

# The Messenger

Greg Davis, Pastor

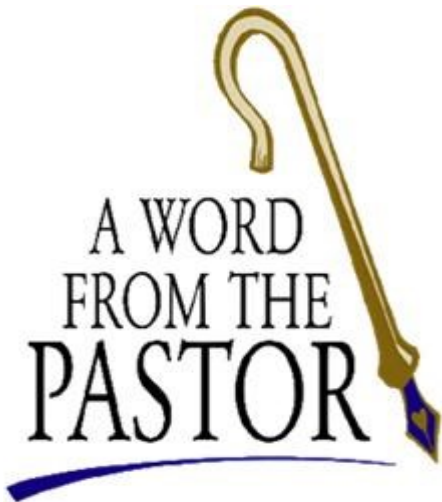
January 2017



9505 Petersburg Road • Evansville, IN  
47725

## *Mission Statement*

*McCutchanville Community Church's mission is to connect our community with God's power and hope through the love of Christ.*



## **Christ comes to all – enter 2017 with rejoicing!**

There are two wonderful verses found in 1 John 4:9-10 that read: *This is how God showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* This month, I am going to go “preacher” on you. God’s love is not just words that we can read, but in actions God has taken. God’s love is not a warm fuzzy feeling. It is an event, a happening, with each of us in mind.

Christmas is about God manifesting Himself in love by coming to dwell among us. In fact, Scripture speaks of Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23). The baby Jesus in a manger is a meek, lowly infant who is Christ the Lord, the Savior of all humankind. The manger scene is tranquil and joyful as we think of all the events surrounding this world changing event. His birth is communicating to us that God is actively involved in our very lives. The word manifest means to come out in the open, to make public. The opposite of this is to be secretive. With Jesus God comes to us.

Why did he come to us? Simply put, we needed him to. We are a sinful people and God sent his son to earth to die for our sins. The greatest expression of God’s love was not the manger, but that his one and only son, Jesus, died for our sins on the cross. Therefore, it is imperative that not only celebrate His birth, but that we have life through receiving Jesus into our hearts.

Max Lucado writes about God “coming near” through Jesus’ birth. However, Jesus can be “far” away if you have not been willing to encounter his love for you through forgiveness of sins and making room for him in your heart. The greatest gift that you can ever receive is the peace of Christ in your heart. The greatest gift that you can give your family, your friends, your co-workers, is a life that is being lived for Christ, and being shared with others.

Friends, God loves you and there is not a thing you can do about it. How are you responding?

In Christ,  
Pastor Greg

## Epiphany, the Feast of The Three Kings

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on 6th January (or January 19th for some Orthodox Church who have Christmas on 7th January) and is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men who visited Jesus.

Epiphany is also when some Churches remember when Jesus was Baptized, when he was about 30, and started to teach people about God. Epiphany means 'revelation' and both the visit of the Wise Men and his Baptism are important times when Jesus was 'revealed' to be very important.

Some Churches celebrate use Epiphany to celebrate and remember both the visit of the Wise Men and Jesus's Baptism!

Epiphany is mainly celebrated by Catholics and Orthodox Christians. It's a big and important festival in Spain, where it's also known as 'The festival of the three Magic Kings' - 'Fiesta de Los tres Reyes Magos', and is when Spanish and some other Catholic children receive their presents - as they are delivered by the Three Kings!

In Spain on Epiphany morning you might go to the local bakers and buy a special cake/pastry called a 'Roscón' (meaning a ring shaped roll). They are normally filled with cream or chocolate and is decorated with a paper crown. These are normally a figure of a king (if you find that you can wear the crown) and a dried bean (if you find that you're meant to pay for the cake!). In Catalonia it's known as a Tortell or Gâteau des Rois and is stuffed with marzipan.

In France you might eat a 'Galette des Rois', a type of flat almond cake. It has a toy crown cooked inside it and is decorated on top with a gold paper crown.

There are similar traditions in Mexico where Epiphany is known as 'El Dia de los Reyes' (the day of The Three Kings). It's traditional to eat a special cake called 'Rosca de Reyes' (Three Kings Cake). A figure of Baby Jesus is hidden inside the cake. Whoever has the baby Jesus in their piece of cake is the 'Godparent' of Jesus for that year.



In Italy, some children also get their presents on Epiphany. But they believe that an old lady called 'Befana' brings them. Children put stockings up by the fireplace for Befana to fill.

In Austria, at Epiphany, some people write a special sign in chalk over their front door. It's a reminder of the Wise Men that visited the baby Jesus. It's made from the year split in two with initials of the names that are sometimes given to 'the three wise men', Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, in the middle. So 2014 would be: 20\*C\*M\*B\*14. The sign is meant to protect the house for the coming year. Some parts of Germany also have the tradition of marking over doors. The 'Four Hills' Ski Jumping Tournament also finishes on 6th January in Bischofshofen, Austria. At Epiphany in Belgium, children dress up as the three wise men and go from door to door to sing songs and people give them money or sweets, kind of like Trick or Treating on Halloween. Children in Poland also go out singing on Epiphany.



