

DAWSON UNITED METHODIST

December 2017

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Years ago, when my kids were little, especially during the holiday season I can remember dreaming of the luxury of having time for "Calgon moments". "Calgon moments" were moments portrayed in a television commercial when a frazzled woman would carefully fill her beautiful tub in her immaculate bathroom and then climb in to a warm bath of just right water and bubbles as she uttered, "Calgon, take me away", and then for a few short moments all would be "right in the world".

Advent is a time of waiting. It can be a time for *spiritual Calgon moments* as we wait for Christ to be born anew in our hearts. We also wait in anticipation for Christ to return so once again all will be "right in the world" bringing forth new hope, new peace, new joy, and new love.

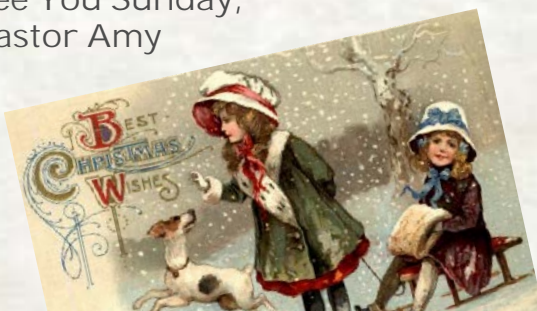
Like the mom in the commercial in need of the perfect solution for restoration and rest, nothing will ever change if she hides in the tub forever. Children do not take care of themselves nor do the household chores get done on their own. The world will not miraculously change around us unless we actively participate to be both messengers and deliverers of the story of Christ's birth.

The angels of Christmas did just that as they brought about a beautiful message; but their message also included an invitation to participate. The angel's announcements were an invitation to come and see and to go and tell. We live in a sometimes chaotic, fear based culture that often lures us to escape and hide to wait for things to get better, but God needs each one of us today to share the message that there is no need to be afraid. The Savior of the World, the Christ child has been born and we must share this message and bring to life the pleas of the angels as we actively await His return.

Please join us through the month of December to hear the stories of the angels and be reminded of their words, "*Fear not, for I bring you Good News*" so that we can be strengthened and renewed. May these stories take us away to where better days are more than just dreams and wishes as they become our reality as we live as a people with more hope, more peace, more joy and more love.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, Mike and I wish you all the merriest and blessed Christmas season possible. As this year ends I am grateful for the memories we have shared and I'm looking forward to seeking, serving, and sharing the Good News with you, our neighborhood and community in 2018.

See You Sunday,
Pastor Amy





On behalf of Family Promise I want to thank you all for your support of this ministry over the past year. Your

generosity continues to help families gain stability and hope for the future. Perhaps as we are being the hands and feet of Jesus we are each the "angel among us"! May God's blessings be with you all as we celebrate the greatest gift of all our Savior Jesus. We are all in His service together.

Dulcie

Merry Christmas

It has once again been my pleasure to serve as the editor for the Dawson monthly newsletter. It is a great creative outlet for me and I feel blessed to be able to assemble the articles that appear in these pages. I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Merry Christmas! May God bless your home and family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and welcome another year of ministry and worship at Dawson United Methodist Church.

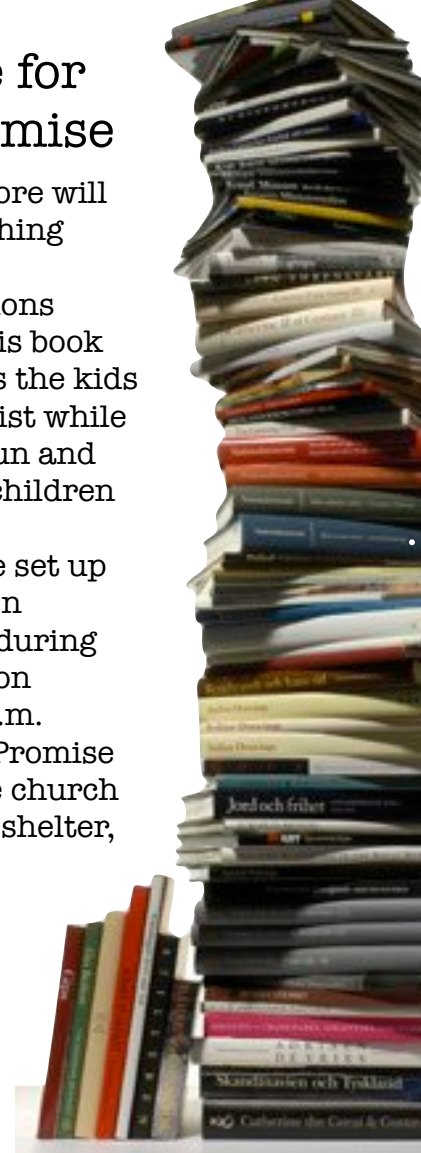
Russell Brace - Editor

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 8-12

Book Drive for Family Promise

Usborne Books & More will provide a 50% matching grant for all books purchased or donations received through this book drive. You can cross the kids off your Christmas list while helping to provide fun and education books to children in need.

