

JANUARY

CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF ARDMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Hope Beyond All Hope

"Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!" Romans 15:13

I thought I'd share this poem that I found which had a big impact on my perspective on the new year. Nothing is known about the author but the words are so powerful, so wonderful, I thought I would share it with you. All that is known is that it was written during WW2, on the wall of a cellar, by a Jew in the Cologne concentration camp.

A Poem of Belief

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining
And I believe in love, even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God, even when he is silent.
I believe through any trial, there is always a way
But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair
My heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there
But a voice rises within me, saying hold on my child, I'll give you strength,
I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.
I believe in the sun even when it is not shining
And I believe in love even when there's no one there
But I believe in God even when he is silent
I believe through any trial there is always a way.
May there someday be sunshine
May there someday be happiness
May there someday be love
May there someday be peace...."

This is all our hope! Amen! Grace and peace, Matt

Update on The United Methodist Church and Boy Scouts of America

Many of you have heard in the news about the Boy Scouts lawsuits and bankruptcy. We felt it is important to update you that the leaders of the United Methodist Church and Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have reached a settlement in the BSA bankruptcy proceedings and sexual abuse claims. The United Methodist Church, and more specifically, AUMC and Troop 749 has a long-standing bond and association. We are hopeful that the BSA reorganization plan is approved in the U.S Bankruptcy Court confirmation hearing set to be heard in February, 2022. Pending the outcome of the hearing, we await a recommendation from the Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Church for our affiliation going forward.

We recognize that much pain and harm has been caused by the alleged abuse cases and ask all to pray for healing in the wrongs that have been perpetuated. Ardmore has had a wonderful relationship with scouting and we look forward to the opportunity of fruitful ministry in the future.

For important events and dates,
please view the full church calendar at:

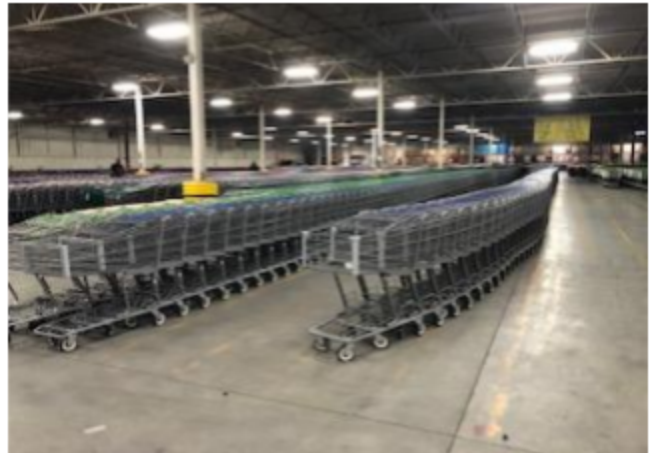
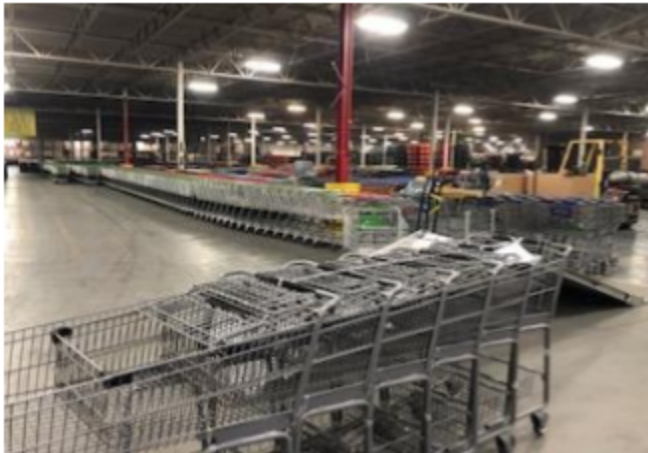
<https://ardmoreumc.org/calendar>



