

First United Methodist Church
418 North Rock Street
Minneapolis, KS 67467

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THIS ISSUE CONTAINS...

- Page 1 (Cont. on page 2) - Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza's Message
- Page 2 – January Events and Schedules
- Page 3 – CCIPZ reaches out to Memory Nezomba, a disabled child
- Page 4 – Ottawa County Ministerial Association December/January Calendar
- Page 5 - Church Calendar
- Pages 6 & 7 - January 1 Devotions and Poem
- Page 8 & 9 – Pictures to color!
- Page 10 – Sanctuary Christmas Tree and Story, “We All Need A Tree”
- Page 11 – Schedule of Adult Sunday School Lessons, Report from Outreach/Fellowship Committee, Shopping on Line at Amazon, UMW Report by Gail Eckart

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THE COMMUNICATOR - 2018

January

Ada/Minneapolis United Methodist Community
Christ's Ambassadors by Inviting, Sharing, Nurturing and Forgiving

From the Heart of the Pastor!

Very Happy New Year to you all! May God give you strength and courage to step forward with this New Year and make it as astounding as God has plans for each and every one of us. As we usher in 2018, let us remember that we individually and collectively have a role to play in shaping things that matter to us. 2017 remains in our history as we all remember the happenings of last year. Yes, we will continue to miss some of our members who have gone ahead of us. But we are also reminded of how fragile life is. Stanley Hauerwas reminds us that we are aliens in a foreign land. Jesus promised us that we should not let our hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms, if that were not so, I would have told you so. I am going there to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. Jesus Christ makes an unambiguous claim to universal authority. All nations of the world will come before him to be judged; all the angels make up his royal court; he holds in his hands the eternal destiny of all the people, every woman and man of all time. Jesus Christ is the Lord of life and history. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He alone is the Holy One and the Most High, as we proclaim every Sunday when we sing the Gloria! He is worthy of our allegiance!

We are part of the worldwide United Methodist Community. Part of our Baptismal Covenant encourages new members joining the United Methodist Church to promise to faithfully participate in a local congregation through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and their witness! I am aware that some of you have not taken this covenant; I urge you to think about it during 2018! I take this baptismal covenant seriously myself. This is the covenant that binds us together and reminds us of the things that Jesus has done for us. When I joined the United Methodist Community several years ago, I did not take this covenant just as an addendum; it is part of the major sense of who we are as Methodists. As foot soldiers of our Lord Jesus the Christ, we have no choice but to be involved. Being active in a local church means that we do; we don't just say! Our baptismal covenant requires that we speak up, we walk out and we do! John Wesley called the early Methodists to live out their faith by “doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all people!”

The beginning of this year offers us all the opportunity to renew our baptismal covenant individually and collectively as a congregation. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12: 1 – 2. Doing good is a function of Jesus Christ in a community that includes people of all ages, nations, and races as we say in the baptismal vows. All that is rooted in the teaching of John Wesley and even more so ultimately rooted in the commandments of Jesus Christ and that we find ourselves by giving ourselves!

(Cont. on page 2)

(Pastor's message from front page cont.)
Serving God and neighbor can take many forms. Let us each examine our God given gifts and listen to God so that we each individually and collectively know and understand where God is leading us. The charge to take care of the poor and the disadvantaged can be found throughout scripture, but it is especially exhibited in the ministry of Jesus. At Christmas, God announced the arrival of God's kingdom, headed by Jesus Christ and throughout Jesus' ministry he cured the sick, welcomed the despised, and provided food for the hungry. He orders his disciples, you and me included, to carry on his ministry by doing likewise! The righteous have inherited this kingdom. Those who claim to follow Jesus and hope to endure to the end are called to live faithfully to God's righteous empire! God has given us another year to live out our faith faithfully.
Again Happy New Year!
See you all in church!
Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza.