A Book Booth will be set up here at the church on November 26th and during the Jingle Bell Sale on December 2nd, 8-5 p.m. Books go to Family Promise the organization the church supports to provide shelter, meals and support services to families without homes. For further information contact Sheryl Kaufman



BLESSING BOXES

Winter is fast approaching so it is time to focus on homeless needs for enduring the cold . We continue to serve the needs of the neighborhood and community with our Blessing Bags and Blessing Box which could be refilled daily the need is so great. Thank you for your support of these ministries.

hand/foot warmers, socks, scarves, hats, gloves
Individually wrapped items ie.

breakfast bars, crackers, beef jerky, soups

Small canned items - Vienna sausage,
beanie wienies

Non perishable food items,

canned goods - meats, veggies, soups

pasta, cereals and oatmeal, peanut butter

toilet paper and toiletries - -wet wipes

small packages of laundry soap





"Faith In Action" is the new course of study for the adult Sunday School Class. We meet in the conference room at 9:30 AM every Sunday. We have very in-depth, relevant and lively discussions of the weekly lessons.

You are welcome to join us anytime, grab a cup of coffee or juice and a donut in Fellowship Hall and come study with us.

DAWSON, DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP

Advent is known as a season of waiting for the Christ Child to be born anew in our hearts. As we wait, it's easy to become focused on the chaos around us that robs us from the meaning and true wonder of the Christmas season, instead let us set our sights on ways to find more joy, more hope, more peace and more love. Everyone is invited to participate in this year's Adult Advent Study: "Flying in the Face of Fear".

During Advent, through our *Lead2Lead Initiative*, the middle school youth, under the direction of Pastor Amy and Carissa Guinty, will lead the younger children as they embark on a "journey" to Professor Playtime's Christmas Shop of Wonders! Each week they will learn a different facet of the Christmas story as they spend time with Professor Playtime and his assistant, Holly. As they "visit the shop" they will learn about the greatest gift of all while finding just what they need. While learning the story of Jesus' birth and life, Professor Playtime will help the children explore bravery, kindness, obedience, joy, patience, generosity, and evangelism.

All Advent Studies will begin on Wednesday November 29th and will continue each Wednesday evening through December 20th. The studies will begin at approximately 6:15 pm, immediately following our weekly fellowship meal that is served at 5:30 pm.

DECEMBER EVENTS

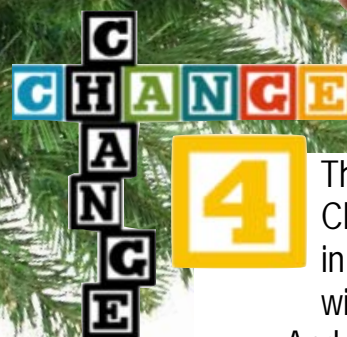
2nd - Jingle Bell Sale

17th - Blue Christmas Service

Teddy Bear Cookie Sale

24th - Christmas Eve Service

Plus .. "Fear Not" Advent &
Christmas Sermon Series



The Change for Change collected in December will go to the Anderson Elementary School.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."



BUILDING MAINTENANCE: If you find an area within the church property that is in need of repair or attention beyond your own capabilities, please notify the Trustee Committee and the church office by completing a maintenance request form that is available in the church office. Please be mindful that we are all called upon as the Body of Christ to be good stewards of what we have been entrusted and that proper care of our building is all of our responsibility. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Amy or a member of the Trustee Committee.



Teddy Bear Cookie Sale Dec 17th

... in Fellowship Hall after morning worship. Bring your favorite cookies and then buy back a fine assortment of yummy cookies.



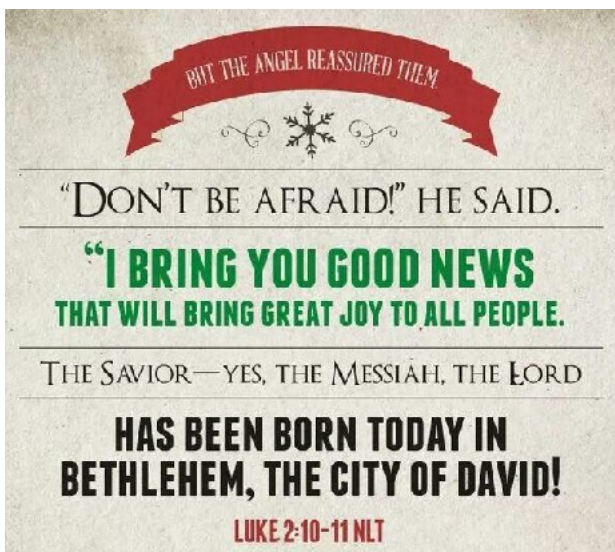
The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being:

#DoNotBeAfraid.

I started wondering if we could join with the angels in offering this world messages of

#morehope, #morepeace,
#morejoy, #morelove ... and
ultimately #morelife.

Be sure to join us for this Advent sermon series through Christmas Eve.



JINGLE BELL SALE



Saturday
December 2nd

8 AM - 5 PM



There will be a bake sale and we will serve chili for lunch. If you have unwanted Christmas decorations or things that would make good inexpensive gifts you can start bringing them to the church. If you can lend a hand setting up, pricing, cooking, working the day of the sale, etc .. please contact Sheryl Kaufman.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

A service to bring *Hope* to people grieving loss of a loved one, health, relationship, financial stability...

DECEMBER 17TH @ 4 PM



DawsonUMC+

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“Unto us a child is born.”
Merry Christmas

