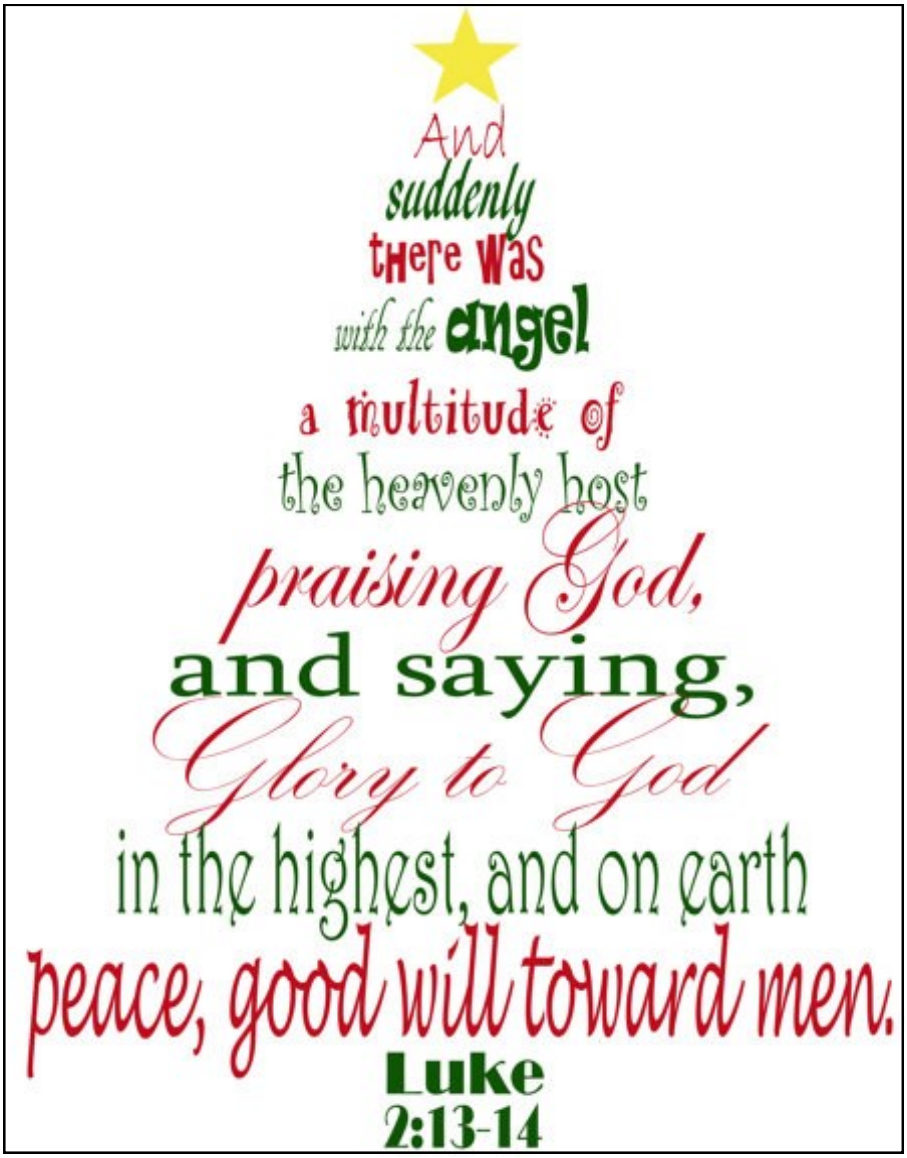
FUMC NEWS

DEVINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



VOLUME 12

December

Contact:

212 W Benton Ave
PO Box 526
Devine, TX 78016

830-663-3185
(Office)
830-355-7037
(Pastor)

Website:
devinefumc.com

e-mail:
fumcdevine@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Table of Contents

Cover Page	1	Church at Work/Trustees	6
Pastor's Perspective	2	Nurse's News	7
Calendar Highlights	3	December Readings	8
Men & Women's Ministries	4	Birthdays/Anniv./Offerings	9
God in a Manger	5	Calendar	10

* PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE *

THE POWERFUL CALL OF THE PROPHET

I was shopping at Walmart earlier in the month and was captivated by all the Christmas decorations. Truth be told, I am a Christmas junkie! I absolutely love all things Christmas. Maybe it is the nostalgia or the glitter and the lights, but whatever it is it always touches my heart. When I see the decorations, smell the cinnamon candles and hear the ring of the Salvation Bell ringing, I am transported back to my childhood.

