



“Always Winter, Never Christmas”

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every action under the heavens...” Ecclesiastes 3:1

In his classic book, *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*; C.S. Lewis describes the magical land of Narnia as being in eternal winter – a place, moreover, where it is “always winter and never Christmas.” This eternal winter is a metaphor used by Lewis to describe the hopelessness and gloom hanging over the land of Narnia because of the rule of the White Witch, whom all of Narnia fears.

A world without Christmas is a place where there is no hope for a future, for an alternative to the status quo or even a promise that there is something to look forward to. A world with just winter and no Christmas also means a world with no seasons.

Living in Missouri, one of the things we experience is the four distinct seasons of the year (sometimes all in one day). I’ve visited places in the south and west where the temperature never dips below 60 degrees and wondered what I would do if winter never came. I’ve also visited places where the temperature seldom goes above 80 degrees and thought about the idea of never experiencing summer. While the idea of spring like temperatures year-round intrigues me, I understand the distinct seasons have a purpose. Without a hard freeze in the winter, bugs and allergens would persist year-round and be all the more intense in the summer. Without the spring rains, the grass, flowers and crops would have little chance of survival. Experiencing the different seasons is important.

The changing of seasons is also something we must experience in our lives. Solomon shares with us in Ecclesiastes the important role of the seasons in our lives. He says that there is a time for every season under heaven. There is a season for planting, and a season for harvesting. There is a season for laughing, and a season for mourning. There is a season for building, and a season for tearing down. There is even a season to be silent, and a season to speak.

We know that our lives consist of a series of changing seasons. But have you ever resisted the changing of the seasons in your life? Maybe it is resisting accepting our children growing up, being called to a new career, transitioning to being empty-nesters, retirement or even moving on from a devastating loss. We all experience changing seasons in our lives that we want to resist. But, just as we know every winter will one day end and spring will come, the seasons in our lives will change too, no matter how much we try to keep that change from taking place.

I encourage you to consider how you embrace the changing seasons in your life. Maybe you’re experiencing (or resisting) one of those changes right now. I invite you to ask God to help you accept the changing of the season in your life and how God is calling you to be a part of His mighty work in this new season of ushering in Hope, not just for us, but for the whole world.

Blessings, Chris

Advent and Christmas Calendar



Saturday, December 3
Christmas Parade, 2:00 PM

Saturday, December 10
Angel Tree Party here at the church in the Sanctuary at 11:00 AM
Stockings will be put together at 1:00 PM,
following the Angel Tree party. Volunteers are welcome

Saturday, December 10 and 17
Salvation Army bell-ringing at Walmart -
The money raised here stays here to help persons and families in need

Sunday, December 11
Volunteers will be delivering some Christmas Cheer Stockings
Christmas Program dress rehearsal following worship

Sunday, December 18
Children's Program 10:20 AM Worship Service "A Star is Born"

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Living Nativity 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Christmas Parade December 3




Gather at the church by 1:30 PM on Saturday, December 3rd to be part of the Christmas Parade float. The parade starts at 2 PM, and we will be passing out packets of hot chocolate with our Christmas Eve worship times. Wear a church sweatshirt, if you have one!

2022 Angel Tree



We will need the children's gifts back in the Sanctuary no later than Sunday, Dec. 4, for the dedication of the gifts. The Angel Tree party will be on Saturday, Dec. 10th at 11:00 a.m., beginning with a short message in the Sanctuary and soup and sandwiches to follow in the fellowship hall. All of our church members are invited to join with us in fellowship with our "angels." Please make plans to join us in this very special ministry to our church. As always, we are so grateful for the way in which our church family supports this Matthew 25 ministry to the children of incarcerated parents.

Christmas Cheer Stockings

 On December 11, we will be delivering some Christmas cheer stockings to members of our congregation who are homebound or in nursing homes. We're looking for the following stocking stuffers:

* Homemade cookies - dropped off at church by December 10

* Fuzzy socks

 * Hand lotion (small tube)

* Lip balm

* Puzzle booklets (crossword, word search)

Stockings will be put together December 10 at 1 PM following Angel Tree. Volunteers are welcome!

Thank You!

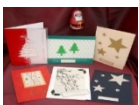
I want to thank the volunteers who braved the cold to clean my yard of leaves. Since I am unable to do this, it was very much appreciated. Thanks again, Leona Schmidt.

Turkey Donations



We are partnering with Community in Schools (CIS) to provide Christmas food baskets to a few families of students at LSE and BHS. Specifically, we are collecting funds to purchase 10 turkeys. If you'd like to contribute, please place money in the offering plate and designate it "turkeys."

Christmas Cards for NMUMC Elders and Friends



We are asking the congregation to mail out Christmas cards to the following names below. The addresses for the names listed will be located on the refreshment table. We will also have a supply of Christmas cards for you, if you need them.

