

The Methodist Message

November

2025

Pastor's Page...

Inside This Issue:

UWiF	2
Advent/Christmas Plans ...	3/4
Upcoming Events	5
Birthday/Anniv	6
Veterans Day	6
Flu Season Advice	6

CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High. My enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before You. For You have upheld my right and my cause, sitting enthroned as the righteous judge. You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name for ever and ever. Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies, You have uprooted their cities; even the memory of them has perished.

The LORD reigns forever; He has established His throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, LORD have never forsaken those who seek You.

Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what He has done. For He who avenges blood remembers; He does not ignore the cries of the afflicted. *Psalms 9:1-12*

INSIGHT

In the original language of the Old Testament, Psalms 9 and 10 form what's called an acrostic poem. Each major thought or stanza begins with the next letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The Septuagint—the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament— even combines Psalms 9 and 10 into one song, unifying the flow from beginning to end.

Acrostic poems and songs played an important function in ancient Israelite society. Because they were built on the alphabet, they were easy to remember. These two psalms of thanksgiving and help were designed to memorably remain in the minds of those who heard them. As a result, the reader or listener could quickly recall the message in the music. By rehearsing the words of David, they'd receive a regular injection of the importance of living a life of gratitude and dependence on God. Today, as we meditate on Scripture, may we also strive to cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving.

“Dad, can you get me some water?” my youngest daughter asked. “Sure,” I said, bringing her a full cup. She took it wordlessly. Then my oldest daughter made the same request. She didn’t respond either after I got her some water. Annoyed, I blurted out, “Is anyone going to say, ‘Thank you’? Why is that so hard?”

Sometimes there's nothing like parental frustration to open the door for God to work. Immediately I felt the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit: *Yes Adam, why is it so hard to say, ‘Thank you’?* Busted. Turns out a lack of gratitude isn't just my kids' problem: it's mine, too.

I don't know why saying thank you can be so hard, but it certainly seems to be a part of the human condition. In the Psalms, however, we see a model for growing in gratitude. There, David and others often praise God amid myriad trials. And a particular phrase frequently precedes their thanksgiving: “I will...”

In Psalms 9:1, David deliberately chooses thankfulness: “*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*” We might be prone to think of gratitude primarily as a feeling. But David reminds us that it's also a *choice*.

Like David, as we choose to cultivate a *habit* of giving thanks, we can gradually grow to recognize and appreciate God's goodness in every aspect of life.

Adam R. Holz, Our Daily Bread, December 2025

How can we cultivate the habit of gratitude? What are some things you're thankful for?

Dear Father, thank You for all You've given me.

Please help me to choose gratitude today for the many ways You've blessed me.

Pastor Billie Lou



United
Women
in Faith

Dear Friends,

Our October Potato Bash was a great success, raising over \$900.00 to be used for mission projects. Many thanks to our congregation for supporting us—THANK YOU...THANK YOU!! It takes many hands to make this happen so thank you to everyone who contributed, the clean up crew and Brenda Siefka who met me at 7:30 am, to prepare and get the potatoes in the oven!

- The Carrie Knause Circle prepared and delivered Halloween treat bags for our shut ins at their October meeting— thank you ladies. You are appreciated!
- The Don Gardner Memorial is Friday, November 28th. This is the day after Thanksgiving so due to travel and commitments, getting volunteers and salads/cakes may be a challenge. If you can help, contact Brenda Siefka or myself. This date was requested by the family and we are doing our best to accommodate their needs during a difficult time.
- Plans are underway for the UWIF Christmas luncheon on December 3rd at noon. All ladies are invited. If you are not a UWIF member, just let one of us know you plan on coming so we can have plenty of food. We hope to see you there!
- Thanksgiving is right around the corner and it is a great time to pause and give thanks for all that is good in our lives. One of my favorite hymns is ***Give Thanks***. It starts.

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

What a great reminder of where our blessings originate. In this season of Thanksgiving, I wish for you to have bountiful blessings in all aspects of your life.

Blessings,

Sue Baker

CHURCH WINDOW REPLACEMENT CAMPAIGN

Have you heard about our new windows in the Education Wing? 12 windows in the Education Wing have been replaced at a total cost of \$13,757.00. Each window costs \$1,146.42 to replace. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a donation toward the window campaign. You may fully sponsor a window (\$1,146.42) or contribute any amount towards the project— every gift helps us reach our goal!

Your generosity will help preserve our church's beauty for generations to come.

Thank you for your support and faithful giving.





ADVENT –CHRISTMAS NEWS

THEME:

Our 2025 Advent-Christmas theme is: *What Child IS This...Beyond the Lullaby.*

In 1865, William Chatterton Dix penned a poem that would become the beloved Christmas-time favorite, "What Child Is This?" During Advent, we will see the story of the time leading up to the birth of Christ in its historical trauma-informed fullness. The story of humanity and its recurring themes of oppression and corruption run right through history and into our own stories. Yet, we can rely on the assurance of the carol to confirm that God is "present with us" in powerful ways that continue to be the Word of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love even and especially in the midst of hard times.

