



# Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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## **Our Mission**

*To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.*

## **Our Vision**

Change lives, ours and others'.

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Through Cokesbury Window

November 12, 2018

## **Gratitude and Darkness**

I will start with some horrifying story, but don't worry, it will end well.

The title of the movie, I forgot. I watched it at home a long time ago. Usually I don't enjoy watching horror movies, because I don't understand why people even take time and money to make that kind of movie in the first place. I just stumbled upon that one that day. I don't remember the main storyline, either. What I remember is how horrible it was, because one of the characters ended up being buried alive. I couldn't even imagine what it would be like to be buried alive and not to have any way to ask for help. Imagine the suffocating, the fear, the despair, the helplessness...

I was so grateful right after the movie ended because I was alive and well. I was free. The effect of the horror was so strong that even now, some ten or more years afterwards, I am grateful for just being able to breathe out in the open, not being confined. That tells me something.

When we have experienced something dark, something bad, not having that situation again, not having to experience it again, gives you enough reason to be thankful. By contrast, if you take life's good for granted, you might say, "What's there in my life that I would be thankful for?" You might be discontent, dissatisfied, and bored.

Being able to feel grateful is a gift from God. Gratitude in our hearts in itself is a blessing. Let's go a little further. If you can feel grateful to God even in the middle of troubles, rest assured, God is with you. It is a God-given gift to see that God is with you no matter what.

This year's Thanksgiving, let us think about how many blessings we are enjoying in life and give thanks to God. For that matter, let us give thanks to God every day, every moment in our lives, because God is good and deserves our trust and thanks.

*In-Yong*



- Mary Rast gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Bill Cooper** and **LeRoy Taylor**.
- Dale & Candace Austin gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Bob & Jane Kellis**.
- Theresa Hall gave a gift to the Honorarium Fund in honor of the **UMAR residents**.
- Tom & Mickey Helms gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Marcus Ray Connell**.
- Flo Sowell gave a gift to the Budget Fund in honor of **veterans**.



*Congratulations to  
Gerald Gardner and Debbie Jackson  
who were married on November 3.*

### **UMCOR Hygiene Kits**

By Tammy Gilmore

In response to the devastation that Hurricane Florence inflicted upon our beloved state, both the United Methodist Women and the Prime Timers are asking for donations for UMCOR Hygiene Kits during the months of October and November. Some requirements have changed and are as follows:

- wash cloths
- hand towels, 15"x25" or 17"x27" – no kitchen towels or micro fiber
- large sturdy combs – must have 6" of teeth
- sealed toothbrushes
- finger or toenail clippers – no nail files
- 3 oz. or larger wrapped bath soap – no Ivory or Jergens
- wrapped regular size band-aids

We usually seem to have a shortage of hand towels. All items will eventually be wrapped in re-sealable ziplock gallon bags. We will also need monetary donations of \$2 per kit. All items are needed before November 18. There will be a donation basket in the Narthex.

### **Joy of Giving**

By Etta Woodall

Urban Promise will celebrate the Joy of Giving on December 17 and 18. The young campers will be selecting two gifts for their parents. This two day event includes the selection of the gifts, the wrapping of the gifts, and then on Tuesday, a Christmas program, and the giving of the gifts. You are invited to this event and to participate in the wrapping of presents and to enjoy the Tuesday evening program. Thank you for your support of the Urban Promise program.

## Music at Cokesbury

By Kay Dumas

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will not have Music at Cokesbury in November, but *please remember:*

We will have the Queen City Ringers, a fantastic handbell choir from the Charlotte area, on **Thursday, December 20** in the sanctuary. For the past two years, this has been a great event for our church with many new faces attending. Please help spread the news about this wonderful group coming to perform their Christmas selections from this year's show entitled "Oh Night Divine".

We have had success with the Music at Cokesbury series to date. The intention for this program is to bring new folks to the church. Please come each month that you can and bring someone new. We are working on new entertainment all the time, so keep your eyes open for what's coming in 2019!



## Prime Timer Coat Drive

By Kay Dumas

During the month of November, the Prime Timers will sponsor their annual Coat Drive for Crisis Assistance Ministry for the needy men, women, and children in our community. Bring your new or gently worn coats and place them in the box in the narthex.

## United Methodist Men Reminder

By Ed Bolster

There is a dinner/meeting on Thursday at 6:15 p.m.

## United Methodist Women

### Thanksgiving Bake Sale

By Kay Dumas

**Cokesbury Bakers:** Bring your baked items to church on Sunday morning and leave on the table in the narthex.

**Cokesbury Buyers:** You can pick up your delicious baked item AFTER church on Sunday.

*Birthday Party  
for  
Jesus*



By Tom DeVries

On **Saturday, December 15**, we will be hosting the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for 25-30 children. Over the next few Sundays, we will be handing out envelopes for donations. You can simply write a check to United Methodist Men and note Bethlehem Center Party and place in the offering plate or get it to the church office and we will make sure your gift is used on December 15.

This is a wonderful mission project that is a joy for Cokesbury and the children and staff from the Bethlehem Center. We will be making up the goodie bags for the Bethlehem children this year giving them a quality stuffed animal/toy. Please continue to give generously.