Today, I was preparing my Advent Sermons and read Mark 1:1-8. I am always taken aback by this text. In Mark there is not sweet birth narrative, no angels or wise men. It is stark and abrupt and to the point…

"And so, John came baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to see him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts and wild honey, and his message was this. And this was his message " After me will come one more powerful than I, thong of who's sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:1-8

When I juxtapose these words from scripture to my sentimental Christmas heart, I am reminded of the radical nature of God's love. When I put the words forgiveness against and baptism up against the words from "Deck the Hall with bows of Holly", seems I might be missing the point of Christmas. Don't get me wrong, I love all the happy songs about snow men and sleigh rides, but, I also need to keep the words of the prophet in the forefront of my Christmas thoughts. The words of the John the baptizer remind us of the hope of Christ. He comes into the world to reconcile, and to redeem. Are we not called to show that same extraordinary love to one another? If there is a person in your life, perhaps a family member or a someone where there is a broken relationship. I invite you, in the spirit of Christ, to pray for them, and maybe write them a note or give them a phone call. John was baptizing with water, but Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit. And the Jesus brings the love of God into a devastated and hopeless world. This Christmas, let us claim the saving power of Christ to work our lives.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Valli

CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK

Tis the Season to Study!

This is our Advent Sunday School study for adults and youth.
This study explores how the gift of the Advent season have a permanence that speaks to generations of Christians, past, present and future.
What are Christmas gifts that wont break?
They are those gifts that cannot be lost, that will never go out of style, and that are independent of the chances and changes of life. They are the gifts that have been graciously given by God.
This study will focus on four of those gifts: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.
Sunday School will begin at 10:00 am sharp and end at 9:45. I look forward to our time together.

In His Love
Pastor Valli

* Calendar Highlights *

CHRISTMAS CAROLING, COOKIES AND CAROLING

4pm, Sunday, December 13th

Calling all Children and those who are young at heart! We are going to Caroling on Sunday December 13th. We are going to meet at the church at 4:00 pm. You will ride in the care you came in to each place we carol. Carols will be provided. We will sing Christmas Carols to our most vulnerable seniors. So, we will stay a safe distance out in their yards and social distance. After caroling, all are invited back to the church where we will have fire pit available for those who want to roast hot dogs, marshmallows. We are doing this "tailgate" style. So, bring what you need for your family to enjoy the evening. Please text me (Pastor Valli at 210-861-6583) So I will have a head count for the caroling and the food.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

5:00 pm, Sunday, December 24th

This year we want to all be together for Christmas service. One healthy and safe way to do that is to move our service outside. The open air is a much safer way to worship and will allow us to come together as one congregation instead of being split into two buildings. It will also give those who have extra family in for the holidays a safer way to come to worship. So, we are planning a very old School Christmas .

What is old is new again! This year we are meeting like the pioneers did. Weather permitting, we are planning to meet outside in front of the courtyard. So, wear your coat (if it is not too warm) and be prepared to enjoy a very old-fashioned service. All the children that attend are invited to participate in instant Christmas pageant. There will be folks available to help the kids transform into angels, wise men, shepherds, stable animals and of course a star. We will sing carols and light candles and hear the Word preached. If We are blessed with outdoor speakers and very talented musicians. You are invited to bring a lawn chair or sit on your tailgate or remain in your car and enjoy the service. If the weather does not cooperate, then we will move the service inside.

