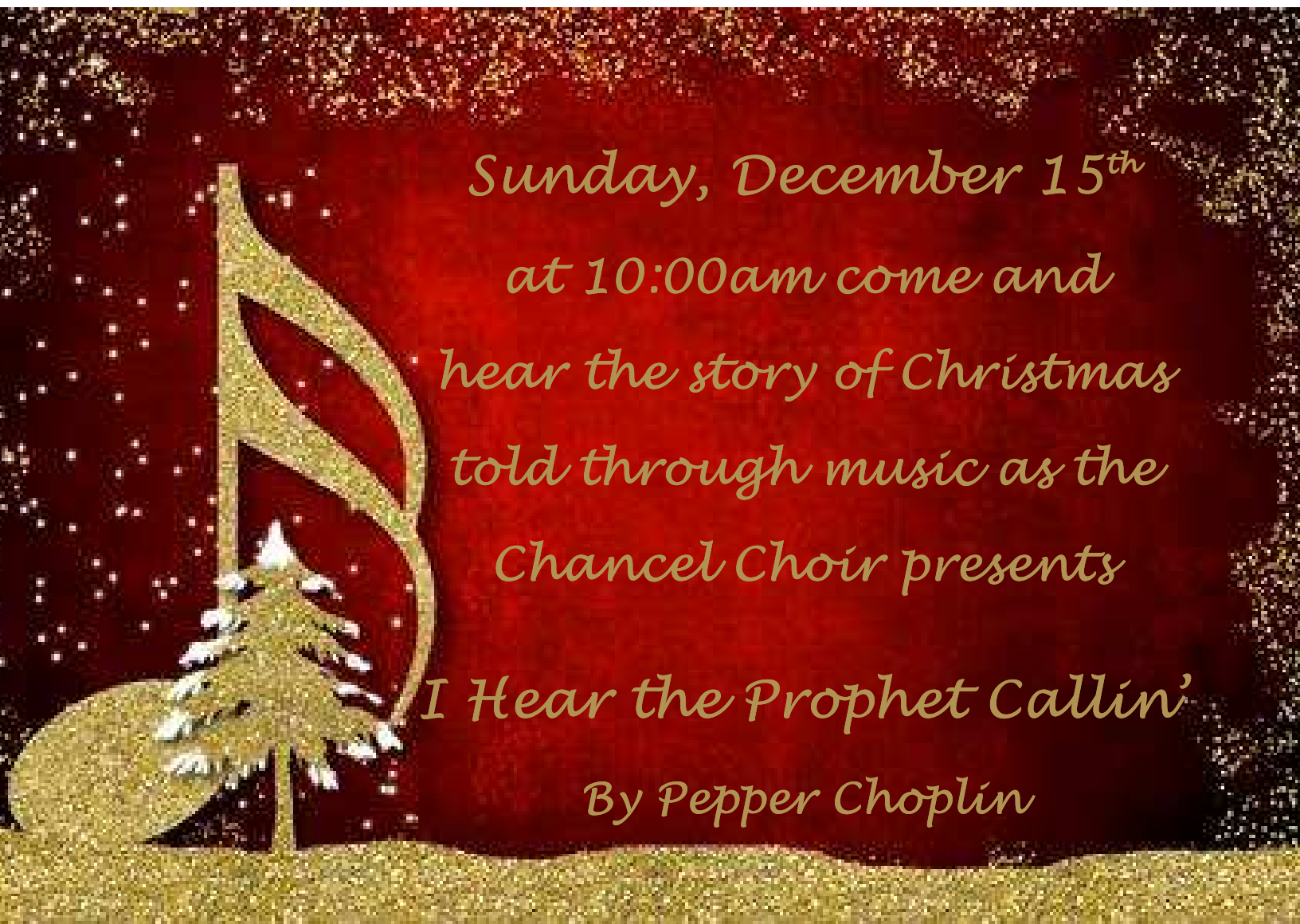

Vision

December 2019



Serving ~ Strengthening ~ Connecting ~ Our Community

- ~ **Serve** our community in the name of Jesus Christ by spreading the Good News of God's unlimited love and forgiveness;
- ~ **Strengthen** faith through Christian education for people of all ages;
- ~ **Connect** in Christian fellowship with our family, our community, and the world.

I was not a patient child, at all. One of my dad's favorite stories to tell about my impatience is about the time he took me hunting with him, and, after not seeing anything and growing bored, I yelled out the blind window "Hey, are there any deer out here?!?!" The funny thing is, I did this pretty early in the hunt, so we had to sit and wait a couple of hours until night fell and we could leave without disturbing anyone else.

