



# Cokesbury United Methodist Church

6701 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28212 • 704 537-5818

Reverend Dr. In-Yong Lee, Pastor • [ilee@wncumc.net](mailto:ilee@wncumc.net)

• [www.cokesburyumc.net](http://www.cokesburyumc.net)

## **Our Mission**

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

## **Our Vision**

Change lives, ours and others'.

Vol. DLI 551

Through Cokesbury Window

November 26, 2018

## **Entering the Advent Season**

The liturgical calendar starts with Advent. This year, the first Sunday of Advent falls on December 2. According to the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three-year cycle of passages from the Bible for use in Protestant Christian worship with its pattern of observances of festivals and seasons, Year C starts that day.

In Advent, we expectantly wait and prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas as well as for the return of Jesus at the second coming. While I made worship plans for December, which I shared and refined with the Worship Planning Team members later, an idea came to me: the Jesse Tree.

Originating from Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots", the Tree of Jesse is an artful depiction of the ancestors of Christ. The earliest example of it dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. So it has long history. Often it is shown in a tree which rises from Jesse of Bethlehem, the father of King David.

It is a Christian way of celebrating the fact that Isaiah's prophecy of the peaceable kingdom has been fulfilled with the coming of the shoot of Jesse, Jesus. Therefore, it would be an apt tool for us to use to prepare for the first and second coming of Jesus, our Messiah. We will look at a few of the stories, one on each Sunday during Advent, all of which will lead to the birth of baby Jesus.

I invite our Cokesbury family to enter this Advent season with deep appreciation of the biblical stories of our ancestors of faith, which culminate with our Lord Jesus. "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20)

*In-Yong*



– 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.**

– Mary Rast gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Bill Cooper** and **LeRoy Taylor**.

– 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.*

### **Missions**

By Judy Sims

The following information is an update from the Missions Committee. This year we have sent money to the following:

**UMCOR** – United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCgiving.org) for the six Special Sundays – Human Relations, One Great Hour of Sharing, Native American Ministries, Peace and Justice, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day. The amount of \$30 was given to each for a total of \$180.

**Metropolitan Music Ministries** – \$100

**Second Harvest Food Bank** – \$100

**Zihua Roofs Society** – \$250

**Agape Dental Ministry** – \$50

**UMCOR Disaster Relief Fund** – \$350

**Ronald McDonald House** – \$50

Total Spent – \$1,080 to date

There have been several gatherings to discuss the Starfish Ministry. We decided to close Starfish as it is no longer a need. Cokesbury's Room in the Inn will be given \$35 to purchase water and the remainder of funds, \$150 in the restricted funds, will be given to Central UMC as they purchase food from Second Harvest and serve 60+ families.

The Heifer Project is one additional project we look forward to promoting. Missions will give \$100 and ask the congregation for matching funds by December 9.

Thanks to the many church committee groups and individuals who have worked for the many Cokesbury missions projects.

## Music at Cokesbury

By Kay Dumas

On Thursday evening, **December 20 at 7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary, we will enjoy the beautiful music of the Queen City Ringers, a very favorite handbell choir. What a wonderful time to invite our family, friends, and neighbors to our church to join us as we celebrate the Christmas season. We'll enjoy Christmas goodies, hot spiced cider, and coffee. A love offering will be taken.

## Prime Timer Luncheon

**Thursday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m.**

By Kay Dumas

The Prime Timers will celebrate the Christmas season with a devotion by Jo Walters and we will enjoy the music of Ellen Trion, as she once again entertains us and invites us to sing along. We will remember our members, provide health kits for UMCOR, and prepare Christmas gift bags for our Room in the Inn guests. You are invited to join us for a *complimentary* lunch.

## United Methodist Women Initiatives

By Tammy Gilmore

1. **Economic Inequality** – Push for legislation that builds the base for a living wage in at least 25 states and municipalities by 2022.

[unitedmethodistwomen.org/economic-inequality](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/economic-inequality)

2. **Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration** – With 2020 as the goal, we will work protect, rather that criminalize children.

[unitedmethodistwomen.org/racial-justice](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/racial-justice)

3. **Climate Justice** – Working towards a 25% reduction of carbon emissions by the top two contributing sectors by 2024.

[unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice)

4. **Maternal and Child Health** – Decrease maternal mortality rates by 2020

[unitedmethodistwomen.org/mchealth](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/mchealth)

Source: *Response* Magazine November 2018

## 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.

## 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.