



DECEMBER 2021 EDITION

MEET THE DUMC TEAM

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A LETTER FROM YOUR LEAD PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Advent is the season of waiting expectantly for the coming of Jesus Christ.

At one level, it's weird to focus on the prophecies of His birth and to wait expectantly for something that's already happened. We sort of have to act as if He hadn't been born to build up expectation for Christmas Eve and Christmas day to celebrate His birth.

At another level, we are waiting expectantly for the coming of the Christ – in His second coming to end human history, to gather His church and to usher in eternity! Advent both points backward to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, and forward to His return.

When we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are celebrating the biggest event that ever took place in history. Literally. No war, no birth of a world leader, no discovery compares to the God of the Universe taking on flesh-and-blood and entering our world to redeem us. No wonder Isaac Watts proclaimed: Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!

No shortage of stuff in the supply chain can ruin Christmas. It's not about giving gifts to one another. As much as I enjoy Christmas day with our family and great food (including Christmas cookies!), Christmas isn't about that, either. Christmas is about the great Gift God gave us by sending His Son to pay the price for our sin so we can be set free. Christmas is about God taking action to redeem His fallen, lost children. Christmas is about an incarnation – the enfleshment of Almighty God in the body of a helpless infant. There's an old gospel song by Dottie Rambo that says it well:

*He left the Splendor of Heaven
Knowing His destiny
Was the lonely hill of Golgotha
There to lay down His life for me.*

*If that isn't love
The ocean is dry
There're no stars in the sky
And the sparrow can't fly
If that isn't love
Then Heaven's a myth
There's no feeling like this
If that isn't love*

Whatever the circumstances you find yourself in today, you are loved. Jesus took on flesh to redeem you, and He accomplished what He set out to do. You are redeemed by your faith in Jesus Christ. Shirley and I wish all of you a joyful and blessed Christmas!

Joy to the World!
Pastor Mike

A LETTER FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE PASTOR



A CHRISTMAS ROAD TRIP

LUKE 2:1-5 reads: 1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

The Christmas story is one that you have most likely heard or read dozens of times in your life, but if you're like me, it's easy to overlook some of the crazy details that may seem insignificant until we dig a little deeper.

In verse 4, Luke tells us that Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register for the Roman census. This trip was around 80 miles on foot, which would have been a serious undertaking in Joseph's day. Not only did Joseph take on this excursion, but he drug along his pregnant fiancée! Can you imagine what would happen today if a husband said to his 8-month pregnant wife, "Honey, get your good sandals on, we're going to walk 160 miles so we can write our names on a piece of paper." I don't think that would go over very well in most households!

As amazing as it is that Joseph convinced Mary to go with him, I'm more amazed at his obedience and trust in God. I'm guessing Joseph was already frustrated with the situation he and Mary found themselves in. They found out they were pregnant with a child that they weren't planning on and probably weren't ready for, let alone the fact that it wasn't his. And now, he had to sacrifice his time, energy, and money to take an unexpected trip. Yet, despite the chaos of their life, Mary and Joseph remained faithful. They didn't know what would come of this trip, but they trusted that God would be at their side.

We can learn a lot from Mary and Joseph. Is there something that God is calling you to do today but the timing doesn't fit in your plans? Is it inconvenient? Maybe there are a lot of unknowns. Whatever the case may be, God doesn't call us to have the whole trip planned out. He simply asks us to trust Him and take one small step of faith at a time. He will take care of the rest. So jump in and go!