JANUARY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

LITURGISTS

- 7 - Dale Henderson
- 14 - Dale Henderson
- 21 - Shayla Bailey
- 28 - Shayla Bailey

ACOLYTES

- 7 - P.J. and Kaleb Ocker
- 14 - Joel Abell and Braede Weatherman
- 21 - Maddy and Dalton Krueger
- 28 - Riley and Ethan Bohl

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

- 7 - Jill Runnion
- 14 - Puppeteers
- 21 - Shayla Bailey
- 28 - Dale Parker or Dale Henderson

GREETERS

- 7 - The Ocker Family
- 14 - Gretchen and Bruce Cleveland
- 21 - Tim and Shayla Bailey
- 28 - Tim and Shayla Bailey

NURSERY HELPERS

- 7 - _____ & Becky McDuffee
- 14 - Rosalee Tibbits & Becky McDuffee
- 21 - Barb Kibler & Becky McDuffee
- 28 - Kristi & Paul Ocker & Becky McDuffee

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Norman & Denise Fuller
- 11 - Harry & Barb Kibler
- 28 - Eldin & Jane Smith
- 30 - Lance & Donna Johnson

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Gary Kay
- 6 - Ruth Briggs
- 13 - Elizabeth (Becky) McDuffee, Lori Haley, Daniel Bohn
- 14 - D Phillipson
- 17 - Jill Runnion
- 18 - Dale Henderson
- 23 - Cherryl Watkins
- 25 - Braxton Grimes
- 28 - Pearl Young
- 29 - Reuben Zenger
- 30 - Marsha Griffin

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES - ADULT

Adult Sunday School Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Following are the lessons that will be discussed in January: Unit 2 "A Living Faith in God"
7 - A Sincere Faith
14 - A Bold Faith
21 - A Prayer for an Obedient Faith
28 - A Strong Faith

OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

"UMC CROCKS ROCK"

The Outreach Committee has a 2018 Outreach Project entitled "UMC CROCKS ROCK". This new project will provide applicants with a new Crock Pot, a pre-made frozen meal kit ready to put in the crock pot and cook. Additional recipes and educational material about food safety will also be provided.
Please consider making a cash donation to purchase crock pots, or purchase crock pots to give away. For any questions you may have, contact Tammy Krueger, Colette Henderson or Deb Nichols.

Remember to save Auburn Pharmacy lids for Church Camp and Missions.

SHOPPING ON LINE AT AMAZON

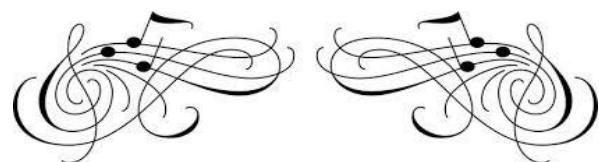
Did you know you can help your church by shopping at Amazon? We can earn 0.5% on qualifying purchases. The following link will take you directly to smile.amazon.com to support our church.
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0884500>



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

January 6 at 10:00 a.m. UMW officers will meet at the home of Gail Eckart for a planning meeting for 2018.
UMW will meet Tuesday, January 16 in the Wesley Room for our monthly meeting. All women of the church are welcome.
Operation Christmas Child Update- Thanks to all who participated in this project. Our collection of Shoebox Gifts this year was 27. My boxes were done with online tracking, so when I am notified of the country our boxes went to, I will pass along the information.
Recently someone asked me about the organization Samaritan's Purse, having heard some negative

information out there questioning whether this was a worthwhile project, and whether we as a church should be participating/supporting a charity outside the United Methodist Church. This project involves support and participation across the denominations, and the project has grown throughout the last few decades to become a huge project, in Ottawa County and throughout the U.S.
I went online to check it out a little myself, having known since the beginning that Samaritan's Purse organization is the mission organization for Billy Graham ministries, which is well known throughout the world. Through my internet research I kept seeing reference to two charity watchdog organizations and I checked the rating for Samaritan's Purse on both of those sites and this is what I found:
Charity Watch: Rating A- Program percentage 77% of donations reach the intended destination, 23% for administrative cost. Information is gathered through tax documents and audited financial statements of the organization. Samaritan's Purse is on their list of top rated charities.
Charity Navigator: The overall score/rating of Samaritan's Purse is 98.23 out of 100. It is listed in the 10 best charities.
I am sure there are many other sources of information, and we must all do what we feel comfortable with. As we move on into 2018, I challenge you to keep Operation Christmas Child in your prayers throughout the year as the gift distribution and evangelism project continues throughout the world reaching children for Jesus.
Gail Eckart



OH CHRISTMAS TREE,
OH CHRISTMAS TREE...

