



December 2021

AKLEAF

Lonoke First United Methodist Church



The History of Advent

We are entering the season of Advent, ok maybe 10 days into Advent when you read this because the newsletter was a touch slow this month (my bad). Advent can be loosely translated into watching for or waiting for the coming of something or someone important. The person we are watching and waiting for is Jesus. Jesus coming to earth changed human history, and Jesus's birth, life, death and resurrection offer us all a new beginning. When we gather to celebrate this holiday, one of the things that is great to reflect on is how Jesus's birth changed human history as a whole, and our life specifically. What would your life be like if there was no Christmas? What would your life be like if there was no Jesus? How can we live our lives with the knowledge of all we have to be grateful for at the center of our minds? Instead of living into the stress, business, the pressure to buy the perfect present that the holiday season can bring. Can we instead pause and reflect with gratitude and joy about what Jesus means to us? Can we live in such a way as to honor the one we are watching and waiting for during Advent?

One of my favorite things we do each Advent is the lighting of the candles. We light five candles

during Advent which are placed in a circular evergreen wreath. We light one candle each of the four Sundays and then the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. The wreath is evergreen and in a circle to remind us of the eternity of God. The four candles are meant to represent four virtues Jesus brings us: hope, love, joy and peace. Then we light the Christ candle on Christmas Eve reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. I believe that living into these virtues of love, joy, peace and hope provide us with both a way to honor Christ as we wait and to change our world. I cannot think of anything that we could do to better honor the coming of our King, than to live into and embody the virtues of the Advent Candles and our savior.



God Bless you and Merry Christmas

Rev. Jeremy Pressgrove

If you are curious about Advent and some of our traditions, you can find even more information at <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-do-the-candles-in-our-advent-wreath-mean>.

FUMC Childcare Center Update

The children (and adults) enjoyed Cookies With Santa last Friday evening. The children were very excited to see Santa! We appreciate his visit sooooo much!

As we are winding down this calendar year, we are already making plans for the next. We have several of our teachers who are planning to attend CDA classes this Spring at the Lonoke Business Academy through ASU Beebe. The childcare center is blessed to be able to assist the teachers financially with this endeavor. The teachers getting these certifications will only better our center for the children and our program. We are very excited about this!

We are still growing in numbers as well. And we have several new little ones we will be adding to our group next year. Our center is almost full to capacity at this time. We appreciate all the help and support you all provide throughout the year! Thank you so much!

Merry Christmas!
Stephanie Studer,
CCC Director



CCC Staff Pictured with Santa

Snapshots from the 2021 Lonoke Christmas Parade



**FUMC received
3rd place for their
float in the religious
category!**





Update from The CALL

2021 has been a unique year for The CALL in Lonoke & Prairie Counties. Having a physical location has been such a blessing! It has bolstered our ability to share our vision of having "no waiting children" in foster care. Additionally, it has increased opportunities to equip the Body of Christ to bring hope to the foster care community. Our partnership with LFUMC has enabled us to share the love of Christ with children and teenagers and to meet their physical needs as well. Please pray for more and more Christians throughout Lonoke and Prairie Counties to be moved to action on behalf of vulnerable children and youth in 2022. We are grateful for LFUMC and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Melissa Furnell, County Coordinator



The CALL Information Meeting

January 11th The CALL Informational Meeting @LFUMC

If you would like to learn more about the ways you can make a difference in the lives of children in foster care in our community, please join us at 6:30 p.m. on January 11th at the Support Center! Scan the code to register.



Nix Building Renovation Campaign

By: Pastor Jeremy

With the purchase of the Nix Youth Center from the Presbyterian Church in 2020, we knew that repairs were needed. FUMC will be taking the first steps in the renovation/repair process by setting a goal to raise \$60,000.

The funds will specifically be used for roof repair, replacing heat/air units and hopefully new furniture and kitchen and bathroom updates.

We have raised over \$17,000 to date and are hoping to receive the remainder of your commitments by the end of the year.



Lonoke First United Methodist Church

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Worship Info

Church Office Information
Monday-Thursday, 9am-2:30pm
Friday, 9am-12pm
501-676-6767
fumclonoke@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming Meetings and Events

UM Youth will meet on Sundays from 6pm-8pm.

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage, Sunday, December 12th, 1-3pm. Donations will be taken for the local animal shelter. Monetary donations will need to be made out to the Friends of the Lonoke Animal Shelter. The following items are needed: Pine Sol, Bleach, Lysol/Clorox Wipes, Cleaning Supplies, Collars and Leashes, Dry Dog Food and Scoopable Cat Litter. No toys or blankets please.

The UM Youth will have a Progressive Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12th at 6pm.

Christmas Memorials/Honorariums. Poinsettias are \$35 each and all names will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Please turn the order forms along with your payment in to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 15th.

Christmas Eve Service, Friday, December 24th, 5pm with time honored traditions including the FUMC Choir.

The Church Office will be open by appointment only the week of Christmas and New Years. Please call/text (870)734-6046 if you need assistance.

Be sure to check out our facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lonokefumc> and website: <https://fumclonoke.com/>

We stream our live service each Sunday morning via Facebook Live and Youtube.

Check-in, Comment, Follow and Like us for updates and announcements! We love hearing from all of our viewers



SCAN ME

Prayer List

Our prayers are with:

Jane Lipton, Peggy Anderson, Debbie Depriest, Emily Clark, Marlo Johnson, Lonnie Davis, Art Cole, Jim Goode, Brenda Dobbs, Jane Fowler, Maleah Behrens, Morgan Burnett, Beth Wright and Mary Evelyn McCloud.

If you have any changes or additions to the prayer list, please call or email the church office.