As I grew older, my impatience has reared its head in different situations: Being stuck in traffic, waiting for the train in Boston, sitting in the Secretary of State's office, enduring a legislative session at Annual Conference. In these situations I find myself a little more than annoyed, a brow-furrowed, arms crossed, eyes rolled, jaw clenched, very ungracious sort of annoyed.

I am sure that I am not the only person in the world to struggle with patience. Our world is so busied and hurried and hustled and bustled and go-go-go, and patience is not necessarily something that we take the time to cultivate. I mean, how many people have Amazon Prime memberships, just because they can get their stuff in two days instead of having to wait a week?

The holiday season is certainly a time when our busy and impatient culture rears its head. We cannot wait for Christmas to come. We need to put together the lists and the trees and the wreaths and send the cards out, all before Thanksgiving is even here! Holiday ads run the moment Halloween is over. Sometimes even the snow comes before we turn the calendar to December.

So how odd, is it, then that in the church we observe Advent. Advent is interesting, because it is season of preparation. We are preparing our hearts, minds, and spirits for the coming of Christ. Yet, this type of preparation is different. It's not busy. It's not hurried. It's not go-go-go. This type of preparation asks us to sit, pause, breathe, and watch. We are not to be rushed, but to truly slow down and reflect with peace, hope, joy, and trust in our hearts. To quiet our hurried minds, so we can center our hearts on God. In Advent, the preparation requires us to have a bit of patience. We can't make the weeks go by any faster. We just have to journey through them, one week at a time, with peace, hope, joy, and trust guiding our way.

Won't you join us in this season of patience, watching, and preparation?

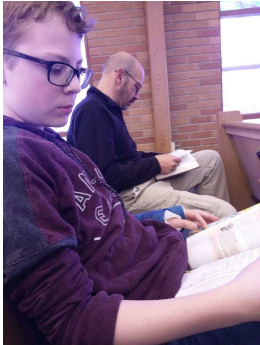
Peace,

Pastor Elizabeth

How well do you know Blake Benjamin?

Blake is in 8th at Kraft Meadows Middle School, where he is a member of the National Junior Honors Society. He enjoys playing baseball, football and of course video games.

YOUTH
of the Month



Some of his other favorites include:

Subject: World History	Color: Maroon
Special Treat: Snickers	Animal: Eagle

The most important thing that Blake appreciates about Caledonia UMC is the youth group, because of the small group learning and close relationships that it allows.

Say “hello” the next time you see Blake at church or out in the community!

Upcoming Special Music

Sunday, Dec. 1st Josh and Rose Manby vocal duet

"Child of Mercy" A Communion song for Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 8th Handbell Choir

"Gentle Mary Laid her Child" and "Adeste Fideles"

Sunday, Dec. 15th Chancel Choir (*Christmas Cantata*)

"I hear the Prophet Callin'", a Cantata by Pepper Choplin

Sunday, Dec. 22nd Children's Christmas Program

"The Christmas Guest"

Tuesday, Dec. 24th 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Lessons and carols with special music

Sunday, Dec. 29th Congregation sings Christmas

Sunday, Jan. 5th Guest musician

Sunday, Jan. 12th. Chancel Choir



**** Rehearsals for both the Handbell and Chancel Choirs resume Tuesday, Jan. 7th. ****

Poinsettias

The Women In Step are having their annual Poinsettia Fundraiser again this year. Order forms are available in your bulletin, in the Narthex or from Mona Jacobs.



Orders are due Sunday, December 8th. The plants will be placed on the altar on Saturday, December 14th. You may bring them home following worship on Sunday, December 16th or leave them for the church to enjoy until Christmas.

Return your order form and payment to Mona Jacobs or place it along with your payment (*payable to Caledonia United Methodist Church, designated Women In Step/Flowers*) in the collection plate.



Thank you, Judy Kidder for your many years of ministry with the Prayer Chain. Your dedication has been greatly appreciated in us being able to receive prayer and joy request over the years. Thank You,
All of Us Prayer Warriors

Share your favorite treat



On Sunday, December 15 during coffee hour, please bring your favorite holiday treat to share with your church family.

Women In Step will not meet
During the month of December.

The **United Methodist Women** will meet at
10:15 am on Thursday, December 5th at the church
and then carpool to volunteer at Kids' Food Basket.



December has 5 Sundays. This means that December 29th is Mission Sunday. Please join us downstairs during coffee hour for snacks.