December 3, 2017



Pat Baccus provided this beautiful picture of the Christmas tree in our sanctuary with many toys donated by the congregation. The toys were given to underprivileged children in our community to help brighten and enjoy their Christmas!

The following story could help us remember in 2018 to "hang our problems on our tree" at the end of the day!

WE ALL NEED A TREE

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence.

On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

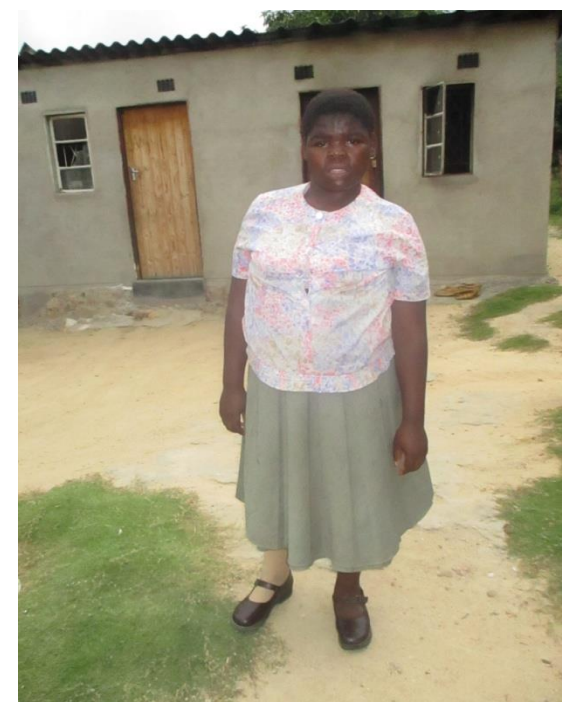
Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied. 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again. 'Funny thing is,' he smiled, 'when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'

CCIPZ REACHES OUT TO MEMORY NEZOMBA, A CHITAKATIRA DISABLED GIRL



Before Memory's Prosthesis



After Memory's Prosthesis

Memory Nezomba could not hide her joy when she received the good news that some generous people had mobilized resources to assist with her prosthesis. This materialized after all the efforts her family and school had made in trying to secure help from the local organizations and business community to assist with the prosthesis were fruitless. Memory had lost hope of ever having another leg. The kind gesture from CCIPZ

brought relief and joy to the usually reserved and shy girl who had spent all her years managing with one leg.

On the last day of her routine and week's long practice of trying to get accustomed to the new leg, the young girl was on cloud nine as she walked up and down Mutare General Hospital during her routine exercising. Though she had lost all hope in getting the leg, for Memory it was like a dream transforming to reality when on Saturday, December 16, 2017, she walked home with her much desired new leg which materialized through the financial support from CCIPZ.

