

# HUGHES CALLER



December 2016 / January 2017 Edition



Are you ready for Christmas? Me neither. All of a sudden Christmas preparations are in full swing! Every year it seems we go from fall, immediately to Christmas, with maybe short

pauses for Halloween and Thanksgiving. But they seem to be mere interruptions for the main event, Christmas.

At one level, that is exactly how it should be, because one of God's "main events" was coming among us in the flesh, through the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. At another level, the abrupt shift in the secular calendar is just plain wrong. The season of Advent allows us to move gracefully and gradually into the Christmas season, so that our hearts and lives are prepared to welcome Jesus into the world.

Sure, there are the myriad preparations to make to celebrate the holiday: rehearsals for concerts and plays, travel arrangements, cookies, buying gifts, decorating the house and church, planning menus, buying food, office and community parties...what have I forgotten? Preparing our hearts and minds to receive the coming Christ anew is the most important preparation we can do this season. I spent one day this past week with my clergy colleagues and bishop to help prepare us to minister and lead through the Advent season. While it was a day of learning, worship and

fellowship, the most important aspect was the opportunity to step away from the routine and the planning to focus on Jesus and the celebration of his birth.

I encourage you in the midst of this busiest of seasons to take some time this month apart. Spend time each day, or take a few days apart, doing something completely different, which will allow you to focus on the reason for the season. Believe it or not, the season is not about hustling and bustling about, navigating traffic, or stressing over gifts, schedule and family visits! Reread one or two of the prophets (I like Isaiah) and the early chapters of Matthew and Luke. Read them deeply, practicing lectio divina (prayerful reading) to discern anew what God is doing in your life, our church, the Wheaton community and the world. Be in prayer, listening for the still, small voice of God. Attend worship to be in God's presence and share in Christian fellowship. Reach out to another in Jesus' name, so that they too might know his love and grace; in service, we may find ourselves in the presence of a messenger of God. Taking time to attend to our spiritual lives prepares us to meet the coming Christ and recommit ourselves to following as his disciples.

May God bless this Advent and help us rediscover the hope, peace, love and joy of Christ.

## **December & January Worship Opportunities**

### **December 4, 2016 – Advent 2**

**Theme:** Finding God's mercy through our acts of repentance

**Scripture:** Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

**Meditation:** "Return to the Lord"

**A Celebration of Holy Communion**

### **December 11, 2016 – Advent 3**

**9:00 a.m. service:** A service of prophecy and song

**10:30 service:** the Choir will present "Sing We Now of Christmas", a refreshing celebration of Advent and Christmas by Howard Helvey. The work features fresh carol settings of favorite carols including: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly; Coventry Carol; and Go Tell It on the Mountain.

### **December 18, 2016 – Advent 4**

**Theme:** What does it mean to be favored by God?

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**Sermon:** "Greetings, Favored Ones!"

**A musical service featuring brass and handbells**

### **December 24, 2016 – Christmas Eve**

**6:00 p.m. – "Follow That Star" – Intergenerational Service**

**10:30 p.m. – Christmas Concert**

**11:00 p.m.-Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols**

### **December 25, 2016 – Christmas Day**

There will be no 9:00 a.m. service

**Theme:** The joy of gift giving

**Scripture:** Psalm 98; John 1:1-14

**Reflection:** "The Greatest Gift"

**A Celebration of Holy Communion**

### **January 1, 2017 – New Year's Day**

There will be no 9:00 a.m. service.

A Covenant Service in the Wesleyan Tradition

### **January 8, 2017 – Epiphany Sunday**

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

### **January 15, 2017 – Epiphany 2**

Scripture: Luke 4:14-30

### **January 22, 2017 – Epiphany 3**

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

### Service Opportunities at Hughes

Hughes is continually looking for ways to serve needs in our local community and elsewhere. A few opportunities that exist at the present time are as follows:

Our monthly ministry at Shepherd’s Table services center in downtown Silver Spring could use a few extra volunteers. Some people arrive around 4:00 pm to help set up for the evening meal, others arrive between 5:00 and 6:00 to serve the food during the 6:00 – 7:30 mealtime and take care of the dishes. We ordinarily handle the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, and our next time will be Wednesday, Dec. 28. To volunteer or find out more information, contact Coordinator Marianne Capacchione at [marianne581@verizon.net](mailto:marianne581@verizon.net).

We are looking for two people to handle responsibilities involved with our Faith Promise missions program. The Faith Promise program gathers promises of support on a designated Sunday in May each year, with people providing funds as God provides it to them. Active for upwards of 25 years, this program generally provides between \$12,000 and \$20,000 to support 5 missionaries around the World and various charities closer to home. The first leadership position would be to

contact our 5 missionaries by letter or email a few times a year, simply to maintain connection with them and let them know that Hughes continues to stand with them and pray for them. The second position would be to assume leadership of the Faith Promise program itself. This position develops the Faith Promise Sunday program including recruiting a speaker for that day (ordinarily one of our missionaries or a representative of one of the local charities we support.) and leads the group responsible for deciding the distribution of Faith Promise contributions each year. Current scheduling is that missionary sponsorships are funded during the summer, other charities toward the end of the calendar year. For more information or to volunteer for one of these positions, contact Carol Whitney at [carolawhitney@gmail.com](mailto:carolawhitney@gmail.com).

Next summer we would like to have two persons to co-chair our summer lunch program for elementary school children. An active team is already in place to do much of the work; but administrative oversight is needed. Two people would be good because of travel over the summer. For more information contact Carol Whitney at [carolawhitney@gmail.com](mailto:carolawhitney@gmail.com).