This will be a celebration to thank you for your generosity, prayers and support of all the projects we have had this past year! Together, I feel we not only live out but exemplify “John Wesley’s Rule of Life”. If you can’t quite remember what that rule is, I think President Carter explains it very well.

“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... I’m free to choose what that something is, and the something I’ve chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands - this is not optional - my faith demands that



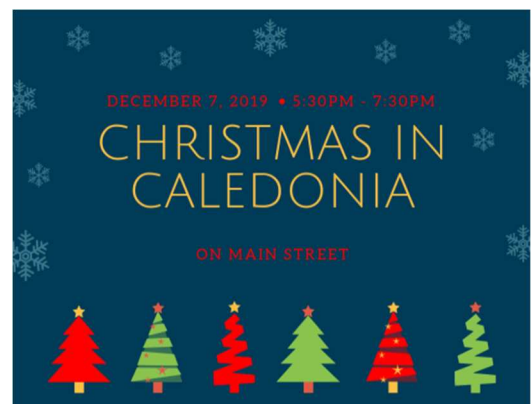
I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can, with whatever I have to try to make a difference.”

Jimmy Carter, 39th US President

Please note: The deadline for January newsletter items will be December 15th due to the limited Christmas office hours.

The Christmas in Caledonia event is right around the corner. If you have not been to the event, it is a fun and busy evening.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up, take down, and pass out cards and glows necklaces at our booth this year. We could use your help in spreading the WORD and helping the church support our community.



Please contact Steve Kepsel at skepsel@att.net or 269-804-8944 if your able to help.

Thank you,

Outreach Team

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4 ~ Scott Handley
~ Gladys Miller
5 ~ Haden Bovee
~ Patrick Bradley
9 ~ Sabrina Burd
~ Samantha Handley
12 ~ Tom Jacobs
~ Jenna Knight
14 ~ Kyle Makarewicz
15 ~ Katie Schenk | 17 ~ Sue Burd
~ Sharon Burkart
~ Brian Seper
19 ~ Todd Brown
20 ~ Micalan Villanueva
22 ~ Larry Lanning
28 ~ Jean Arins
~ Bernie Overholt
~ Trent Phillips
30 ~ Judy Kidder |
|--|--|

Happy Anniversary

- 9 ~ Jim & Deb Oldfield
 13 ~ Ivan & Betty Bourn
 ~ Scott & Tassej Handley
 14 ~ George & Karen Edgar

*If you don't see your name on
our birthday and anniversary list,
please let us know so you can
be included!*

Worship Leaders

Trustee of the Month
Fred Bradley

Coffee Hour set up / clean up

- 1 ~ UMW
 8 ~ Fred & Karen Bradley
 15 ~ Church Family Treats
 22 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 29 ~ Mission Team

Counters

- 1 ~ Jim & Ruth Klingensmith
 8 ~ Jim & Jayne Porritt & Vicki Young
 15 ~ Barb Scott & Shirley Tolan
 22 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 24 ~ Jim & Ruth Klingensmith
 29 ~ *Volunteers Needed*

Hospitality

- 1 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 8 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 15 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 22 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 24 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 29 ~ *Volunteers Needed*

Liturgist

- 1 ~ Steve Kepsel
 8 ~ Patti Faist
 15 ~ *Christmas Cantata*
 22 ~ Blake Benjamin
 29 ~ Thom Kohl

Nursery

- 1 ~ Nancy Duiven
 8 ~ Mona Jacobs
 15 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 22 ~ Shirley Besteman
 24 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 29 ~ *Volunteers Needed*

Sunday School

- 1 ~ Erin Benjamin
 8 ~ Nancy Duiven
 15 ~ *Christmas Cantata*
 22 ~ *Children's Program*
 29 ~ *Merry Christmas*

Ushers

- 1 ~ Bill & Sandy Robertson
 8 ~ Mark & Sharon Burkart
 15 ~ Ernie Schenk & Gary Besteman
 22 ~ Rich & Dianna Overmire
 24 ~ *Volunteers Needed*
 29 ~ Steve Kepsel & Nancy Duiven

Worship Technician

- 1 ~ Thom Kohl
 8 ~ Erin Benjamin
 15 ~ Thom Kohl
 22 ~ John Robinson
 24 ~ Thom Kohl
 29 ~ Mike Sackett