Items needed for the our Food Pantries*, Clothing Closet and Blessing Boxes (Ardmore UMC and Open Arms Ministry) *Baby diapers sizes 1, 5 and 6*, Men's clothing, Men's shoes, Children's clothing, Adult diapers (Men and Women), Canned Tuna or Chicken, Shelf Milk, Juice, Canned items with pop top lids (homeless benefit from this option), Oatmeal, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chicken and Beef broth, Adult Diapers (all sizes men and women), Spaghetti, Rice, Spaghetti Sauce

MISSION ENGAGEMENT

Food Pantry News: We received an early Christmas gift of 6 new grocery carts to help our guests shop for their food items. WANZL North America, a shopping cart factory in Newton, NC, graciously donated the carts. God continues to bless this ministry by providing for our needs. Thank you to all who support our Food Pantry and Clothing Closet by your service and donations. We collected \$425 through the Alternative Gift Cards. We appreciate your care for our neighbors in need.



Our Partnering Church St. Timothy's Episcopal Church needs evening meals for the homeless women being sheltered seven days a week through the winter months.

Can you family, your circle, UMMen, Sunday School Class, Neighbors supply an evening meal for 25 guests at St. Timothy's Shelter? Carolyn Coram or another member of the Mission Engagement Team can guide you through the planning of your meal and meet you at St. Timothy's to assist you with unloading the meal, serving and packing up following the meal. Mission Engagement and The Adventure Class have volunteered and served or will be serving three meals this winter sheltering season. Two to three people are needed to serve the meal. (One can be a member of the Mission Engagement Team.)

Meal Providers (for 25 people) are needed for the following evenings:

Jan 9 Mission Engagement Team
Jan 29
Feb 11
Feb 24 The Adventure Class
March 12
March 28 Wednesday Bible Study Group

Please contact the Church Office (Cheryl Vaughan) or Mitzie Kepley with the glorious news of you/your group's willingness to provide one of these evening meals. A Mission Engagement Team member will be in contact with you for answering questions you may have and offer to meet you at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church to assist you in helpful ways. **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEER MEAL PROVIDERS!**

Angel Tree 2021....a HUGE SUCCESS

Appreciation is expressed to all who responded so generously and graciously to the 2021 Advent/Christmas Angel Tree Project. Heartfelt appreciation was expressed by Missionary Rev. Julie Wilson (The Open Arms Community Mission) from all the families and individuals blessed by these expressions of well wishes and loving care. Appreciation is also extended to the Cathy Amos and Leslie Mullinix who managed and championed this effort.

In reflecting on the history of the Angel Tree December Project for families being served by the resources of The Open Arms Community Mission, Mission Engagement wishes to lift up Treva Jackson. Treva Jackson, now amongst the cloud of witnesses whose hearts are eternal for each of us, championed the Angel Tree effort for years managing the project, preparing the tree and making sure that all gifts were fulfilled, wrapped and delivered. Thank you Ardmore Congregation for carrying on the outreach and feeling the ongoing embrace of Treva Jackson in all that calls your heart in action for others.



Santa Blesses us Once More

(From the "Open Arms Community" December Newsletter,
The Rev. Julie Wilson, Missionary)

"Twas a few weeks before Christmas and all through the house, children were laughing, not quiet like a mouse."

Christmas time is a time of excitement and anticipation, but for the families we serve, it can also be a difficult season because poverty prevents parents and guardians from providing the Christmas children dream of. For many years now the children of Open Arms Community have been writing letters to Santa and sharing them with their caregivers and/or us. Families give us lists of not only what their children want for Christmas, but also items that would help some of the adults in the family. We then pass lists along to Ardmore UMC.

Ardmore UMC takes on the role of Santa and gets to work filling as many Christmas wishes as possible. They provide for basic needs like socks, gloves, or blanket as well as more fun items like remote control or plush Cocomelon toys. Other partner churches donate hygiene items and other supplemental gifts. (Special thanks to Prospect UMC for all the gift cards.)

Then the week before Christmas, we deliver all the items to each family. Some families tell the children that the gifts are from Open Arms or the church, but others let their children embrace the magic a bit and hide the gifts until Christmas morning and let them know that Santa indeed received their letter.

