

# Life at Cokesbury

December 9 - December 15, 2019

## Calendar

- Advent Series on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
- Advent Series on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- Bethlehem Birthday Party for Jesus is Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
- Room in the Inn is Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Services  
5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

## Bethlehem Birthday Party for Jesus - by Tom DeVries

On **Saturday, December 14**, we will be hosting the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for about 25 children. We will be handing out envelopes for donations or you can simply write a check to the United Methodist Men and note Bethlehem Center Party and place it in the offering plate or get it to the church office and we will make sure your gift is used on Dec. 14. 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 and again giving a quality stuffed animal/toy. Please continue to give generously.

## Music at Cokesbury

The Queen City Ringers (a Hand Bell Choir) will be here on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Refreshments will be served and a love offering will be taken. Come and enjoy the sounds of the Christmas season!

## AutoBell Car Wash Gift Cards

The UMYF will be selling AutoBell Car Wash Gift Cards for \$20. Half of the money will go to the UMYF account and will fund the programs throughout the year. For more information, see Ann Lake.

## From the Pastor

The season of Advent comes up every year and we all understand it in different ways. I grew up Southern Baptist in the mountains, so Advent wasn't part of my church experience. December simply marked the days leading up to Christmas. When my friends invited me to Advent celebrations at their churches, I was really interested because the concept seemed so foreign to me – but I also thought it was beautiful. How exciting to have a season of preparation where all of the symbolism incorporated darkness and light. That's also how I came to understand the stories of Jesus and his birth, too. It was a natural way of expressing really big mysteries that are older than the stars and as new as my last breath that works even though I can never fully understand how. Advent reminded me that it's important to mark expectation and hope without fully being able to explain how life works, how Grace works, how God came into being.

I don't know how God came to exist, but I do know that I've experienced God's presence. You have, too. This Advent season while we try to sort through God's intentions for each of us and for our congregation, my prayer is that we might mark this season with an acceptance of the mysteries of all of it. Maybe we need an acceptance that the future isn't fully in our control, but that God will always be with us. God is with us ... always!

*Jonathan*

**The following Memorials were given in the month of November:**

A Memorial was given in memory of **Beth Henry** by: Bill & Gwen Coulter.

Memorials were given in memory of **Leo Long** by: Nancy Cottingham, Bill & Gwen Coulter, & Martha Simpson.

Memorials were given in memory of **Phyllis Jones** by: Bill & Gwen Coulter, Dan & Kay Dumas, Mary Freeman, Pat McKenzie, and Deanna Reed.

An Honorarium was given in honor of **Linda Horne**.