Friends, we live in troubled times... I have questions: How do I offer something that can address the complexities of our time? What is the Gospel Word to us as we worry about so many things? How do we struggle to be faithful witnesses to all the things we see unfolding all over this world of ours yet still proclaim the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of the season?" Beyond the Lullaby" could help us see into the difficulty of the socio-political-economic context that shaped the identity and story of the birth and life of Jesus. One of the most beloved carols we know, "What Child Is This?", asks and answers the question of Jesus' identity. The Good News is that God chose to enter our trauma-filled world in order to know us, tend to us, teach us how to be in these times. The "anchor image" (visual metaphor) for this series is the nativity scene, or crèche. This worship series is meant to help us know more about who Jesus is by looking at the actual lives and circumstances of His story. And to see that God is also with us in our fragility, as we are to be with others. Advent is usually about waiting. But we cannot wait to have hope; it is essential now. We cannot wait to work for peace; lives are at stake. We cannot wait to embrace joy, even and especially when it seems in short supply. We cannot wait to love, most of all, because we are the ones who follow the saving love of Jesus Christ, God-With-Us.

DECORATIONS:

Family Tree – Both churches are inviting your family (no matter the size) to bring in an ornament for the tree in Fellowship Hall to represent your family... a **Church Family Tree**. It doesn't have to be fancy or homemade—just what you think represents you. Please bring it to the church **BEFORE** hanging of the Greens (11/23-SLF, 11/29-B) and put it on the table or cart in the gathering area.

Creche Set/Nativities – We are decorating the entire facility with nativity sets... if you have one or more nativities we can borrow for several weeks, please **LABEL** and bring to the church **before** the Hanging of the Greens dates. Place on the table or cart in the gathering area.

HANGING OF THE GREENS:

Please make a little bit of time to help decorate the churches for Advent & Christmas. Hanging of the Greens at **St. Louis** will be **Sunday, November 23 following worship** for a couple hours. A simple lunch will be offered to those choosing to stay and help. **Breckenridge** will hang greens on **Saturday, November 29th from 10-12 noon with a simple supper** available for those helping. Folks of any age and ability are welcome to help—always a joyous time! Help at either or both churches is welcome!



ADVENT –CHRISTMAS NEWS CONTINUED

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY:

Once again this year, the youth of BUMC will be performing a Christmas play. This year's play will be Nutcracker Act 1 March. Kids will perform to the classical song. It will be gift to the congregation on Sunday, **Dec. 14 during the 9:30am service at BUMC**. Practices will be starting soon during Kids church time. Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, Dec. 13th. Kids of all ages and abilities are welcome to join in.

MISSION PROJECT:

Supporting our Advent-Christmas theme we will all be encouraged to "be an angel" this season by picking up a paper angel displayed at both churches which will list a small item to be purchased for our shut-ins, assisted living home friends, and clients of 2 other local nursing homes. Gifts such as socks, lap blankets, sugar free candy, notebooks, etc. will be listed for men and women. Pick up a paper angel, purchase the item listed, wrap the gift (paper or bag) tape the paper angel onto your gift and return by **Sun. Dec. 14th**. Ken and Lynne Holloway (and BUMC Outreach Team) are coordinating this project for both churches. Delivery persons will be needed the week of **Dec. 14—20**.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING:

All are welcome to spread the joy of Christmas by singing Christmas carols on **Sun. Dec. 7 from 4:30-6:00pm** **outside the rear entrance of Main Street Pizza in Breckenridge**. We will be gifting persons entering the pizza place not only with song but with a small financial gift towards their pizza purchase and an invitation to Christmas Eve services. From 6-6:30pm those who have done the caroling will enjoy pizza at Main Street to finish off their good time! All ages are invited from both churches.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

This lovely service offers all an opportunity to acknowledge that not everything and everyone is full of joy during this darker time of year. This service is usually offered on the day of winter solstice (longest, darkest day of the year.) **Sunday, Dec. 21 @ 7:00pm** a Blue Christmas time of reflection will be offered at the **SLFUMC facility**. This service is one of music, poetry, prayer and an opportunity to express a loss or something that grieves you. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

The Christmas Eve services will be offered at 5:00PM at Breckenridge and & 7:00PM at St. Louis on Wednesday, December 24th. The services will be similar to the past---children and youth will be invited to help build the nativity scene as we hear the story and sing the songs declaring Christ's birth.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GAME NIGHT:

A new offering to the church families... many of you gather with family and friends on this night, but for all others interested we will be offering a new Year's Eve Game Night from **6:30-9:30 PM Dec. 31st @ the Breckenridge facility** (round game tables.) Bring a snack to share and your favorite game (card, board.) Join us for euchar, dominoes, golf, spoons, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



Thanksgiving Service

There will be a community Thanksgiving Service on **Tuesday, Nov. 25th @ 7 pm** at BUMC.



It's that time of year again... believe it or not!



SLFUMC will be hanging the greens on **Sunday, Nov. 23rd** following worship. There will be a simple lunch provided after for those helping.