Serving Him,
Pastor Ryan VanMatre

Manger Project

Thursday, December 9, 6:00-8:00pm

Building mangers to fill for a cause

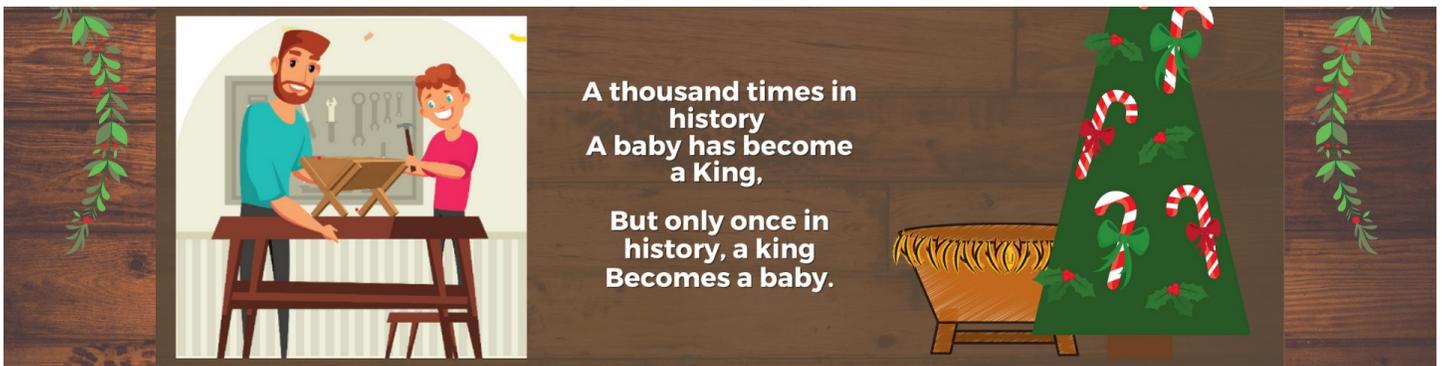
Snacks

Fun games

Stations

Worship

Registration ends soon — www.daytonumc.org



Impact Sports is a children's sports ministry of Dayton United Methodist Church. Impact Basketball and Cheerleading is excited for another season. The goal of this ministry is to draw people closer to Jesus through faith and athletics. We are a Christ-centered athletic program designed to further children's athletic ability, basketball or cheerleading skills, teamwork, and most importantly their relationship with Jesus. We welcome all skill levels. We offer teams for Kindergarten and First grade, Second and Third grade, and Fourth– Sixth grade boys and girls. Signups are now open and run through mid-December.



If you have any questions about our league, please call or text Eric Bailey (765) 543-9952 or email Dave Crandall at crandall_dave@yahoo.com. Register at www.daytonumc.org. Sponsorships are always appreciated.

WHO WILL YOU ASK?

63% of all Americans believe that going to church should be a part of their Christmas plans. Did you hear that! 63% think that they should spend time thinking about Baby Jesus at some point for Christmas. Many of these folks don't know what church they should go to, if they would be welcome, or if they would know anyone there. Now consider that 82% of the unchurched would likely attend if someone invited them. We have NOT invited them. Not once!

This Christmas, let us dare to invite our friend, co-workers, and neighbors to our church. This time of the year, people are more likely than any other time of the year to say, "Yes!" to your invitation. The Evangelism Teams wants to help make it easy for you. In your worship folder during December, there will be an invitation that we hope you will give to someone and invite them to our Christmas Eve Services or Sunday services.

Before you rush out and give out your invitation, let's pray first. Pray for God to clearly reveal to you who you should give the invitation(s) to. Pray for God to soften their hearts. Pray that God would cause the evil one to let go of them and that God would remove the spiritual blinders from their eyes. Ask God to give you an opportunity to share the invitation with them. Please, invite them to sit with you and your family. Or ask them over for supper. On Sunday, you could invite them to come early and get coffee and doughnuts in the Coffee Shop.

God wants the world to know the true message of Christmas: Jesus is the hope and only salvation for the world. Let's all do our part to help our unchurched friends see the baby in the manger clearly this year. If you would like some coaching on sharing your faith, please feel free to contact Pastor Eric.

THANK YOU

I would like to take a moment to give a heartfelt thank you to DUMC. My "medical journey" began one year ago, can you believe it! It has been a year like no other, and I could not have got through it without my church family. Thank you DUMC prayer team, staff, and congregation for all of the thoughts and prayers. A special thank you to Pastor Earl. [God Bless You!](#) With blessings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Michelle Batta

Thank you church for the donation of Bibles in memory of my dad (David Wire). He was a great warrior of Christ, and I know he would be very pleased that his witness will live on through these Bibles.

Ned and Brenda Dickerson



Christmas Services at Dayton UM Church December 23 and December 24

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each Christmas at Dayton UM Church, we have received a special offering for missions. With the 2021 Christmas Offering, DUMC will sponsor a classroom in Guatemala and provide water wells in Ghana.

Checks may be sent to the Church marked "Christmas Offering" any time through December 24, or placed in the offering boxes in the Sanctuary at either of the Christmas services. Online giving will have a choice for "Christmas Offering" through December 24 as well. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity toward our annual Christmas Offering for Missions!

Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE

Christmas Jubilee is a ministry at Dayton United Methodist Church that provides gifts for less fortunate children in the Dayton and surrounding area. The DUMC congregation has always been extremely generous in providing the gifts requested by the children.

We also provide an abundance of food for the families, so they can have a delicious Christmas dinner. In addition, we send with them a full box of groceries to sustain them for many days. Therefore, gift cards or monetary donations are always welcome. You can include this in your offering, please just label how much goes for Christmas Jubilee. If you want to give online, specify that it is for the Christmas Jubilee.

It takes the entire church to make this happen. We ask for your help and support. Please consider what you can do. Volunteers are needed to shop and provide cookies. For more information call Sandy Guinn at 765-413-0964.

GIDEON BIBLES

This Christmas at Dayton United Methodist Church we will be giving Gideon Bibles in your loved ones' name to remember them, In Memory of and/or In Honor of. Each Bible is \$5.00. You may place your order by calling the church office at 296-3155.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOX

In the lobby of the church, you will find a big alphabetical wooden box. This is used to exchange Christmas cards with your church family. Bring your cards and distribute them according to the first letter of the last name, and collect your cards using the same procedure.

dayton um church

Know Christ. Grow faith. Go witness.

DON'T THROW ME AWAY! If you don't read our newsletter, please let us know. It costs money and time to print the newsletter, keep the mailing list updated, and prepare the newsletter for mailing. So PLEASE drop us a note or call us at 296-3155 and we will remove your name from the list. Thank You so much!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

8:00 AM | Sundays
Traditional Worship Service

9:30 AM | Sundays
Contemporary Worship Service

11:00 AM | Sundays
Contemporary Worship Service

We also livestream the
8:00 & 9:30am services

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