Florence Banion, Jack Bell, Frances Bradley, Virginia Brownfield, Mary Margaret Browning, Jan and David DeGraffenreid, Ada Gingrich, Margaret Hopkins, Gene and Reagan, Bart Riley, Carol Schenck, Leona Schmidt, Helen Taylor, John Tincher, HESSIE WATTS and Dorothy Whitten.

Our church friends have been so pleased with your cards of remembrance in the past and we want to let them know again that we are remembering them during the upcoming holy season of love. God bless you for participating in this endeavor.

Christmas Families



We will be adopting families through CIS this Christmas. Many area families are struggling this year, and are having difficulty providing Christmas for their loved ones. Therefore, we have adopted several families for Christmas. The tags on the Giving Tree for the month of December are gift wishes for the children in those families. Please help us to provide for these children by selecting a tag, purchasing a gift and bringing it, wrapped, to church by December 18th at the latest. We greatly appreciate your help and Christian Love and helping these families to have a more joyful and blessed Christmas. If there are any questions, please feel free to call Sara. Thank you!

Christmas Poinsettias



Those of you that would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please pick up one of the forms located on the table back in the refreshment area. The list will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please deliver the form to the church by Monday, December 12th. Please make checks payable in the amount of \$14.00 to Nelson Memorial, UMC, and in the memo line write poinsettia. Thank you!

Children's Christmas Program December 18



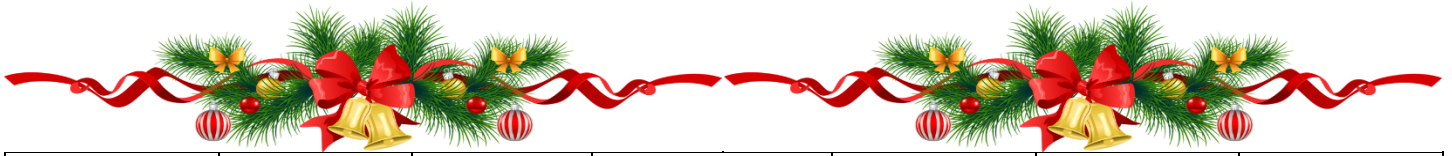
Our Children's Christmas program will be Sunday, Dec. 18, during the 10:20 AM worship service. The children will present "A Star is Born". Invite family to watch the livestream at [facebook.com/nelsonmemorialumc](https://www.facebook.com/nelsonmemorialumc). There will be a dress rehearsal after worship services on Sunday, December 11th.


Christmas Eve Services December 24 and Christmas Day

We will have two services on Christmas Eve: 3 PM, and 7 PM. This gives persons opportunity to worship before it gets dark, for families with small children, and for those who prefer a traditional time for Christmas Eve worship. Each service we will sing, and celebrate the birth of Jesus. The offering at these services will go towards the Boonslick Ministerial Alliance. There will be one Christmas service on Sunday, December 25th at 10:20 AM.



Thank you God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>December 2022</p> <p>Worship 8:00 & 10:20 AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 AM</p> | | | | 1 | 2 7:00 pm – Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 3 8:00 am UMM Methodist Men Meeting 2:00 pm Christmas Parade, be at the church at 1:30 pm |
| 4 | 5 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm – Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 7 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH | 8 6:00 pm Praise Band Practice | 9 7:00 pm – Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 10 Salvation Army Bell Ringing Event 11:00 Angel Tree Party - Fellowship Hall |
| 11 Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal after worship services 6:00 - Youth Group at the Jacksons | 12 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 13 | 14 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH 6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting, FH | 15 | 16 7:00 pm – Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 17 Salvation Army Bell Ringing Event |
| 18 10:20 am Children's Christmas Program 6:00 Youth Group at the Jackson | 19 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 20 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 21 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH | 22 6:00 pm Praise Band Practice | 23 Office Closed 7:00 pm – Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 24 Christmas Eve 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm Christmas Eve services. Living Nativity from 4:00 to 7:00 pm |
| 25 Christmas Day 10:20 Service  | 26 Office Closed | 27 | 28 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH | 29 | 30 Office Closed 7:00 pm – Al-Anon Meeting Fellowship Hall | 31 New Year's Eve |

December Birthdays

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|---|---|----|--|
| 1 | Donna Beach, Bill Salyer | | |
| 5 | Anna Koch | 12 | Tamie Griesbach |
| 6 | Barbara Holtzclaw, Russell Schmidt, Judy Peters | 15 | Kevin Brownfield |
| 8 | Allison Langdon | 16 | Darren Beach, Marla Stretz |
| 9 | John Koch, Sheri Vanderhoof | 20 | Drew Schenck |
| | | 22 | Earl Haller, Harold Haller, Glenn Schupp |
| | | 25 | Madison Alexander |
| | | 26 | Dixon Fehling |
| | | 30 | Mitch Leonard |