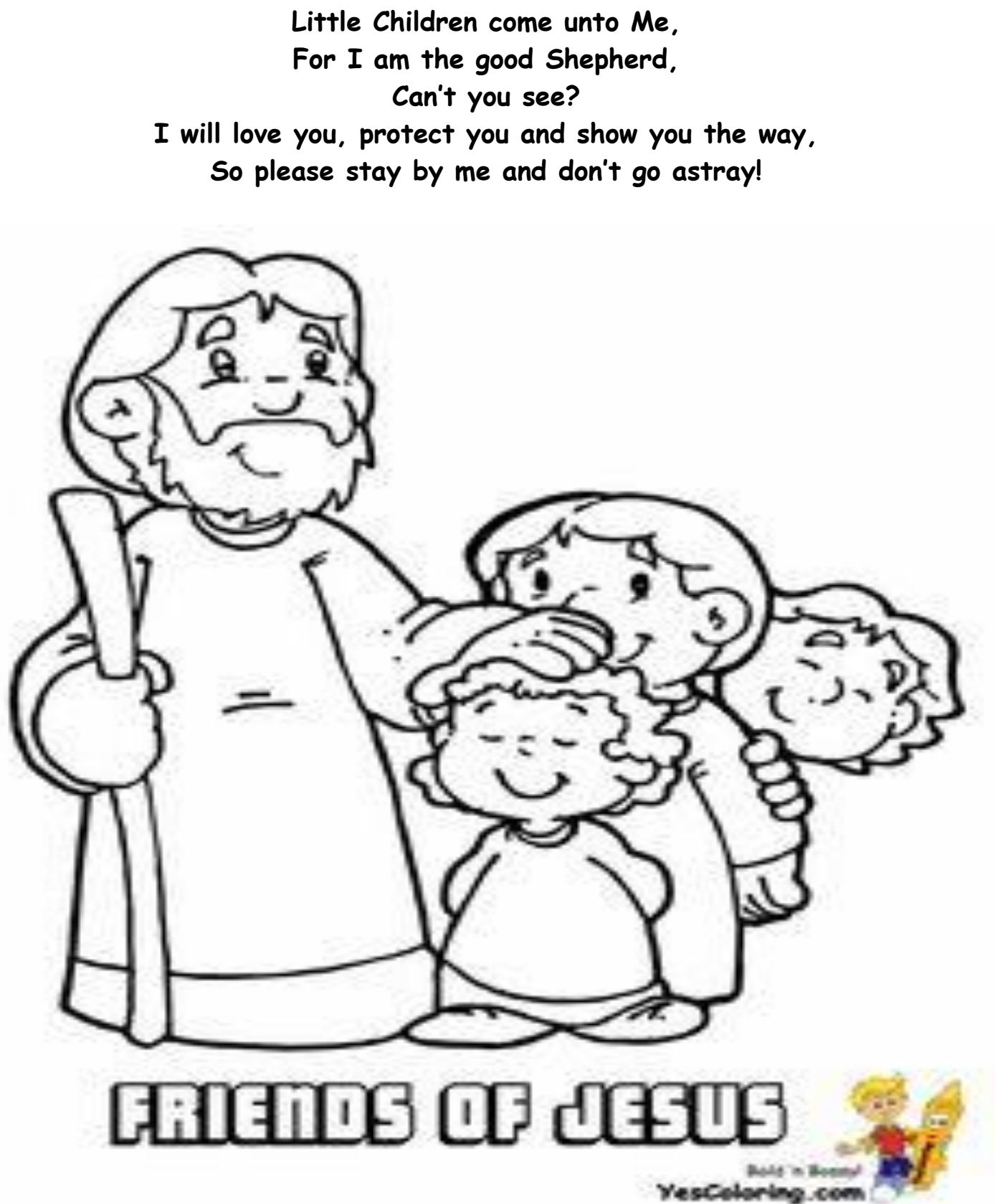
Memory who is 17 years old was born on the 1st of June 2000. She was born to Kenneth Nezomba (56 years) and Tracy Mashume (46 years), both of Mutambara – Chimanimani District. Memory has five siblings who stay with her parents who survive on peasant farming.

Memory's mother reminisced that "I remember Memory was barely two months old when one night she cried hysterically and endlessly. The following morning I realized that the lower part of her left leg was swollen, and puss was oozing out of the lower part of her leg which had turned black. I was gripped with fear and I immediately took Memory to the hospital for medical attention."

"I thought my child was going to die", she continued. It was unfortunate that the doctors could not tell what had happened to Memory and had no way to diagnose what had affected her and how to treat the leg. The doctors revealed to me that they had no option but to amputate the leg. It was difficult to come to terms with the idea that my child was going to be disabled at such a tender age of one year and six months old. "Watching my infant losing her leg was the most painful moment of my life", continued Memory's mother wearing a sad face and almost in tears.

"I want to thank CCIPZ for this kind of gesture and for coming to the rescue of my daughter. Quite often I had bothered Mr. Mapaura (Chitakatira School head) to assist in mobilizing resources to enable Memory to secure the leg. It was all fruitless until CCIPZ's intervention recently."

Memory is still trying to get accustomed to the leg and stated, "I am happy because of the leg, at least I will be able to manage household chores like any other members of my family or my age mates. Walking was very difficult, but now with this leg, it's going to be easy."



Little Children come unto Me,
For I am the good Shepherd,
Can't you see?
I will love you, protect you and show you the way,
So please stay by me and don't go astray!

