

**St. James United Methodist Church
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
December 18, 2018**

Connecting Points

It's interesting how John's gospel begins his story of Jesus. Not in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem but in the heavens at the beginning. Jesus is referred to as "the word made flesh," "full of truth and grace." The divine logos existed in Jesus and therefore, Jesus existed before any and every thing. If wisdom hinges on experience, Jesus' resume and even more importantly, his being permeated with it. He had not just the experience of a life time, but of eternity. John was proclaiming that Jesus was the very wisdom of God among us. This Jesus told a story about those who build their homes upon sand and those who do so upon the rock. The foundation of our lives and our decisions will make or break us. I've seen faulty foundations and it's a messy thing. Now days, you can call in the specialist and they can do the hard and expensive work of strengthening or restoring the foundation. We too can be in need of foundational work when the core of what we build our lives upon proves too weak to hold us when the storms come; which they invariably do. We discover our need for the divine logos or wisdom of God. With the writer of Peter's epistle we discover that the cornerstone of our lives is Jesus and his grace and truth or wisdom. We can certainly do more than wear a W.W.J.D. bracelet. We can ask that question and seek the answer in our relationship with him and through the written witness of him in scripture. But we can also ask what Andy Stanley called the best question of all time; or since the beginning. "What is the wise thing to do?" Considering my past experiences and my current situation and my hopes and dreams for the future, what is the wise thing to do? As we ask that question from the vantage point of being in relationship with the word that became flesh and dwells among us, we are wise beyond our years. We make not only decisions but Godly ones and our lives are as good as they can get; this side of eternity.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Dean

**PLEASE JOIN US
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
5PM
CHRISTMAS EVE, EVE CAROL SING**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
3PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
5PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY**

Our sincere Sympathy is extended to Fran Brown & Family in the death of her sister, Susan Gargis

Chris & Heather Williams & Children have been serving as Missionaries in Medellin, Columbia since 2013. We are sending cards to them to show our love and support. You do not need to address them. Just sign, seal & bring them this coming Sunday to give to Ronnie Harding.

Contributions for 2018

If you have contributions that you need credit for 2018, please turn in no later than Sunday, December 30th. The church office will be closed December 24th & 25th and December 31st & January 1st. Thank you!!!!

Stewardship Report	December 9th	December 16th
Budget	\$14,331.00	\$9,142.11
Santa Rosa Daycare		\$30.00
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	\$575.00
Eyes Wide Open		\$635.00
Youth	\$200.00	
Paraguay Mission Fund	\$100.00	
Total	\$16,862.61	\$10,382.11
Sunday School Attendance	156	143
Sunday Worship	230	226

Prayer Concerns

Members:

Pat Bailey
 Sam Brown
 Gene Call
 Ben Carpenter
 Amber & Blaine Delia
 Andrew Duessel (deployment)
 Marjorie Glasscock (Rehab)
 Karen Grisham
 Murphy Heird
 Janice Retherford
 Nancy Roberts
 Irene Sanders
 Vivian Wilson

Non Members

James & Joann Abbott
 Lois Allen
 Louis Broussard
 Jo McGuire
 Katelin Murphy
 Barbara Pace
 Louise Patrick
 Mike Schaaf
 Grady Smith

Homebound

Bobbie Ashley
 Ann Austin
 Allene Belew
 David Bratcher
 Marjorie Glasscock
 Nora Hart
 Martha James
 Jean Meyer
 Mary Reeves
 Nancy Roberts
 Irene Sanders
 Sarah Triplett
 Vivian Wilson