



Wesley's Vision

INVITE all in the Name of Christ
GROW disciples with the Word of Christ
SERVE all with the LOVE of Christ.

Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

December 2018

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

www.wesleysst.org

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PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

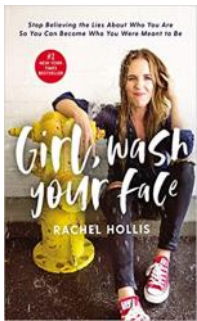
Richard Adams	Antonia Alcay	Patsy Ardis
Jordyn Ausmus	Charles Batty, Jr.	Delana Beadle
Allison and John Bostick	Bethany Nichole	Cassie Cavaliere
Beverly and Michael Chapman	Wanda Clayton	Dicie Rue Cook
Max and Lou Jane Drummond	Silvina Epperson	Gene George
Eddie Fenstermaker	Jayne Glenn	Jeff Godfrey
Don and Mary Gilmer	H.W. Halcomb	Dorothy Hargrave
Donny and Baulah Godfrey	Roy Herman, Jr.	Mark Heisler
Jack and Janie Godfrey	Mindi Home	Dana Jordan
Magan, Tim and Eisley Henderson	Lynn Kincade	Mark Lacek
Christa Kasztelanski	Jase Mabie	Zane Magan
Bobbie and Leigh Moseman	Dorothy McCaig	Cheryl Mullen
Debbie Nichols	Lynna Nichols	Gaylon O'dell
Mack and Betty Phillips	Sandra Parker	Nan Price
Bill Rodgers	Carolyn Roland	Mildred Schulz
Clara and Durwood Smith	Amlie Smith	Terry Smuthermon
Elton and Louise Stewart	Nancy Stobough	Barry Tyndell
Betty and Mark Warren	Allan Thar	Loretta Vaughn
Karen Wedding	Bill Weiderman	Ron Zitterick
Barbara and Jim Williams	Tres Wright – motorcycle accident 11.29	

Joy! Emily and Garrett Glass are the proud parents of Conner James, who was born at 12:38 a.m. Friday, November 30. He weighs 5 lbs. 8 oz. Katherine is his big sister and Grant is his big brother. Proud grandparents are Gina and Bill Wilder. Congratulations!

Victims of the Wildfires and mudslides
 Our Country and Our Leaders First Responders
 Community Chest/Cupboard CANHelp Backpack Buddies CASA
 North Texas Food Bank Holy Highway Girls Home
 Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center Abused Children and Youth
 Dallas Bethlehem Center – Wesley-Rankin Community Center
 New additions to the prayer list are in **BOLD**
 Note: Names added to the prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days.
 They will be relisted by request. Please help us to keep the list current

WESLEY HOMEBOUND

Bobbie Holder Muriel Lucas Lois Shannon Margaret Campbell
 Sandra McIntire Martha Johnson Red and Vernice Penny Marge Johnson



Small group for young women begins Sunday, December 2, upstairs in the Lifeway Café classroom.

The subject of this study is the book, *Girl, Wash Your Face* by Rachel Hollis. There is no definite number of weeks we will meet for this book but we will surely go into January. Join us — you'll enjoy!



Brother Steve and Wesley Church,

You have been a blessing to us this year. We thank you for your prayers, cards, letters and visits. May God bless everyone of you.

Love,

Red and Vernice Penny



Advent and Christmas

The season of **Advent**, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming” or “visit,” begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the Church calendar, the Christmas season lasts sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). This is sometimes popularly referred to as “the twelve days of Christmas.”

What happens during Advent?

During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. It is also a time to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time.

The beginning of Advent is when the preparations for Christmas really begin - the festive menu is planned, gifts are chosen and wrapped, carols sung, cards are written and posted and houses decorated.

In Loving Memory of LaDonna Kusta

By: Diane Dixon Gary and Rachel Lewis

In Loving Memory of Fred & LaDonna Kusta

By: Rick and Cheryl Spears
 Gary and Rachel Lewis



In Loving Memory of Joe Pogue

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis

In Loving Memory of Della Loane

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis
 D.E. and S.K. Evans
 JoAnn Johnson
 Kenny and Ruth Ann Crowson

In Honor of Max Drummond

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis



From Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Pastor Steve Advent 2018 begins Sunday, December 2 (the first Sunday in Advent) and concludes on Christmas Eve, December 24. Christmas Day is always December 25. Then from December 26, 2018 through January 6, 2019, we celebrate the twelve days of Christmas ending on Epiphany (this year a Sunday!) Rotation of our calendar often means we start the first Sunday in Advent on the last Sunday of November (but not again until 2020!). So, in a paragraph, there you have our Advent/Christmas/Twelve Days of Christmas/Epiphany schedule.