This year, thank you to our generous supporters, around 90 individuals received Christmas gifts!



F A I T H

F U N

6TH - 12TH GRADE

Youth GROUP

MONDAYS
6PM-7:30PM



F E L L O W S H I P

F R I E N D S H I P



Kids Worship Schedule Winter 2022

JANUARY (FAITH WORD: AWE)

DATE	TOPIC	SCRIPTURE
01/02/2022	Communion Sunday & Family Worship	
01/09/2022	PAJAMA JAM – WINTER CELEBRATION!	
01/16/2022	Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2:41-52
01/23/2022	Jesus' Baptism	Luke 3:1-22
01/30/2022	SUNDAY FUNDAY AT KIDS WORSHIP	

FEBRUARY (FAITH WORD: JOURNEY)

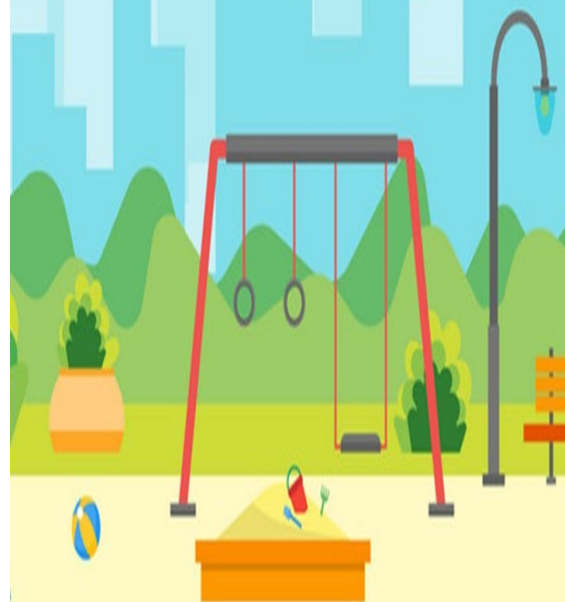
DATE	TOPIC	SCRIPTURE
02/06/2022	Communion Sunday & Family Worship	
02/13/2022	Temptation in the Desert	Luke 4:1-13
02/20/2022	Jesus in the Synagogue	Luke 4:14-30
02/27/2022	Jesus Heals	Luke 4:38-44

MARCH (FAITH WORD: WONDER)

DATE	TOPIC	SCRIPTURE
03/06/2022	Communion Sunday & Family Worship	
03/13/2022	The Five Friends	Luke 5:17-26
03/20/2022	Healing the Man with the Withered Hand	Luke 6:6-11
03/27/2022	Jairus's Daughter	Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

**ALL PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY AGE KIDS
ARE INVITED TO A**

PLAYGROUND PARTY!



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 15TH
(10AM-11AM)**

ARDMORE UMC PLAYGROUND

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

“SENIOR MOMENTS”

Happy New Year!!! 2022 has rolled around and we are starting a new year whether, we are ready for it or not. I think that we are ready to get out of 2021, since it wasn't much better than 2020. We did have some good things happen in 2021 and we should think about them. Let's stay healthy, active and be encouraging to others as well as to ourselves. And always remember that we are not alone, that God is always with us through good and bad times.

We had some wonderful Advent and Christmas activities at Ardmore. I hope that you were able to participate/attend, either in person or online. I'm thankful for all of those who make it possible for us to participate in these activities, in person and online. We can look forward to continuing our Monday morning prayer time in the coming year, as well as our worship services and other services/activities that we will have. Stay tuned!!!

Unfortunately, I can't give you any good news about Young at Heart. As soon as it is safe and people feel comfortable getting together, we will have a program. As long as the Omicron variant is here, we need to be very careful. I do look forward to our being together again ...maybe 2022 will be the year!

Some of our seniors have moved to new locations. I have addresses and phone numbers and will be happy to share them with you. Give me a call or send me an email if you would like information and I'll let you know how to contact them. When our members move to new places, they still like to stay in touch with Ardmore friends, especially those who move out of town or out of state. It means a lot for them to get cards and phone calls from us.