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Brann's Fundraiser	2 7:00 pm Scouts	3 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	5 10:15 am UMW 6:30 pm Scout Planning	6	7 5:30 pm Christmas in Caledonia
8 10:00 am Worship	9 6:30 pm Garden Team 7:00 pm Scouts	10 9:00 am Pieceful Quilters 2:00 pm Visitation Team 7:00 pm Choir Practice	11 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	12 6:30 pm Finance Committee 7:15 pm Ad. Council	13	14 10:30 am Cantata Dress Rehearsal
15  10:00 am Worship (Choir Cantata) 12:00 pm Pizza Hut Fundraiser	16 12:30 pm Outreach Committee 7:00 pm Scouts	17	18 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	19 6:30 pm SPRC	20	21 10:00 am Children's Program Practice
22 9:00 am Children's Program Practice 10:00 am Worship (Children's Program)	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day Merry Christmas	26	27	28
Church Office Closed December 24 - January 2						
29 10:00 am Worship	30 	31 New Year's Eve				
Church Office Closed December 24 - January 2						



We learned many cooking skills at our meetings in October! We had some outdoor cooking contests in the parking lot. We set up our tables and stoves, divided into patrols and started cooking. The contest was set up like a cooking contest you see on TV. Each patrol got to rotate between choosing specific ingredients from the pile (including a mystery ingredient!). Then each patrol had to make a delicious and creative camp meal from whatever ingredients they were left with.



We are also using the opportunity for our Quarter Masters to clean through our four chuck boxes and replace broken or missing items. A chuck box is a large container that we use to hold all of our appliances and staples. A Quarter Master is a Scout who is in charge of maintaining and keeping track of our equipment.

We are very grateful for the use of the garage to store our chuck boxes and equipment!



The Christmas Eve offering will be equally divided between G.C.C.P. to purchase gas cards for their clients and Scholastic Books gift certificates to the teachers at Dutton Elementary.

Many communities in the Upper Peninsula are quite far apart. Quite a few of them are lucky to have a gas station, grocery store and post office. Traveling 50 miles or more to the doctor or to see a medical specialist can be a strain on a family budget. When you have to make the long trip the price of gas gets expensive. G.C.C.P. provides gas gift cards for those in need.

As we learned in October, much of the materials and equipment in a classroom is provided by the teacher. It is important to provide extra books in the classroom so children can practice their reading skills. Scholastic Books gift certificates will help the teachers at Dutton Elementary School buy these books.

We've had a change in the meeting time and dates for the book club. We will meet at Nancy Duiven's home at 3:00 pm. The new dates are as follows:

December - no meeting

January 27

February 24

March 23

April 27

May 25

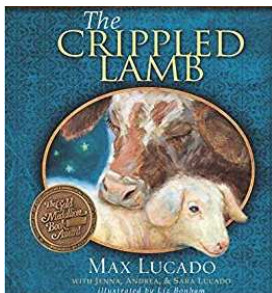


The upcoming books that we will be reading are:

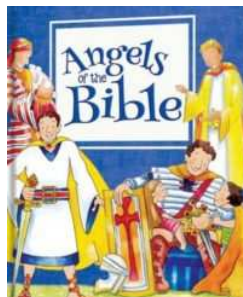
January "The Man Who Died Laughing" by David Handler

February "Idaho" by Emily Ruskovich

The featured books for this month in the Children's Library are:



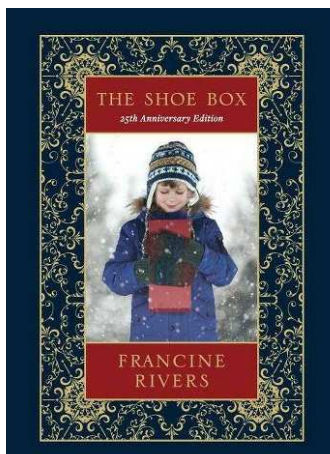
The Crippled Lamb
by Max Lucado
Preschool - Early Elem.



Angels of the Bible
by Christian Art Kids
Late Elem. - Middle School



The Trees of Christmas
by Nat'l Wildlife Federation
Jr. & Sr. High



There are 3 new Christmas books in the adult library. Check out "The Shoe Box" by Francine Rivers. As well as the story there are devotions for December and a recipe for fudge.

Caledonia United Methodist Church
250 Vine Street
Caledonia, MI 49316



December 24 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Inclement Weather Updates

Please listen to or watch the following stations or check their web sites regarding church services and activities being cancelled:

- WOOD AM Radio ~ www.woodradio.com
 - WOOD TV 8 ~ www.woodtv.com
 - WZZM 13 ~ www.wzzm13.com