Advent means “coming” or “coming again.” For Christians, it is appropriately used for the annual celebration of the birth of the Christ child as well as the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. Each liturgical year begins with the first Sunday in Advent and with it are the four words that highlight this season: Hope/Peace/Joy/Love. Many churches use an Advent Wreath to remember both the season and the words. The first two Sundays of Advent use purple candles: the first Sunday represents the “Prophecy Candle,” especially Isaiah 7:14 who foretold the birth of the Christ child bringing “hope” in anticipation of the coming Christ (in Greek or Messiah in Hebrew); and the second Sunday represents the “Bethlehem Candle,” symbolizing the baby Jesus in the manger of Luke 2:12. The third Sunday the color of the candle changes to pink and it is known as the “Shepherd’s Candle” and it represents “joy” as told by Luke 2:8-11. The fourth Sunday returns to a purple candle celebrating the “Angels” and the “Peace” promise with the coming of Jesus the Christ per Luke 2:13-14.

On Christmas Eve, a larger white candle is lit to emphasize “The Christ Candle.” The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior of all of humanity. Isaiah 1:8 reminds us that those who receive Christ as their Savior are washed of their sins and “made whiter than snow.” And as noted earlier, our annual celebration of Advent always reminds us that “Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again” as we repeat in our Communion liturgy. It was the Apostle Paul who declared in Acts 17:28 that in Christ “we live and move and have our being.” To God be the glory great things He has done!

I also want to say thank you to our Wesley staff who serves your church so well. In the Methodist tradition, we ministers/pastors are appointed so we “are sent” to serve for a period of time. Not so with staff. Bonnie Gilmer, Julie Weir and Marieke deWitte have each served Wesley over 15 years. They’ve literally been here through the thick and thin of ministry, watched babies grow up and graduate, and endured the various traits of several pastors! (No comments.)

By virtue of Joe Clark being married to Amanda (longtime Youth Minister), he can also lay claim to these and other observations from both his music side as well as his youth side. Similarly, with Brad Gilmer being Bonnie’s son, there is no telling what Brad learned about Wesley and yet he chose to “join us” (along with Kelly and John)!. To each of you — and many dedicated laity that are willing and working servants — I offer you my heart-felt thanks, prayers, and blessings during this Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. In a few words: “You are priceless’ to me and Wesley UMC. To God be the glory—for you!

The final words serve as a friendly warning to all: Beware the Youthful Grinch who will visit you this festive season! From personal experience, there is nothing like waking up from a restful night only to be confronted by this Grinch. Some of the most outlandish and 3rd or 4th hand holiday decorations will bless your landscape. You’ll be amazed and traumatized by these “fiends from dark places” that choose to both haunt you with a mixture of disbelief as well as outright hilarity. As you mumble, bumble, and stumble through their decorous treks, you’ll ponder “what shall I do with this?” And the answer is: Call Joe Clark. Tell him your situation. Ask him how much it will cost to get these rare jewels eliminated from your lawn. (Hint: He’ll not set a price to get these rare jewels removed, but any financial offer seems to move these Youthful Grinches fairly quickly! “Been there, done that!”

“O, come let us adore Him! O, come let us adore Him!

Christ the Lord!”



Stephen Andersen	December 2
Vera Skaggs	December 3
Frances Daniels	December 4
James Clark	December 4
Leigh Moseman	December 17
Carol Ann and Gaylon O'dell	December 19
Judy Stewart	December 21
J.C. Clark	December 21
Louise and Marvin Jones	December 23
Dicie Rue and Steve Cook	December 24
Gaylon O'dell	December 25
Vernice Penny	December 28
Stanley Foster	December 28
Ronny Darrow	December 28
Zach Clark	December 28
Brad Gilmer	December 29
Carol Ann O'dell	December 30

2018 Fall Roundup





United Methodist Women are taking orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. The deadline to order is December 15. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10. Make checks out to UMW.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Total Poinsettia(s) Ordered _____



The Wesley Chancel Choir will present
The Christmas Story
 Sunday, December 23
 at 10:00 a.m.

United Methodist Women took lunch to the students at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry in Commerce on Wednesday, November 28.



Emily, Garrett, Katherine and Grant Glass welcomed Conner James to the family at 12:38 a.m., Friday, November 30. Proud grandparents are Gina and Bill Wilder.



The Wesley Witness
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on



Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



Salad Luncheon
NOON Tuesday,
December 18

At The Cottage
Meet at the church
at 11:30 a.m. to carpool



Money tree will benefit
Breaking Bread

HOLIDAY
 WORSHIP
 SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 23

10:00 a.m.

**The Wesley Chancel
 Choir will present**

The Christmas Story

NO Sunday School

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

10:00 a.m. Worship ONLY



**Christmas is Coming
 and... So Is the Grinch!**

During the month of December, the Wesley Youth will be conducting their "Grinchmas" fundraiser in order to raise money for summer mission trips and youth camps. Please visit the Youth's Grinch table on Sundays or Wednesdays to learn more. There are two ways you can participate:

1. You may purchase insurance that protects your home against the Grinch's ugly decorations.
2. You may pay a small fee to have a friend's yard "Grinched!"