need to bring your camera, phone, etc and take them yourself. I will NOT have a photographer, but we will have him set up with a pretty scene.

ACTION ITEM: If you want to be in the Nativity, please let Brandi know, ASAP.

ACTION ITEM: Another HUGE need I will have for the Nativity is men to help build it. We need several. Sometimes no one shows up and Mr. Joe Meyer is scrambling to get help. He is involved in putting it together because he lets us keep it in his Barn all year. PLEASE, let me know if you can help. It will be December 15th (9:00 probably).

Wednesday Fellowship Meals December 19th \$6 per person or \$18 Max per family Menu: Spaghetti Salad & Roll Children: Name _____ # ____Adults # ____Children Clean-up Crew: Encouragers Class	Stewardship Report	December 2nd	December 9th
	Budget	\$16,344.00	\$14,331.00
	Santa Rosa Daycare	\$50.00	
	Children		\$100.00
	Room in the Inn		\$497.21
	Meals on Wheels		\$100.00
	Reimbursement for Trustees		\$5.40
	Salvation Army Angel Tree		\$1,000.00
	Wednesday Meal		\$529.00
	Impact	\$934.00	
	Building Fund	\$100.00	
	Communion	\$20.00	
	Youth		\$200.00
	Missions	\$44.00	
	Paraguay Mission Fund	\$75.00	\$100.00
Total	\$17,567.00	\$16,862.61	
Sunday School Attendance	155	156	
Sunday Worship	231	230	

*Donation to
Meals on Wheels
In Memory of
Bob Simmons
By Sam & Fran
Brown*

Prayer Concerns	
Members:	Non Members
Pat Bailey	James & Joann Abbott
Sam Brown	Lois Allen
Gene Call	Louis Broussard
Ben Carpenter	Susan Gargis
Amber & Blaine Delia	Jo McGuire
Andrew Duessel (deployment)	Fred Mitchell Family
Marjorie Glasscock (Rehab)	Katelin Murphy
Karen Grisham	Barbara Pace
Janice Retherford	Louise Patrick
Nancy Roberts	Mike Schaaf
Irene Sanders	Grady Smith
Vivian Wilson	