

MUSTARD SEED

A Publication of Porter United Methodist Church

Greetings Porter Church Family,

The Advent Season is upon us....tidings of joy!! This season shows us how God loves us and continually provides everything we need. Our loving, Heavenly Father sent His only son to be our savior. We are so blessed to have the one, true God taking care of and never leaving us!

I am reminded that Jesus came as a meek and lowly infant. An infant is completely dependent on his caregivers to provide whatever is needed. This is how Jesus lived his whole life, completely dependent on our Heavenly Father to provide and take care of everything. What a beautiful example for us to emulate. How do we live our lives completely dependent on following our Savior, who showed us the way to eternal life?

An article from Christianity Today reminded me, "Humility is crucial for Christians. We can only receive Christ through meekness and humility (Matthew 5:3, 5; 18:3-4). Jesus humbled himself and was exalted by God (Philippians 2:8-9); therefore joy and power through humility is the very dynamic of the Christian life (Luke 14:11; 18:14; 1 Peter 5:5). We are on slippery ground because humility cannot be attained directly. Once we become aware of the poison of pride, we begin to notice it all around us. We hear it in the sarcastic, snarky voices in newspaper columns and weblogs. We see it in civic, cultural, and business leaders who never admit weakness or failure. We see it in our neighbors and some friends with their jealousy, self-pity, and boasting. And so we vow not to talk or act like that. If we then notice "a humble turn of mind" in ourselves, we immediately become smug—but that is pride in our humility. If we catch ourselves doing that we will be particularly impressed with how nuanced and subtle we have become. Humility is so shy. If you begin talking about it, it leaves." In our world full of self-centeredness, being a humble individual is a daily choice we have to make. This choice is available to us with every interaction we have. This Christmas season, a time when a lot of focus is put on the "stuff" we will give to each other, one of my prayers is that we can live with humility in our hearts and minds and give the love of Christ to everyone!! This is the best gift we can give to anyone.

Jesus is the reason for this season and every season!!!!

From my family to yours, we wish each and every one of you a very blessed and peaceful Advent season! Merry Christmas!

God's Love and Peace to You,



Pastor Liz

This is the
season

This is the
reason



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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



Sermons in December:

Sunday, December 1st
Hanging of the Greens
First Sunday in Advent: Peace
Matthew 24:36 - 44

Sunday, December 8th
Second Sunday in Advent: Hope
Matthew 3:1 - 12

Sunday, December 15th
Third Sunday in Advent: Joy
Children's Christmas Program
Luke 1:46b - 55

Sunday, December 22nd
Fourth Sunday in Advent: Trust
Matthew 1:18 - 25

Sunday, December 29th
Hymn Sing

MISSION STATEMENT: "Nourishing Souls with Loving Hearts and Caring Hands."

DUNELAND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET



Just a reminder that the Duneland Medical Equipment Loan Closet is a wonderful community resource for persons living in Pine, Liberty, Jackson and Westchester Townships. They offer FREE LOANS of medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, crutches, canes, etc) for 3 MONTHS. They also have knee walkers that are available to rent for a 1-month period with a refundable deposit of \$20. The closet is located in the Duneland Community Center building at 801 Broadway, Chesterton. They are open for pick-ups and drop offs on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. and on Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. They are always happy to accept any donations of medical equipment that you no longer are using.

The loan closet is asking for new volunteers to help so they might be able to increase the number of hours they can serve the community. No experience is necessary as training will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, please call Porter United Methodist Church at (219) 926-1586 during their office hours of Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have any questions about what the job details, you can also ask Marcia Wood who is currently serving as their coordinator.



PACKING COOKIE TINS FOR CHRISTMAS



Cookie Tins

On Thursday, December 5th at 10 a.m., we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to pack cookie tins for our shut-ins, those in the nursing homes, first responders (firemen, policemen, EMS), and for any military personnel serving in the armed forces. We have plenty of tins so we don't need those items but we will definitely need batches of

home-made cookies, brownies or wrapped candy. We will put the cookies and brownies into baggies before we pack them into the tins.

If you have a family member in any of the military services or a first responder, please get those names & addresses to the church office by Thursday, December 5th. We haven't done this project for about 5 years so let's do a good job of making those home-made cookies. Store-bought cookies are not what we really want. Thank you so much! If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Wood at 926-4498.