Ottawa County Ministerial Association Advent/Christmas Calendar

2017-18

December/January

Make this Christmas season an ADVENTURE!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Volunteer at Christmas Store. Contact Donna Johnson. df67467@gmail.com	4 Make Christmas Ornaments to keep or give away.	5 Call Virginia at Love INC to sign up for Bell Ringing. 785-392-3474	6 Celebrate St Nicolas Day by doing a secret act of kindness.	7 Prophecy and fulfillment: Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-23.	8 Pick a name off the Angel Tree.	9 Take Cookies to Shuts. ins.
10 Bake and take doggy treats to SRL. Go to www.savethedog.com for recipes.	11 Send Christmas to deployed troops. For more info, visit www.anysoldier.com	12 Take time to let loved ones know how important they are to you.	13 Make pinecone bird feeders to care for God's creatures.	14 Read 1 John 4:7-8. What random acts of love can you commit today?	15 Send a care package to a missionary.	16 Wear Santa hats and pick up trash in your neighborhood.
17 Make cards to take to rest home.	18 Salina Rescue Mission has lots of volunteer opportunities! (785) 823-2610	19 Take a drive to look at Christmas lights.	20 Invite friends and family to a prayer circle. Give thanks to God!	21 Contact a rest home or long-term care and ask if you can decorate a resident's room!	22 Go Christmas Caroling	23 Take Christmas goodies to those having to work Christmas Eve/Day.
24 Attend a Christmas Eve Service.	25 All are welcome to Christmas Dinner at the United Church of Bennington at Noon. Bring a dish if you wish.	26 Jesus was born to save. Read Isaiah 1:18. Make snowflakes to hang up, reminding us of what Jesus has done.	27 Play or sing Christmas songs to rejoice, praise God, and share the Christmas Message!	28 Begin a journal to keep notes of blessings, prayer answers, and Scriptures. Make it a treasured keepsake.	29 God is faithful. Use a red pen to make a list of God's promises. Keep it in your Bible.	30 Make a vow to spend time every day reading the Bible and in prayer. Not sure where to start? Find a reading plan.
31 Read Acts 6-7. Pack a box with toys, clothes, or food to give away. Pray your blessings forward.	1 What are your goals for mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health for 2017?	2 Pick a random Christmas card you received. Make plans for face time with the one who sent it.	3 Express 3 things you want for self, country, and world.	4 Bake cinnamon rolls to share with someone, use the opportunity to invite them to your home church.	5 Look up the legend of the candy cone, share it with others as you pass out leftover candy canes!	6 Name 6 blessings in your life. Do 6 things to bless others.

Skating and sledding are ways we can show
How much fun we can have in the sparkling snow.
Invite your friends to join you to do tricks as you ski,
and by your kindness they'll see
your love for Jesus is sure to be!



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JANUARY

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 10:00 a.m. UMW Officers meet @ Gail Eckart's for mtg.
7 Communion 2:45 – 3:30 pm Ada/Mpls. @ LTC/Good Sams Services	8	9	10 5:00 p.m. Chamber of Commerce Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Ad Council Mtg. In Wesley Rm.	11	12	13
14 2 nd Sunday Dinner – Hosted by PPR Committee	15	16 7:00 pm UMW Mo. Mtg. in Wesley Rm.	17 Pastor attending mtgs. in Kearney, NE-- --	18 -----	19 -----→	20
21	22	23	24 Outreach Fellowship serve MJSHS FCA	25	26	27
28	29	30 9:30 am Pastor Peer Group in Wesley Rm.	31	February 1	2	3

STARTING A NEW YEAR WITH DEVOTIONS

As I read my devotions on January 1, I thought of all of you and felt I needed to share with you what I read. I hope the following devotions are as meaningful to you as they were to me, to start the new year off right for all of us! Joan Miles

Taken from

“THE UPPER ROOM”

(UMW provides The Upper Room Devotional for us to take home and enjoy. The Devotionals are found on the tables at the front and back entrances of the church.

Devotion by Andrea Woronick

ANOTHER YEAR BEGINS

Read Psalm 139:7-18

It’s that time again, and I am ready to begin another new year. I have the same hopes for this year as I did for the last one: exercise more, get more sleep, eat healthier food, work more when needed and work less when I can.

