

Breckenridge United Methodist Church



 *December – January Newsletter* 

Tis the Season for the Hanging of the Greens



A good group of the congregation gathered at the church on November 30 to decorate the church for Advent. Helping to decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall were; Jim Gillis, Nadean Giles, Dale and Charlotte Bushre, Dave and Loretta Briggs, Angie Sherwood, Joyce Short, Diane Colbry, Addy Collins, Ginger Vetter, and Sharon Howie.

Upcoming Events

Children's Christmas Program – During worship on *December 8*, the young people of the congregation will be presenting a Christmas play entitled "The Ornaments of Christmas". Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a play about the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Caroling - A church group will be going caroling on *December 17* starting at 5:30. There will be no auditions, you may come and participate regardless of your singing ability.

Christmas Eve Service – We will be having a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on *December 24, at 6:30 PM*. This is always a beautiful and well-attended service. It is a great way to remember the "reason for the season" and celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

January 11 – A group of ladies from our congregation will be catering an Eastern Star Michigander's Club meeting. The proceeds from this luncheon will be donated to the Weekend C.A.R.E. program. If you would like to help with this project, contact Joyce Short.

(Thank you to everyone who donated snacks for the First Responder and All Saints receptions.)

We Were Busy During the Past Couple of Months!

Since the last newsletter, we have had some very enjoyable events here at the church. One of those was the “Taste of Breckenridge” event that was organized by Loretta Briggs and Linda Nagel. Over 90 people attended and enjoyed a meal organized by their table host along with some great fellowship. Thank you to everyone who attended and especially to those who took on the role of table hosts.



Another special event was the “Church Full of Treats”. On a cold and snowy Halloween night, over 800 people attended our Halloween Outreach event. We served over 500 hot dogs, countless cups of hot chocolate, a good helping of community fellowship.



First Responder Sunday

Local First Responders were honored on October 27th. Pastor Monique and the children presented each first responder with a commemorative pin and a reception was held afterwards in their honor. Twelve current and retired first responders attended.



Mission Sewing Project

Joyce Short and Diane Colbry organized a mission project that involved the construction of dresses, shorts, and washcloths for underprivileged children in third world countries. A group of ladies completed 60 dresses, 28 pair of boy's shorts, and 16 washcloths. They also made 15 bibs which they donated to the Heart's Content Adult Care Facility.



Shoe Box Ministry

The congregation donated 45 shoe boxes filled with goodies for children in foreign countries. Raegan and Greyson are shown with the stack of shoe boxes.



Welcome to Our New Members



We received four new church members in October. Pictured above are new members, Susan Wagner and Lois and Larry Arthur. The fourth new member is Nadean Giles, but she snuck out before I could get her photo.



From Pastor Monique's Desk

Live a Life of Gratitude!!!!

I hope you had the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, remembering to give thanks to God for all He has done.

So, in preparation for the upcoming holidays, I want to share a powerful truth about gratitude and what it biblically means to give thanks to God. So, let's take a look at scripture and see what the Word of God reveals to us about gratitude.

Col. 3:17 Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I want to turn your attention to the words “giving thanks”. This phrase actually means to be grateful, agree with, and say the same thing. When you look up the definition of what grateful means it comes from two words. When you understand these meanings, it will become quite clear through this verse in Colossians what is being said about giving thanks. The first part of the word grateful – “grate” refers to a structure or frame with bars that run parallel. This is a reference to being in agreement with, or going the same direction.

Now look back to Colossians 3:17 and notice it says that whatever we say, or do it should all be done giving thanks to God. When you are giving thanks to God you are doing or saying things in the name of the Lord Jesus, who is the Word of God. You are aligning your words and actions with God. You are going in the same direction as He says to go. Simply put, giving thanks to God means that whatever we say, or do it is in agreement with, and going the same way as God. One who lives a life of gratitude is living a life filled with words that speak what God speaks, and actions that follow God’s Word as well.

I want to share with you a practice that I have begun. At the end of the day I sit quietly, with no distractions, and think about what I’m grateful for and the people I am grateful for in my life. I take an index card and write out three things in which I am grateful for that day. This new approach has really changed how I view my life, and, at the end of the day, how I live it.

Gratitude can take any negative and turn it into a positive. Finding a way to be thankful becomes blessings for us. Gratitude helps to remind us what is truly important. Complaining about things gets us nowhere.

How to Live a Life of Gratitude

Think about it, simple acts of gratitude cost nothing, but the effects of gratitude make a huge difference.

God has given each of us so much, if we only choose to take the time to recognize it.

An ungrateful person will never really see the beauty, nor use or understand the gifts God is giving and they will often complain about life. It’s only when we keep our eyes on God and all that He has given to us, that we will make the best use of His gifts.

Let gratitude extend to all things in life, even to the less pleasant and difficult things, which God allows us to experience. He has plans for our lives, and He will guide us with His wisdom and love. Nothing is by accident. And everything we receive in life is meant to help us to grow closer to God.

Let’s begin to be thankful for all the things that God has blessed us with.

Gratitude keeps our hearts humble. It helps us to see everything as a gift from God and helps us to focus our lives on others – versus always thinking of ourselves.

Always keep gratitude in your heart – never let it fade away. It will change everything.

Blessings and Peace is my prayer for you,

Pastor Monique French