2019 BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Will you help make a difference in the lives of children around the world this year? Each year, our Indiana Annual Conference supports this special offering that is distributed to the following ministries: Impact 2818 (Camping); 3 Indiana UM-related children & youth homes; local outreach projects; UM advance projects (national & global); and the Bishop's fund for emergency children's project & promotion of this offering. *Please give whatever amount you may feel led to give toward this long-standing and life-changing ministry.*

Missions In the Spotlight

Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry

We are rapidly approaching the end of 2019. During this last month of the year, we will collect **canned chicken noodle soup** for the Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as you show your support to this vital outreach within our community.

There will be 2 distribution dates for November:

Tuesday, December 10th

Tuesday, November 17th

If you would also like to become part of this outreach and are available to take the items collected from the church to the pantry, please contact Kim in the office. Thanks!

Quarterly Mission Offering: Frontline Bibles

We only have a few weeks left for the entire church (children's collection included) to focus on donations to purchase *Life Recovery Bibles* for Frontline Foundations, Inc. Frontline serves as a source of hope to young men and women suffering from drug and alcohol abuse while also providing an effective treatment and recovery support system.

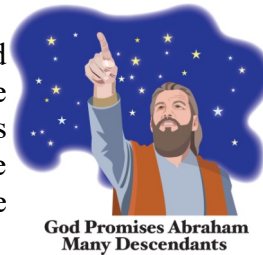
The *Life Recovery Bible* is based on the 12-step recovery model. All money collected will go towards purchasing these Bibles that Frontline uses during their addiction treatment classes and, ultimately, gives to each participant at the completion of their course.



Sunday School Update

During the month of November, the children learned that Abraham trusted God when he was told to take his family, flocks and herds and move to a new land. Abraham and his nephew Lot had so many animals to feed, they decided to separate the herds so every animal had enough grass to eat and water to drink. And they did it in a peaceful way because they wanted no quarreling among family members.

When Abraham and his wife Sarah were told they would become the parents of a son, they both laughed because Abraham was 99 years old! But a year later, their son Isaac was born. By the time he was old enough to marry, a lady by the name of Rebekah was found at a well and she was God's choice for Isaac's wife.



God Promises Abraham
Many Descendants

For the month of December, we will learn about the twin sons, Jacob and Esau, born to Isaac and Rebekah, the Birthright, the Blessing and Jacob's dreams.

Children's Christmas Program

We will have our annual Christmas play about the birth of Jesus on **Sunday, December 15th** during the 10:15 a.m. worship service. Please make sure your children and their friends are here in December so they will know what to do on that day.



We will have a dress rehearsal of the program in the sanctuary on **Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m.** Following the rehearsal, we will have pizza and pop for the kids to enjoy before going home about 12:30 p.m. All the children need to be in church on Sunday at 9 a.m. for Sunday School.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season!

27th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

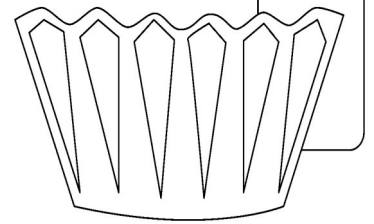
Saturday, December 7th 9 - 11 a.m.

\$7 pound

Chesterton First United Methodist Church

Light the Way

Make some Christmas
candles to remember
Jesus, the Light of the
world.



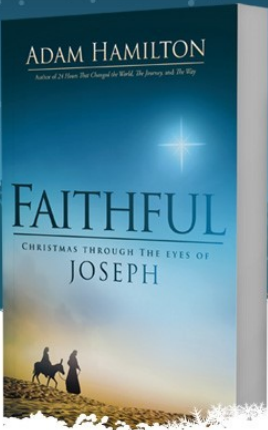
What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.

Explore the life of Joseph
this Christmas season



NEW ADVENT STUDY
BY ADAM HAMILTON

Learn more about Faithful at AdamHamilton.org

ADVENT ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS DECEMBER 8TH

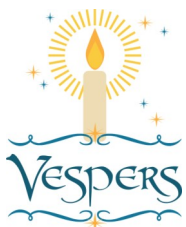
Starting Sunday, December 8th, we will begin our Advent study from the book *Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph*. From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Join us for this 4-week study immediately following the worship service during coffee hour as we examine Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

As you read this book, you will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

If you plan on participating, please make sure to see Pastor Liz on Sunday, December 1st to pick up a book before the first session on the 8th.