BUMC will be hanging the greens on **Saturday, November 29th** from 10-12 with a simple lunch provided for those helping.



WHERE: Breckenridge United Methodist Church, 125 Third St., Breckenridge

WHEN: Saturday, December 6 1 - 4 p.m.

WHAT: "Make & Take" Christmas Crafts
Make up to 15 Christmas crafts—both traditional & religious projects to take home.

WHO: Children, Youth & Families from our areas

HOW MUCH \$: **FREE!**

Parents must come in to register children/youth and must come in to pick children up. Parents are encouraged to stay.

Want to be more involved in the church?
Check out these opportunities...

PRAYER GROUP: Every Tuesday from 10-11 am @BUMC

WOMEN'S OCTETTE- Would you like to **sing** in a women's octette? You don't have to read music—just a willing heart to praise the Lord! Practices are the 2nd Thursday of the month @ BUMC @ 1:30. Next practice: Thurs., Nov. 13 @ 1:30pm
Music is provided—country/folk style.

ROGER'S BOOK CLUB— meets every month, This month's book is Tom Lake. The book club meets every month at SLF @ 2:00pm



Members Class

Find Out More About Our Church

This month ,SLFUMC and BUMC will be holding new member classes. If you or someone you know would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Billie Lou by text at 810-241-3160 .

Classes will be held on:

Saturday, Nov. 15 from 6-8 pm at BUMC

-or-

Sunday, Nov. 16th from 2-4 pm At SLFUMC

You do not need to attend both classes, choose the meeting the works best for you.

Membership Sunday, will be **Sunday, November 23rd** during regular worship time.

SPECIAL SUNDAY: Sunday, Nov. 30th is United Methodist Student Day. It is also the 1st Sunday of Advent. We hope you can join us for this special event.





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|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Marcus Posey | 19. Justine Ruszkowski |
| 7. Pat Plaxton | 15. Weston Wanless |
| 10. Russ Clark | 17. Easton Shelley |
| 12. Lyndsay Wingle | 18. Karen Short |
| 13. Tripp Wanless | 26. Michael Ruszkowski |
| Alex Wanless | 27. Janet Greening |
| | 30. Emylie Short |



Keith and Wendy Bott- Nov. 21, 1970

Advice from the Health Care Team Staying Healthy Through Flu Season

1. Stay home when you are sick.
2. Stay away from people who are sick.
3. Wash your hands frequently under warm water with soap for at least 20 seconds.
4. Create a clean environment. Flu germs live on surfaces for about 8 hours. Adding 2 TBSP vinegar in 16 oz water in spray bottle will kill the Flu virus.
5. Open windows 20-30 min. a day.
6. Flu viruses cannot live in high temperatures. Set dishwasher at highest setting during winter months. Use high dryer setting for bedding.
7. Use a humidifier. Flu viruses circulate less in humid environments.
8. Bolster your immune system.. Go outside! Sun exposes us to Vitamin D which helps with immune function.
9. Get a good night's sleep.
10. Drink plenty of water, exercise, maintain a well balanced diet.
- 11.



Prayers for a healthy winter!
Your Health Care Team



November 11th is Veterans Day. We would like to thank all the veterans in our congregation for their service. Your sacrifice is never forgotten and we are forever thank-

ful for your dedication to our country.
God Bless!

A heart felt thank you to Mike Cooper, Larry Katt and Russ Clark for generously donating your time and talents to paint the beams on the Education Wing. Your hard work and dedication are deeply appreciated.



All month: Collecting family ornaments for the Fellowship Hall tree, nativities to decorate the entire church, and donations for the mission project.

Sunday, Nov. 2—All Saints Sunday

Wednesday, Nov. 5—Book Club @ 2:00 SLF

Joint Governance Board Meeting@ 6pm – BUMC

Thursday, Nov. 6—Bible Study@ 2pm– SLF

Saturday, Nov. 8—Game night 6:30-9:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov 11—Veterans Day

Prayer Group 10-11 am

Wednesday, Nov. 12—Dorcas Circle @ 1

Thursday, Nov. 13— YAHA lunch @ noon Bible Study@ 2pm– SLF, Outreach meeting @ 1:00, Women's Octet practice @ 1:15

Saturday, Nov. 15— New Member class @ BUMC 6-8 pm

Sunday, Nov. 16— Buck Bucket for food pantry, New member class @ SLF 2-4 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 18— Prayer group 10-11 am

Wednesday, Nov 19—CK Circle @ 9:30

Thursday, Nov. 20—Bible Study@2pm– SLF

Sunday, Nov. 23—Thanksgiving Sunday, new members join

Tuesday, November 25— Prayer group 10-11 am, **Community Thanksgiving Service** –7pm @BUMC

Saturday, Nov. 29—Hanging of the Greens 10 am

Sunday, Nov. 30th—First Sunday of Advent Special Sunday: Student Day

Christmas Service Reminder:

Blue Christmas Service—

Sunday, Dec. 21– 7:00 at SLFUMC

Christmas Eve Service:

Wednesday, Dec. 24—5:00 Pm at BUMC and 7:00 PM at SLFUMC