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

DECEMBER 24, 2020 THROUGH JANUARY 3rd, 2021

WE WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY JANUARY 4th, 2021

* Men's & Women's Ministries *

United Methodist Men

The UMM met on November 4, 2020, with eight men in attendance. Lewis Stroud opened and closed the meeting with prayer.

Paul Gengler gave a training session on Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). We have and AED in our Fellowship Hall on the wall by the door on the street side.

Cliff Redus announced that the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive would be held this year from November 21-December 24. UMM agreed to again coordinate this year's Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive on behalf of the church. The first date the FUMC will ring was scheduled for Saturday, November 28th from 9am-9pm at Walmart. UMM agreed to ring the bell from 6-9pm on Monday, November 20th at Walmart.

The UMM will continue to mow and weed-eat the church and parsonage yards, per the set schedule, shown below.

At our next meeting, at 6pm on December 2, 2020, we will elect officers. Team 2 will be responsible for the food and devotional for this meeting.

Mowing Schedule

Dates	Team #	Team Members
Nov 29—Dec 5	2	Felix, Rob, Gordon, George Jr., Martha, Brad
Dec 6—Dec 12	3	Cliff, Paul, Jacob
Dec 13—Dec 19	4	Tex, Lewis, George W., Rick
Dec 20—Dec 26	2	Felix, Rob, Gordon, George Jr., Martha, Brad
Dec 27—Jan 2	3	Cliff, Paul, Jacob

IRON SHARPENS IRON (Proverbs 27:17)

The United Methodist Women

The UMW did not meet in November. We decorated the Sanctuary, Narthex and Fellowship Hall for Christmas on November 24th.

I am not sure when will meet in person at this time. I look forward to when we can share a meal and fellowship.

Blessings,
Judy

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

* Christmas *

God in a Manger

Christmas is not about the Savior's infancy; it is about His deity. The humble birth of Jesus Christ was never intended to conceal the reality that God was being born into the world.

But the modern world's version of Christmas does just that. And consequently for the greater part of humanity, Christmas has no legitimate meaning at all.

I don't suppose anyone can ever fathom what it means for God to be born in a manger. How does one explain the Almighty stooping to become a tiny infant? Our minds cannot begin to understand what was involved in God's becoming man.

Nor can anyone explain how God could become a baby. Yet He did. Without forsaking His divine nature or diminishing His deity, He was born into our world as a tiny infant.

He was fully human, with all the needs and emotions that are common to us all. Yet He was also fully God--all wise and all powerful.

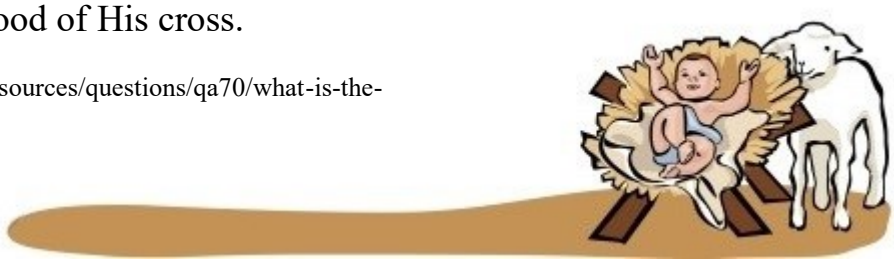
For nearly 2,000 years, debate has been raging about who Jesus really is. Cults and skeptics have offered various explanations. They'll say He is one of many gods, a created being, a high angel, a good teacher, a prophet, and so on. The common thread of all such theories is that they make Jesus less than God. But the Biblical evidence is overwhelming that this child in the manger was the incarnation of God.

One passage in particular, written by the apostle Paul, captures the essence of Jesus' divine nature and underscores the truths that make Christmas truly wonderful.