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY'S ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE



Friday, December 6th @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 7th @ 5 p.m.

Tickets can be reserved at Valparaiso University Center of the Arts or online at www.valpo.edu/chapel/festive-christmas-vespers-2019/

VNA Volunteers Needed!

The Visiting Nurse Association in Valparaiso is looking for volunteers to help in their Hospice program as well as their Lifeline division. What is involved, you ask?

Lifeline Volunteers

Who:

18+ years with a valid driver's license

What:

Unit installations, pick-ups, equipment swaps

When:

Any time you're available!

Where:

Anywhere you choose to go in Porter, Lake, LaPorte, Jasper & Starke counties

Experience:

No experience needed


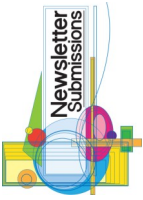


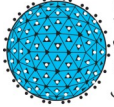
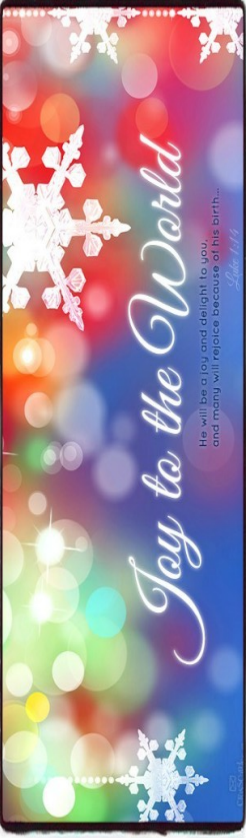
To learn more about being a Lifeline Volunteer, please contact Kayla Patton at (219) 462-5195 or kpatton@vnanwi.org.

Hospice Volunteers

The VNA is currently looking for individuals to be part of their family of volunteers to serve in:

- Patient support
- Hospice Center
- Bereavement Support
- Hospice Choir
- Pet Visitation (needs pet certification)
- Hospice Clerical
- Knitting/Crocheting/Sewing veteran blankets

Please visit their website at vnanwi.org or call (219) 462-5195.

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|---|---|-----|---|
| 1 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. 1 st Sunday of Advent "Hanging of the Greens" | 2 | 3 10 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting (kitchen) | 4 8 p.m. AA Meeting | 5 10 a.m. Packing Tins (Fellowship Hall) | 6 | 7 7 p.m. Models Club |
| 8 Sunday School 9 a.m. 2 nd Sunday of Advent 10:15 a.m. | 9 | 10 | 11 8 p.m. AA Meeting | 12 | 13 | 14  Kitt Christmas Program full dress rehearsal! Dress Rehearsal for Program 10 a.m. |
| 15 Sunday School 9 a.m. Children's Program 10:15 a.m. | 16  | 17 | 18 8 p.m. AA Meeting | 19 | 20 | 21 3 p.m. Models Club |
| 22 Sunday School 9 a.m. 4 th Sunday of Advent 10:15 a.m. | 23 | 24  3 p.m. Family Worship 11 p.m. Candlelight? | 25  8 p.m. AA Meeting | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Hymn Sing 10:15 a.m. | 30 | 31  New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED |  Joy to the World He will be a far and delight to you and many will rejoice because of his birth. | | | |





An opportunity that will be coming in January 2020 is a monthly fellowship time called "The Gathering". The Gathering will be open to anyone and will take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome!! All ages are welcome!!

It will include a carry-in dinner, fellowship, a time of prayer, and other activities. I pray that God will use this time as a blessing for our bodies and souls! Look for more details about The Gathering coming soon and if you are interested in being part of the planning of these special nights, please let me know.



*Porter United Methodist Church
100 E. Beam Street
Porter, IN 46304*

**Porter United Methodist
Church**

Liz Lahaie, Pastor

Pastor's Hours:

Available by appointment

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(219) 926-1586

VISION STATEMENT

As the community of Christ, which is one in Jesus Christ, we will nurture and care for one another, spread God's word and love throughout the community thereby fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.