Speaking of starting the new year and moving to new places, I found a quote that fits a new year, a new home, even a new outlook. "Celebrate endings__for they precede new beginnings." (Jonathan Huie) Let's look forward to the beginning of a new year, and whatever else is new for us, and let's make it great. Remember the good things from the past and look ahead to the future with hope and positive thinking. May your new year be filled with joy, peace, happiness and good health. Again, I say **Happy New Year!!!**

Peace and Joy to All,

Mary Jo maryjo@ardmoreumc.org/336-723-5566

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Greetings to and from Ardmore United Methodist Women!

Since the last newsletter, our Ardmore UMW Circles enjoyed a Christmas get-together. On December 15, we met in Bob Martin Hall for lunch and a lovely Christmas story shared by Carolyn Webster. The love offering we requested for this event was toiletries which were delivered to the Mental Health office right down the street.

As it happened, our Christmas lunch took place the day after the Celebration of Life Service for our Miriam sister, Betty Richardson. On January 4, we celebrated Treva Jackson, another Miriam Circle saint who has gone home. We mourn the loss of these two women while we rejoice that we were blessed by their loving examples. Thanks to Leslie Mullinix for her Words of Gratitude at Treva's service. Leslie, you spoke for all of us! Thinking of these two reminds me of the importance of maintaining our UMW fellowship...these precious relationships. We never know how long our circles will remain "unbroken".

The **ever productive** Stitchers not only created hats and scarves for the ladies of two local UMAR houses, they went on to produce winter wear for Shalom Project.

You *really* should check the UMW Bulletin Board next to the Reception Room for pix of these ladies and their work. They are phenomenal!

Like everyone else, Ardmore United Methodist Women members will watch and wait for developments in the Covid *war* and plan accordingly. Hopefully we will all be able to resume meeting regularly in circles AND as a unit in general meetings. In January and February we will be volunteering to help with providing meals at the St. Timothy homeless overflow shelter. (I will be in touch!)

Until February then...

Blessings and good health!

Nancy Norton, President Ardmore UMW

1/2 Barbara Creasy	1/13 Suzanne Johnson John Robbins	1/19 Bill Christy	1/25 Jennifer Chapman Gaither Davis
1/4 Jack Kennedy	1/16 Fred Jordan	1/22 Liz Lamphear	1/28 Genie Reynolds
1/9 Carolyn Hankins		1/23 Polly Baucom	1/29 Margaret Browning



Congregational Concerns


We pray for those who:

Need healing: Peggy Andrews, Lois Brown, Sylvia Caldwell, Jan Carter, Ruth Carter, Jane Click, Bobbi Cobb, Alice Dalton, Patrick Edenfield, Betty Frazier, Bethany Goodman, Carolyn Hankins, Peggy Hall, Joanne Hamlet, Hattie Hauser, Charles Hedrick, Ruby Houlden, Elizabeth Martin, Roy Nifong, Sylvia Powell, Jane Reade, Genie Reynolds, Chris Steele, Harry Steele, Livia Timmons, Bert and Janice Weeks, Sue Wilkinson, Cynthia Hulet, Sara Knott

Who grieve and offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of: Fay Smithdeal Deans family, Matt Farabow family, Treva Jackson family

Who serve our country.

Who come to Our Father's Table Food Pantry/Clothing Closet.



Imagine how much we could earn if everyone in our congregation who shops Amazon would just use smile.amazon.com. Just start your order with a smile and Amazon will automatically donate a portion of your order to the non-profit that you choose. It doesn't cost the buyer anything and the funds come directly from Amazon. Ardmore UMC has registered as a non-profit. **Just log in to your Amazon account, search for Ardmore United Methodist Church and select the Winston Salem NC option.** Then, each time you shop start at smile.amazon.com. Sign into your cart and shop away. You get your product for the same price and Amazon donates money directly to the church!



Join us Sunday mornings for online worship!

Traditional 10:00 am
Contemporary 11:15 am



[Click here to go directly to our YouTube page](#)

