

# Together

Proclaiming Christ By Loving God and Serving God's People

Volume 69 Issue 27 | December 20, 2016



## TOGETHER, NLR FUMC HELPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



A special thank you to each of you for contributing to fulfill not only the mission of our church, but Christ's mission of taking care of others in need!

Thanks to your participation in this year's Christmas season Grocery Bag Ministry Food Drive, we were able to donate approximately 125 full grocery bags to Gardner Memorial United Methodist Church Food Pantry (helping to feed about 100 people!) and approximately 75 full grocery bags to Amboy Community food pantry (helping to feed about 50 people!)



### OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 2016

	2016 YTD	2016 YTD	2015 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Operating Income</b>	757,606	736,083	734,168
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Staffing	404,286	395,874	403,650
Office & Facilities	234,849	231,310	240,719
Programs	26,466	27,500	27,471
Apportionments	83,339	80,969	73,437
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	748,940	735,653	745,277
<b>Net Income from Operations</b>	8,666	430	-11,109
<b>Building Mortgage Fund Reve-</b>	21,153		42,111

## from our Pastor...



Pastor Lynn Kilbourne

Forgive my cliché, but I cannot believe that Christmas is this week! As it does every year, the Advent season rushed through my life. But the season is not a blur. I have appreciated our time spent in worship laying claim to the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings at Christmas. To focus on these gifts has been a welcomed alternative to the lists of other gifts to buy and things to do that fill my calendar and consume much of my energy this season!

But I'll admit, even after preaching sermons urging us to not let anything steal these gifts and singing songs of these great gifts, I have found myself wondering how do I really claim them for my life: How do I really claim God's gift of peace? How do I really hold onto hope? How do I have live

with God's joy each day? How do I know that I have the gift of love?

In moments like those, I must remember that hope, peace, joy, and love are gifts. They have already been given. I don't have to search for them or wait for them; Christ has already come and given them! These gifts are present in my life and they are waiting to be accepted! To accept them I need to turn down all the "noise" in my life that can drown out these gifts. I must look for God at work to see the gift of hope. I must choose not to let fear be the dominant voice in my mind to experience the gift of peace. I must take time each day to sing and give thanks to God to feel the gift of joy. I must remember that love is more than a sentimental emotion and is best felt when it is shared with others.

It is my hope and prayer that you experience the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ has already given you. And, once you've accepted them, may you reveal them to others who need them, too!

## ...from our Minister of Youth and Families >>>



Steven Carr

### Upcoming Events:

- > Jan. 15-16 – Youth Lockout
- > Feb. 24-26 – Veritas in Rogers, AR – Cost: \$100
- > March 20-24 – Spring Break – All schools
- > April 9 – Travs games begin
- > June 19-23 – Vacation Bible School
- > June 29-July 8 – Summer Mission Trip to Denver, CO – Cost: \$325
- > July 24-28 – Assembly at Hendrix College – Cost \$135

### thanks...

We wish to thank you for the love, sympathy, and understanding shown to us in the passing of our Bob. We thank you for every prayer, word of comfort, every card, and each extended hand. A special thanks to Pastor Lynn and Pastor Brent for the beautiful service and music so lovingly given. Each loving deed helped to ease our sorrow and give us hope and strength to meet each new tomorrow.

-The family of Bob Marsh

## ...from our Minister of Children and Families >>>



Laura Kent

### THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HAS HAD A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON!

**We have been studying how God sent his son to be the Savior of the world!** We began with discussing how Adam and Eve broke their friendship with God when they ate from the bad tree. When we break our friendship with God, we need Jesus to help us fix it. This led us into the birth of Jesus Christ whom God sent to be the Savior of the world! The kids have a song that goes with the lesson and scripture to help them remember.

**Family Christmas Eve Worship** will take place at 5 pm on Christmas Eve.

**THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WISHES EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**"Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord."**

**– Luke 2:11**



Saturday, December 24th

### *Christmas in the Chapel 2 p.m.*

An early afternoon worship experience designed to celebrate our Savior's birth in an intimate setting. Experience the Word, carols, communion and candles as the light of day penetrates the soul and senses with glorious colors streaming through the stained glass windows.

### *Family Worship Service 5 p.m.*

A worship experience for the entire family...and early enough to meet Santa before bedtime! A service designed especially to be child friendly and upbeat in nature. All wrapped up with a big Christmas bow that includes the Christmas story, singing of carols, celebrating communion and lighting candles.