Colossians 1:15-20 says,

He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation. For. . . all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

From: http://www.gty.org/resources/questions/qa70/what-is-the-real-meaning-of-Christmas



* Church at Work *

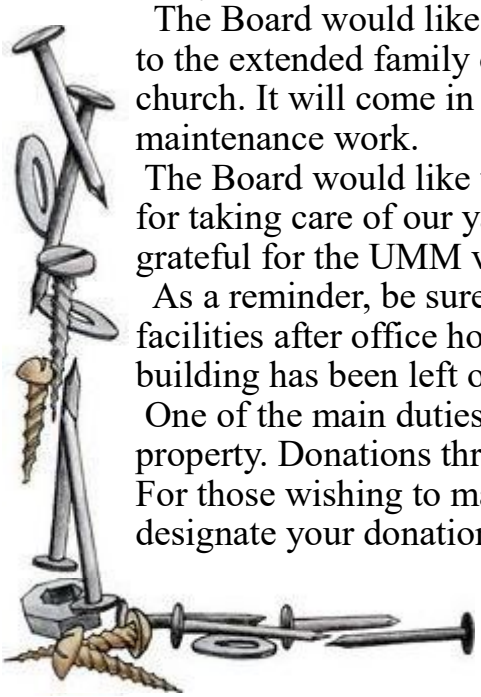
BUDGET SUMMARY

	October	Jan-Oct
Operating Donations	$ 11,868	$142,765
Operating Expenses	$ 15,164	$165,272
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	($ 3,296)	($ 22,507)
Designated Gifts	$ 934	$ 13,231

TRUSTEE CORNER

December 2020

The Board of Trustees held their regular scheduled meeting Oct.12, 2020 followed by a called meeting 10-25-20. Your current Trustee members who provide input and decision making to the monthly meetings are Pastor Valli, Kay Shultz, Judy Eaddy, Lewis Stroud, Colby Cashion and George Wall.



The Board would like to say "Thank You" to the extended family of Kay Shultz who donated an organ to our church. It will come in handy since our piano will be leaving soon for maintenance work.

The Board would like to say "Thank You" to the United Methodist Men for taking care of our yard maintenance duties. The Trustees are very grateful for the UMM volunteering their help.

As a reminder, be sure and lock up the building if you use our church facilities after office hours. It has been noted on several occasions our building has been left open. Thank you for your help with this issue.

One of the main duties of the Trustees is to maintain our church property. Donations throughout the year determine the Trustee budget. For those wishing to make a donation to help pay for projects, simply designate your donation to the Trustee general account. As a rule, the Trustees will not start a project unless there are funds available to complete it.

Submitted by George Wall
Trustee Chair 2020

* Wesley Nurse *

Dear Devine Congregation and Community Members,

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing support. I am now back in the office. Yeah!! Can you believe it's already the holidays?!?! I guess when you have a 7-month sabbatical, time really flies. Many thanks to Lisa and the community resources that stayed active during this difficult time. Due to their dedication and hard work we were able to continue to exemplify God's grace and love to those who needed it most. Throughout this event Lisa, our church secretary, went above and beyond to ensure that as many benevolence services as possible continued to be provided. During this time I have discovered we can prevail with Christ's guidance, for that I thank all of you.

The Devine South Texas Rural Health Clinic continues to work with the Wesley Nurse program to provide Specialty Referral Services to those in need within our community. This program will continue to provide medical appointments with specialist to those who qualify. If you or someone you know might need this service, please have them make an appointment with me for more information.

At this time MHM has hired a new WN to cover the Hondo area; however, I will continue to provide coverage for already existing clients until the new nurse completes her orientation process. I will also be helping to train and precept her for our area. Please grant me grace and patients as I work diligently to get all our services back on line. I'm asking everyone to please call in advance, if you need to see or speak to me. If I am unavailable, please leave a message on my machine and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I will continue to help the best ways possible while I work through the new workflows and processes that MHM has put in place to keep us all safe. Thank you for your understanding.

The Texas Diaper Bank and "My Healthy Child" class is ongoing through tele-education and social distancing delivery of supplies. If you know of anyone in need of this service, please have them call me and arrangements can be made. As with all other group gatherings and in person contact, once we can meet again the classes will resume. As always, any classes sponsored or offered by the WN program are open to the public and free of charge.