In Ireland, Epiphany is also called 'Nollaig na mBean' or Women's Christmas. Traditionally the women get the day off and men do the housework and cooking! It is becoming more popular and many Irish women now get together on the Sunday nearest Epiphany and have tea and cakes!

In the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (which celebrates Christmas on 7th January), twelve days after Christmas, on 19th January, the three day celebration of Ethiopians Timkat starts. This celebrates Jesus's baptism.

Epiphany Eve (also known as Twelfth Night) marks the end of the traditional Christmas celebrations and is the time when you were meant to take Christmas decorations down - although some people leave them up until Candlemas.

# The Bulletin Board



Has God been 'whispering' to you about becoming more involved in the Children's Ministry? MCC has two opportunities that will allow you to answer God's nudge.

You probably have noticed the increase of children who are attending MCC? With this blessing of more children, we are needing volunteers for Children's Church.



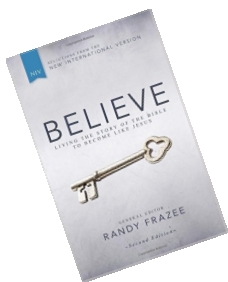
The Pioneer Club started with 10 children on Nov 2. On Nov 29, there were 28 children attending! God is blessing MCC and the children are hungry for God's direction in their lives. Can you share your talents and an hour and a half of your time on Tuesday evening for this mission?

Save your medicine bottles to donate to UMW. They must be amber colored and have the lids on them. Please — take the labels off. These can be used at homeless



clinics and are also sent around the world. You may collect them over the winter and you will be notified when to bring them to church for our local UMW to get them to the right place. Any questions ask Josette Higgins or Kathy Ellerbrook.,

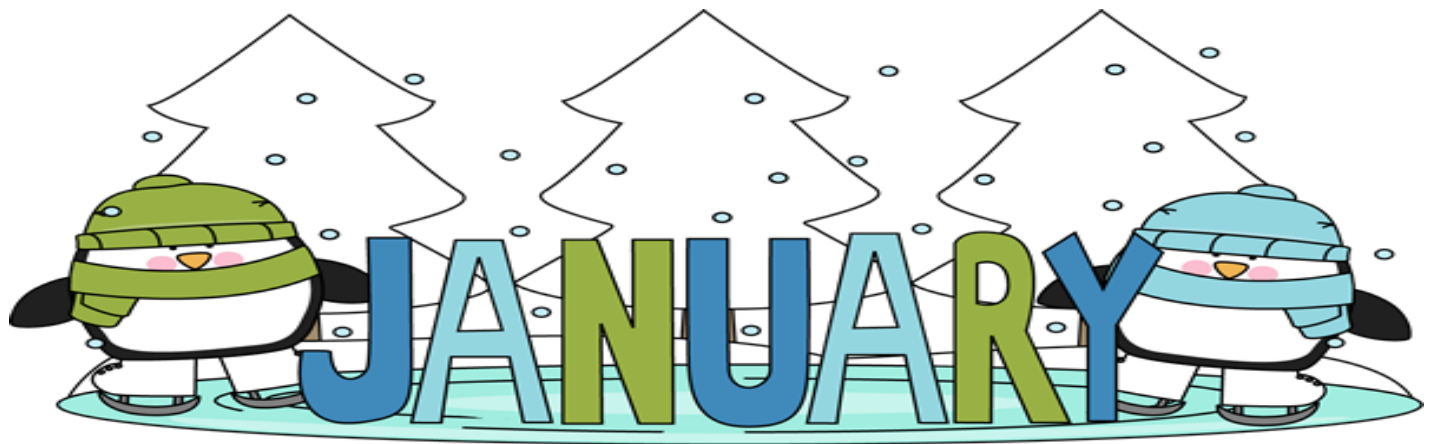
## The Wednesday Morning Women's Small Group



We will begin "Believe: Living the Story of the Bible to Become like Jesus" on January 11th. If you

would like to join this small group, please let Helen Finke know. Study books will be ordered by December 30 and an accurate count of participants will be needed by then.





*Happy Birthday*

*Congratulations!*



Betty Gentry	2
Sue Harris	3
Jenny Taylor	4
Curtis Kinney	5
Gabe Dzienny	9
Liz Miller	12
Sara Dixon	17
Debbie Lovell	17
Sharon Hendricks	24
Mary Lou Ellis	28
Jon Shoptaugh	30

Jerry & Gaye Bias	11
Frank & Betty Gentry	21
Gene & Nancy Glackman	27

**Church Directory**

**UPDATE**



We are in the process of updating the McCutchanville Community Church

Directory. If you have a cell phone number and/or email address, or have moved and changed any information, please let the office know.

We want to include everyone in the directory. If you newly attending MCC, please give the office your address and phone information so that we can include you in the updated directory.