### **CAROLS, CANDLES, AND COMMUNION 10:30 p.m.**

Our traditional offering on Christmas Eve for the worshiper who enjoys traveling from Christmas Eve into Christmas Day. And quite the journey it is; featuring the spoken Word, carols and anthems led by the Chancel Choir and the Chancel Orchestra. Communion is served to the sounds of live strings and Silent Night is sung as the candles grow and glow amid lifted voices and instruments. There simply is no better way to enter into Christmas Day and the celebration of our most blessed Savior's birth.

Sunday, December 25th

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year! And, Yes! We will have worship on Christmas morning! Please join us for worship at **10:00 in the sanctuary on Christmas morning**! This will be a unique worship experience reminding us all of hope, peace, joy, and love we receive as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Feel free to come as you are – comfortably dressed and wrapping paper still stuck on the bottom of your shoe – to sing Christmas carols and hear the Good News of Christ's birth. Be sure to invite your family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends! The service will be fun, informal, and meaningful, but will leave you with plenty of time to make it to Christmas lunch!

### ***Sunday, January 29th is a 5th Sunday!***

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend this special day at our church!

9:00	Sunday School
10:30	Combined Worship (Waypoint Style) in the Sanctuary
12:00	5th Annual Chili Cook-Off! 

The Chili Cook-Off is a fun event that involves the whole church! It also brings out the competitive nature in some of us! Please begin thinking of a creative, yummy chili! Keep a lookout for sign-up sheets at the information booth soon!

During the month of December, the SPRC will be accepting donations for a Love Offering for our staff. This is an opportunity to show our appreciation for the ministries they provide and thank them for their leadership and service.

Please make your check out to "FUMC" and put "Staff Love Offering" in the memo line. You can put the check in the collection plate or turn it in to the church office.



### December 25

Financial Assist:

Van Driver:

Bill White

### January 1

Bob Willson

WayPoint Communion & Ushers Bill Frye, Alison Harris, Chris Bradley, & Tara Musgrove

# ...events for the weeks of Dec. 25 - Jan. 8

## SUNDAY, December 25

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 Combined Worship Service

## MONDAY, December 26

### CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVED

### CEC & CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

4:00 Broadway Bridge Project

## TUESDAY, December 27

5:00 Body & Soul Fitness

## WEDNESDAY, December 28

9:00 CEC Storytime

9:30 Quilters

5:00 JuBELLation Ringers Reh.

### OTHER WEDNESDAY EVENING

### ACTIVITIES CANCELLED

## THURSDAY, December 29

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

11:30 Lion's Club Business Meeting

5:00 Body & Soul Fitness

## SATURDAY, December 31

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

8:00 Body & Soul Fitness

5:30 Blaylock & Pratt Wedding

## SUNDAY, January 1

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

9 & 11 Family Worship

9:00 WayPoint Service\*

10:00 Sunday School\*

11:00 Sanctuary Service\*

## MONDAY, January 2

### NEW YEAR'S DAY OBSERVED

### CEC & CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## TUESDAY, January 3

### NEWSLETTER WEEK

## WEDNESDAY, January 4

9:00 CEC Storytime

9:30 Quilters

5:00 JuBELLation Ringers

6:30 Chapel Service

6:30 Chancel Choir Reh.

### OTHER WEDNESDAY EVENING

### ACTIVITIES CANCELLED

## THURSDAY, January 5

5:00 Body & Soul Fitness

7:00 Faith Ringers Rehearsal

## SATURDAY, January 7

8:00 Body & Soul Fitness

## SUNDAY, January 8

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

9 & 11 Kid's Praise

9:00 WayPoint Service\*

10:00 Sunday School\*

10:30 Argenta Service\*

11:00 Sanctuary Service\*

3:30 Confirmation Class

4:00 Missions Team Meeting

5:00 UMY

\*Denotes Childcare Provided

## Let Us Pray >>

As we celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace may we pray for peace in the hearts of people everywhere, the kind of peace that only He can give.

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Contemporary Service 9:00

The Reverend Lynn Kilbourne

Sunday School 10:00



Argenta Service 10:30

The Reverend Will Choate

Sanctuary Service 11:00

The Reverend Lynn Kilbourne