I would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to all who have and continue to donate to the WN fund. Continued support of the Wesley Nurse program has allowed the program to assist those in need, increase our community's educational opportunities and provide various medical assistance. If you feel led to support this program there is a Wesley Nurse Fund established for donations.

If you would like to see a program, information, or event that you feel would benefit you or the community please contact me. You don't have to be a member in the Healthcare Ministry Team to partner with me in service to those in need in our community. Membership in this committee is appreciated, but not necessary for a one-time project or event.

God Bless,
Georjean Burnell, MSN, RN - Devine FUMC, Wesley Nurse
Telehealth/Visit by Appointment Hours: M-F 8am – 5pm
1-830-663-6108

* December Readings *

December Scripture Readings:

The following themes and Scripture readings are provided as a means to draw closer to God. They come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which groups Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel readings together for each Sunday in a three year cycle. Read them prayerfully, listening for God's voice.

Second Sunday in Advent, December 6
Theme: Firm confidence that better days lie ahead.
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Third Sunday in Advent, December 13
Theme: Encouragement and hope.
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 20
Theme: Glorifying God begins with humility on our part.
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve/Day, December 24/25
Theme: Light and love come down at Christmas.
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.
1 John 5:11

First Sunday after Christmas, December 27
Theme: The glory of God's salvation through Christ is juxtaposed with the ritual presentation of a young Jewish boy at temple.
Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

* BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES *

DECEMBER

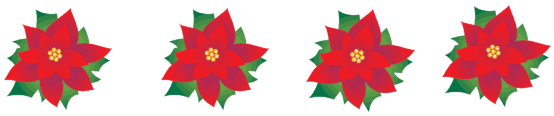
Aiden "Gabe" Herron
Trace Sagemuehl
Tommy Weisinger
Tanya Brown
Joe Brand
Beth Ann Noak Brundette
Nelda Dannelly
Nikki Petty
Tate Mares
Tex Eaddy
George Redus, III
Billie Pfeiffer
Rebekah Boehme
Jennifer Wilkins
Lisa Garner
Katherine Darter
Judy Eaddy
Shulee Norris
Jessica Knoeber
Holly Petty
Jesus
George Redus, Jr.
Jerel Beaty
Dennis Woody
Kaycee Kaiser

December

Rail Offering

December 6 - Heifer Project

Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, we empower them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. With gifts of livestock and training, we help families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways.



Noisy Offering

December 20– Devine Food Pantry

DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Note: *SUNDAYS* 10am Sun.Sch. 11am Worship	Note: *YOGA* 8:30am Mon- Thurs	**1** **12pm-1pm** Safe Gathering Retraining **4:30pm** Girl Scouts (K-1st)	**2** **5pm** Prayer Team **6pm** UMMen **7pm** Choir	**3** **7pm** Zoom Charge Conference **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**4**	**5**
6	**7** **2-4pm** Line Dancing	**8**	**9** **5pm** Prayer Team **7pm** Choir	**10** **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**11**	**12**
13 **4pm** Caroling and Cookies	**14** **2-4pm** Line Dancing **4:15pm** Girl Scouts (2nd-5th) **6:30pm** Trustees	**15** **4pm** Girl Scouts Party Outside **6:30pm** Admin Board	**16** **5pm** Prayer Team **7pm** Choir	**17** **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**18**	**19**
20	**21** **2-4pm** Line Dancing	**22**	**23** OFFICE CLOSED **5pm** Prayer Team	**24** OFFICE CLOSED **5pm** Christmas Eve Worship **7:30pm** AA Meeting	**25** 	**26**
27	**28** OFFICE CLOSED	**29** OFFICE CLOSED	**30** OFFICE CLOSED **5pm** Prayer Team	**31** OFFICE CLOSED **7:30pm** AA Meeting		Note: *WALK AWAY THE POUNDS* 9:00am Mon-Thur