

Dec. 2018-Jan. 2019 Caller



Pastor Ken's Message

Do you like to wait? If you are like me, you get impatient with all of the waiting in our lives. The grocery store never seems to have enough cashiers, so we wait. Medical tests are performed and we wait for the results. Traffic is backed-up on the Beltway and we wait. College, Graduate School or job applications have been submitted and the wait seems interminable! And, the season of Advent forces us to wait to celebrate the Savior's birth.

Advent is a time of active rather than passive waiting. It is a time for preparation. It's more than putting up the Christmas tree, decorating the house, baking cookies and making travel arrangements. Rather, Advent offers time to prepare our hearts, minds and souls ready to greet the newborn king once again.

During Advent, we both look back to an event which happened more than 2000 years ago, the birth of Jesus, as well as look ahead to the fulfillment of the reign of Christ, when love, joy, peace, justice and hope will be fully realized in creation. Each year we are offered an opportunity to travel with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to witness the birth of the Christ-child and allow his light to illuminate our lives in a fresh way. Christmas allows us to recognize God's renewing presence in the world, and give ourselves a chance to begin again. Each year, we hear and see God's promise of eternal peace, love, justice and joy. It is a reminder that God continues to be at work in the world, working out God's promises, and calling us to participate in God's plan.

How will you prepare this Advent season? I invite you to participate in the Coffee Klatch study group on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. *Awaiting the Already*, by Magrey R. deVega is the text, along with the 4 Gospels and Letter to Titus. On the first Sunday in December we will come to the table of the Lord, humbly kneeling at the rail to be nourished by Christ. Take time each day to pray, listening for the Spirit's breath of renewal and speaking your deepest thoughts and emotions to God. Listen to the music of the season allowing the melody and text to wash over you in hope and joy. Serve your neighbor in a new way and to share in opportunities to give. Attend worship each week to come into God's presence and hear God's word through the voices of the prophets. Fast one day a week to be reminded of our dependence on God and God's faithful provision for our needs. Join your voice in song as we sing carols for our shut-ins on December 16. Read one of the Gospels all the way through to be reminded of the whole of Jesus' story (hint: we will be reading through the Gospel of Matthew in worship between New Year's and Easter). Choose one or more of these spiritual disciplines to prepare to meet the newborn Christ in a deeper, more profound way this Christmas.

Remembering God's work in and through the ministry of Jesus, looking ahead with hope to the fulfillment of God's reign, while watching for God breaking into our midst here and now...I can deal with this kind of waiting!

December Worship Opportunities

December 2, 2018 – Advent 1

Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19

Sermon: “Living by Faith”

Theme: Faith is more than an assent to a series of beliefs; Faith is a way of life

A Celebration of Holy Communion

December 9, 2018 – Advent 2

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: “Preparing the Way”

Theme: Preparing our hearts and lives for Christ’s coming.

December 16, 2018 – Advent 3

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

Sermon: “A Light to the Nations”

Theme: Christ’s light brings justice and renewal

December 23, 2018 – Advent 4

9:00 a.m. – A service of scripture, reflection and song

10:30 a.m. – A Musical Christmas Service

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Musical offerings by the Chancel Bells, Chancel Choir, and brass quintet with organ

December 24, 2018 – Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. – A Multicultural, Intergenerational Service featuring a drama, *The Grumpy Shepherd*, adapted by Marie Bunting.

8:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

December 30, 2018 – Christmas I

Rev. Diana Wingeier-Rayo preaching

Bishop’s Afternoon in the Region

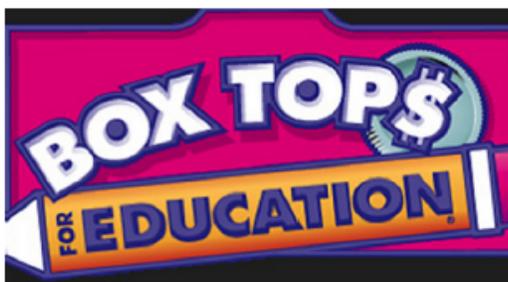
You are invited to a conversation with Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, who will be visiting the Washington Region on Sunday, December 2. We gather from 3-5 pm at North Bethesda UMC, 10100 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD. Her topic will be a discussion on “The Way Forward,” and Special General Conference 2019.

One-page handouts outlining the 3 plans prepared by the commission are available in the narthex. Please take a copy. Carpooling from Hughes-El Buen Samaritano will be arranged, please contact the church to request a ride.

The Way Forward

At a Special General Conference, February 23-26, 2019, delegates will vote on a plan for The United Methodist Church to “move forward” on LGBT inclusion in the denomination. We will hold a group of conversations for members to gain an understanding of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Council of Bishops and the recommendation and legislation to be voted on. Video presentations will be shared, an update on the specific legislation will be offered and an open conversation will take place.