Financial Snapshot		
Operating Budget	November 2016	Total 2016
Income	\$ 21,520	\$479,332
Expenses	\$ 44,165	\$518,656



**From Staff Parish Relations:** Our secretary, Laraine Grant, requested a reduction in hours beginning in the new year. After consulting with Marie Bunting and Pastor Ken, it has been decided to approve this request. New office hours, effective January 1, 2017 will be Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office will be closed on Fridays.

Norman Parker will be on site on Fridays to help members and neighbors. This arrangement will benefit Laraine as well as the church’s financial situation. We plan to reevaluate the schedule at the end of January and again at 3 months, and will readjust, if necessary.

## Our Church Family

### Death:

Alfred Broadhurst died November 1, 2016 (father of Jeff Broadhurst)

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Thank  
You

Notes

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to the Hughes Church family for your prayers, kind wishes and cards during Cordell's recent illness, hospitalization and ongoing recuperation. Thanks to Pastors Ken and Evelyn for visits and prayers, Jung Staley for delivering flowers, Mrs. Olmstead for preparing soup and to Carol Whitney for delivering it. Special thanks to Carol also for her visits, prayers, guidance and advice. Thanks to Walter and Dolores Varner for their visit, flowers, cards and calls. We are grateful for your continued prayers.

*Cordell and Derrice Deane*

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### From Team Social & Scientific Systems (SSS)

Thank you so much for everyone who made such generous donations to Team SSS! Our final donation to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society totaled nearly \$3,000! We could not have done so well without HUMC's generous support!.

*Marty Weaver Team SSS Captain*

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The Hughes United Methodist Women say thank you to our wonderful Hughes congregation for all the support with the October Rummage Sale. Over 45 people helped with the Sale in a variety of ways ----baking, donating items for sale, helping set-up, working the day of the sale and cleaning up at the end. The profit from the sale will go to many groups. A future Caller will have a list showing how the money was distributed. The profit was not as great as in previous sales (a little over \$2,200), but the good will and fellowship of all involved was priceless.

See you at the March Rummage Sale.



**All Saints' Day Remembrances**



**Steve Gehret** was a dedicated son, brother, father and uncle to a family that loved his humor, warmth and light. May his soul rest with God.

Thank you,  
*Shelley Nishi & Family*

Death occurs and our hearts are broken, you depart with words unspoken,  
Fond memories remain in our hearts, for a loved one we will never forget.

*The Brown Family*



**Ivan Brown**



**Earl Fox** loved his family. His 68 year marriage to Marian was a source of love and pride. He had 3 children (Nancy, Elaine, and Kenneth), and 4 grandchildren (Todd, David, Katrina, and Sara). He was very patriotic, and served in WWII, as a bombardier, on a B17. Earl was a well-educated, friendly, kind man, with a great sense of humor, and wonderful laugh. We miss him dearly.

*Nancy Janson & Family*

**Winfred Dean Elam** was the matriarch of a family that included 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Living in 15 homes all over the country and US territories as a Navy wife, she dedicated her life to providing a secure and loving environment for her family. She was a lifelong and active member of the Methodist church.

*The Webb Family*



## United Methodist Women December & January Dates

**All Church Christmas Luncheon** is at noon on December 4 - hope you have your ticket.

December 5 is the **Executive Board Meeting** at 10 a.m. in the Parlor.

**Friendship Circle** December Meeting is a pot-luck luncheon at the home of Helen Wilson on Tuesday, December 6.

**Loyalty Circle** December Meeting was rescheduled to November 30th.

The January **Executive Board Meeting** will be on Monday, January 2, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor.

In January, **Friendship Circle** will meet on the 3rd and **Loyalty Circle** on the 4th in the Parlor at their regular times. Check the Sunday Bulletins for any changes.

If you shop at Giant, please consider buying Giant Gift Cards to use for your grocery shopping. We receive 5% from each card sold. The 5% has been used to provide scholarships of \$200 for each of our graduates and to accomplish other projects around our Church *when* funds are available. Gift Cards for \$25., \$50, and \$100 are sold in the library between services. These gift cards can also be used for Pea Pod purchases.



### Christmas Celebrations!

**December 11 - 10:30 a.m.** Choir Cantata "Sing We Now of Christmas"

**December 18 - 10:30 a.m.** Organ, Brass and Bell Music

**December 24 - 6 p.m.** "Follow That Star" – Intergenerational Service

**December 24 - 10:30 p.m.** Christmas Concert featuring Chancel Bell Choir, French Horn, Organ...

**December 24 - 11 p.m.** Candlelight Service

**December 25 - 10:30 a.m.** The Joy of Christmas



**January 22, 2017—4:30 p.m. Six Degree Singers Concert at Hughes UMC.** They are a music performance and education group based in Silver Spring. For seven years they have served the community through concert, music lessons and good company! The group is proud to partner with Hughes to bring an evening of choral music ranging from classical high art to contemporary kids' favorites. Tickets: \$15 online; \$20 on concert day for Adults, discounts for students and seniors and free for audience members under 18 years of age. The group is led by Rachel Carlson a nationally renowned soprano and conductor.

Kindly e-mail your Caller articles to Marty Weaver, Editor at [caller@hughesumc.org](mailto:caller@hughesumc.org) or place them in the Caller drawer outside of the Church Office by the 15th of each month.

Please visit the Hughes Website at [www.hughesumc.org](http://www.hughesumc.org)