Yes, this year will be the year that I make all these changes to improve my life!

But instead of jumping ahead too quickly, I have decided to take some time to look back on this past year and celebrate my accomplishments. I suffered some real hardships and disappointments, but I made it through another year and grew from my adversities. Of course I can always improve, and each year I make resolutions to be better. But I also know that I am a beloved child of God, who loves unconditionally. Nothing I can do will make God love me more or less.

So, as I look forward to the beginning of a new year, I am filled with new hope, expectations – and resolutions. And, as I look back on the past year, I celebrate my life and all that I have experienced, knowing that God has been with me through it all.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to remember that we are your beloved children and that we can spread that love to all your children.

Prayer focus: To love myself more completely.

Page 6

Taken from
“JESUS CALLING”

Devotions by Sarah Young

Read Romans 12:2; Jeremiah 29:11

Come to me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being *transformed by the renewing of your mind*. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. *I also know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence.

Taken from
“MORNINGS WITH JESUS”

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOUR SPIRIT.

Shout to the LORD, all the earth, break out in praise and sing for joy! Psalm 98:4 New Year’s is a BIG deal for our family. My brother and sisters and I rarely get to see each other as the years have scattered us far and wide. But each year we congregate at my parents’ house for the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day. There are about twenty of us including in-laws and kids. We look forward to our time together all year long.

On our last night together, we want to do it up right. We want to soak up every minute. Ringing in the New Year involves sparkling cider, delicious appetizers, and the end-of-the year’s countdown. If we are lucky, my brother, Chris, will serve up his gourmet pizza with imported olive oil and cheeses. My sister, Jenny, makes her famous meatballs that all the boy cousins fight over. We play games. We laugh hard. And we relish the fact that we are all together. The night’s celebration ends with watching the New York City ball drop on TV amidst shouting and lots of hugging.

There are moments in life that need to be heralded with joy, Jesus is so good to us. There are a million reasons to celebrate this Yew Year – all of the obstacles we have overcome in the last year. The joy and healing that Jesus has brought about in our hearts. His faithfulness and bountiful provisions. The cherished relationships He has brought into our lives. The goodness of being alive. The prospect of a new, untarnished year in front of us. The promise that Jesus will be with us in every circumstance, no matter what. So many reasons to bring in the New Year with a shout of praise!

FAITH STEP: Do a countdown of the top ten things you are thankful to Jesus for as you go into the New Year.

Taken from
“DEVOTIONS FOR COUPLES”

By David and Teresa Ferguson

A DELIBERATE, UNCONDITIONAL AND POSITIVE RESPONSE

Accept one another. Romans 15:7

My (Theresa’s) ability to show acceptance of another is contingent upon my deep knowledge of a loving and accepting Christ. If I am to accept my spouse as Christ has accepted me, then I need to understand His wonderful love for me.

God made a deliberate choice to allow Christ to die on my behalf. It wasn’t a convenient or easy choice, either. It was a choice that prioritized the relationship between my heavenly Father and me, His child. Christ took the initiative when He came to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). He didn’t wait for me to “get my act together.” Rather, He looked beyond my actions and sins and accepted me as I was. This acceptance is unconditional and permanent. There is nothing I can do to earn it or lose it.

God demonstrated this unconditional acceptance when He looked beyond my faults to see my need. He didn’t excuse my sin but instead gave the best He had as a remedy for that sin.

This kind of “looking beyond” makes marriage work, too.

Accepting my spouse as Christ has accepted me means making a choice. It won’t be convenient or easy. It will mean taking some initiative. It may mean being the first to say, “Honey, I love you.” It may mean not waiting until he changes to tell him how glad I am to be his wife.

Unconditionally accepting my spouse means looking beyond differences, disagreements, and disputes. It means looking beyond irritations, personality flaws, and idiosyncrasies. It even means looking beyond wrongs and sins committed – not to excuse these things, but to see his worth in spite of them.

Question: In what ways can you daily demonstrate your deliberate and unconditional love for your spouse?

Prayer: God, please help Me to “look beyond” my spouse’s flaws and imperfections and unconditionally and deliberately love this person, just as You have unconditionally and deliberately loved me.

ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

Page 7