Gatherings will happen at the church on Sunday, January 13 after the 10:30 worship service, Wednesday, January 16 at 1 p.m., and Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets for the mid-week sessions will be available on the visitor’s table in mid-December.



We are once again collecting Boxtops for Education which can be found on many products such as breakfast bars, cookies, and salad boxes. Please put your boxtops in the plastic box located across from the children's library door. There are several schools who collect them.

Any questions, talk to Jeannine Rodriguez.
Thank you very much.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Catherine Stokley

My grandmother loved her family and was a woman of faith—the matriarch of our family. We miss her laugh, her smile, and her gentle presence.

Amanda Vierling



Gail Hooker

While we miss her terribly, we remember her fondly and try every day to embody her courage and poise.

The Hooker Family

Dorothy (Dot) Weaver

My mom, Marty's mother-in-law, and Matt and Maryanne's grandma was a very special person in all of our lives. We miss her and my dad every single day.

Mark Weaver and Family



Marian A. Fox was married to Earl S. Fox for 68 years. They had 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and one great grandson. Marian enjoyed sewing, knitting, quilting, and traveling.

Nancy Janson, Elaine Fox & Kenneth Fox



To My Love Massoud,

It is almost one year you are not with me and the children, we miss you!

I remember all the trips we took in the States as well as overseas (too many to name). I thank you for being who you are, all things we did together and with the girls, Coohab and Sema. I will always love you in my heart.

Your Grandsons Charlie and Carter ask where is Poppy Jun? They know now you are in Heaven. They look up and say, "Poppy Jun in the sky".

Thank you my love, you're gone but not forgotten!

Sincerely,
Gloria Hashemi

A Thank You to My Dear Church Family,

As of October 28th, It is almost one month since I last worshipped with you and I truly miss seeing you all and enjoying fellowship. After 40+ years it is indeed strange to not be sitting in "my" pew on Sunday morning.

The past month has not been spent relaxing as I had hoped, but in purchasing a new home and planning the work I want to do before I move on. The beautiful certificate that Pastor Ken gave me will find a spot on a freshly painted wall.

Hughes will always be my church family and I look forward to seeing you whenever I'm in Maryland. My new address is 1445 Bending River Drive, Nashville, TN 37221. If you're ever nearby, I'd love to hear from you.

May God continue to Bless you all and Hughes UMC –
Margie Roher

Financial Snapshot

Income:

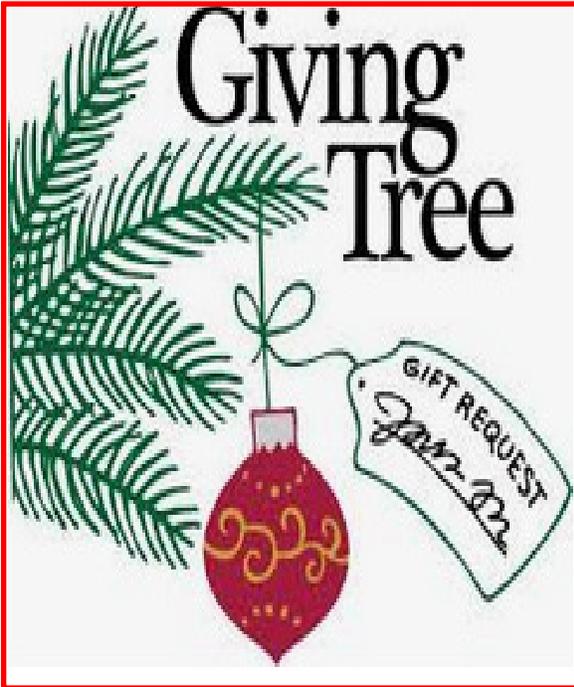
September \$36,742

To date: \$375,452

Expenses:

September \$39,536

To date: \$420,526



The Giving Tree is now up in the Narthex and is decorated with multiple ornaments (three colors) with needed items written inside.

Hughes/EBS is once again working with the TESS Center to provide gifts and food to three needy families. Please take as many ornaments as you'd like and make sure to keep the tag. Items will be collected and sorted on December 16th with delivery later that week. Gifts should be wrapped with the tag attached. Food items need not be wrapped but please attach tag for sorting purposes..

Hughes/EBS has been active in this mission work for many years. It allows us to spread God's blessings and help those in need.

Monetary donations are gratefully accepted and are used for such things as taxable items that are not covered by food stamps.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jill Glixon or Kathy Ripley.

Click on the below link for an eye-opening Article entitled ***New Physical Activity Guidelines Urge Americans: Move More, Sit Less.***

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/11/12/666744493/new-physical-activity-guidelines-urge-americans-move-more-sit-less>

Many thanks to Kathy Ripley for sharing this.

Kindly e-mail your Caller articles to Marty Weaver, Editor at 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