Prayer requests:

Parker Dubber, Nancy Glackman, Mary Lou Ellis, Curtis Kinney, Dorothy Hansen, Joy Roettger, Ruth Postal, Amy Higgins, Judy Wynn, Kevin Barnett, Cheyrl Roethemeier, David and Sarah Dixon, Peggy Davidson, Marie Pickett, Amy Dubber, The homeless population.

*Do you have a prayer request you would like listed in the newsletter? Please contact the church office and let us know.*



One of Pastor Greg's favorite donation Sundays is the "Souper Bowl of Caring"

Let's fill up the Food Pantry Baskets on Super Bowl Sunday-February 5, 2017! Who knows -there may be a prize to the one who brings the most items for the Food Pantry baskets!!

Do you have a favorite sweatshirt? A sports, organization, or a theme sweatshirt that you feel extra comfy while wearing it? Wear it to church on SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!



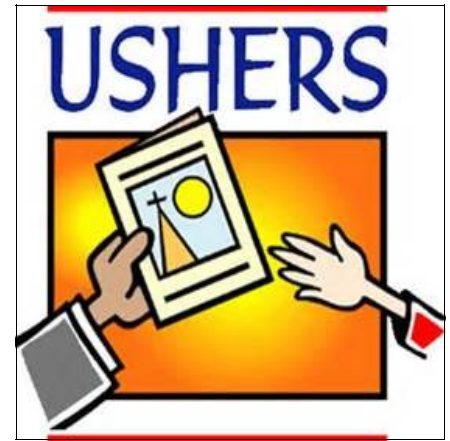
**SOUP PITCH-IN LUNCH**



Since this is Pastor Greg's favorite donation Sunday, we are going to celebrate together by having his favorite food—SOUP!! Bring enough of your favorite soup to share or maybe a favorite dessert.

February 5  
Super BOWL SUNDAY

- wear your favorite sweatshirt
- bring donations for the Food Pantry Baskets to support SOUPER BOWL
- have a bowl of soup!
- Enjoy fellowship with our church family



**Ushers for the upcoming months**

**January:**

- Gary Sprinkle
- Martha Lease
- Josette Higgins
- Helen Finke

**February:**

- Jane and Jerry Bennett
- Victory and Barb Doty

**March**

- Jenny and Lanny Taylor
- Betty and Frank Gentry

**April:**

- Elvin and Joan Reed
- Larry and Cherissa Willaims


**December's Attendance and Giving**

	Attendance	Building Fund	General Fund	Mission & Coin Cans	Total Giving
December 4	76	\$6,100.00	\$1676.00	\$39.00 \$56.91	\$7,871.91
December 11	62	\$1,340.00	\$1264.00		\$2604.00
December 18	68	\$250.00	\$3464.00	\$128.50	\$3714.00
December 25	52	\$185.00	\$1627.00	\$84.21	\$1812.00
Internet Giving		\$9,300.00	\$2,175.00		\$11,475.00
Bishop Offering					\$246.40
Coin Cans for United Methodist Youth Home					\$368.00
2016 End of Year gift		\$26,025.00	\$23,400.00		\$49,425.00

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# ANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 6:30 Staff Parish  6:30 Room 203 Reserved	3 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids 6:00-7:00 Gym Reserved 7:30-8:30 Gym Reserved	4 7:00-8:00 gym reserved	5	6	7 11:00-1:00 Gym Reserved
8	9 6:30 Room 203 Reserved	10 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids  6:00—7:30 pm Pioneer Club Resumes  6:00-8:30 Gym Reserved	11 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:00-8:00 Gym Reserved  6	12 6:00-7:00pm Trustee Meeting  6:00-8:30 gym reserved	13	14 Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
15	16 6:30 Room 203 Reserved  7:00 Cemetery Meeting-Conf Room	17 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids 6:00—7:30 pm Pioneer Club 6:00-8:30 Gym Reserved	18 6:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:00—8:00 Gym Reserved	19 6:00-7:30pm-Gym Reserved  6:00-7:00 pm Finance, Ad Council & COM	20	21  Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
22	23 6:30 Room 203 Reserved  6:00 Gym Reserved  6:00 UMM Dinner	24 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids 1:00-3:00 UMW 6:00-7:30 Pioneer Club 6:00-8:30 Gym Reserved	25 9:30 am Women's Bible Study Resumes  6:00—8:00 Gym Reserved	26	27	28  Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
29	30 6:30 Room 203 Reserved  6:00 Gym Reserved	31 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids  6:00-7:30 Pioneer Club	February 1 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:00—8:00Gym Reserved	2	3	4 Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
 <a href="http://www.souperbowl.org">www.souperbowl.org</a> -Wear your favorite sweatshirt -Bring donations for the Food Pantry -Have a bowl of soup -Fellowship	6 6:30 Room 203 Reserved  6:30 Staff Parish  6:00 Gym Reserved	7 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids  6:00-7:30 Pioneer Club  6:00-8:30 Gym	8 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:00 Gym Reserved  6:30 Choir Practice	9	10	11  Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00