

CHAPEL CHIMES

JANUARY

Volume 6 Issue 1

Randall's Chapel United Methodist Church

January 2021

Keep Your Eyes Forward ~

Well, it's that time for all those, 'keep your eyes on the future' pep-talks. 2021 is upon us and as I said Sunday, Dec. 27th, the 2020 pandemic will continue to be with us into 2021. Ouch!

As always, and I'll tell you again, no matter what life throws at us, "Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus."

Maybe we have made a decision and later learn that it was a mistake, and then we regret what we chose. We start looking back to the choice we made and regret it. Even worse, we look back reminiscing, wishing we could go back to the way things were. Maybe we look back and hold on to the past because we can't let go and believe what lies ahead is going to be okay.

Jesus addresses this in Luke 9:57-62, where He is seeing and hearing those who want to follow Him, but have other things that they can't let go of. They are looking back to something that is still connected to their heart strings. Jesus says to them in :62, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

This reminds me of Luke 9:23, where Jesus says, "If any one would come after me, he must deny himself and take up the cross daily and follow me."

Denying one's self and taking up the cross is to die to our selfish desires that would hinder our walk with Him. It's as if we put our hands on the plow, Jesus, yet looking back to what we really desire.

Do you recall the story of God sending messengers (angels) to Lot telling him that He, God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? The time came and the messengers, told Lot, his wife and two daughter it was time to flee for God was going to destroy the two cities. The angels told them not to look back. Once Lot, his wife and two daughters reach safety, Lot's wife looked back to view the two cities. She turned into a pillar of salt. The emphasis here is that she looked back because she couldn't let go of what had a hold of her. Her heart was still back there.

Here's my point, as believers of Jesus Christ, hopefully we have put our hand to His plow, to look forward to His possibilities. Here it is: We are called to be the Bride of Christ, not Lot's wife. As the Bride of Christ look forward to all His possibilities.

Looking ahead for the possibilities in 2021 with Jesus.

Happy New Focus! - Pat





News and Announcements



- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1-1 Happy New Year! | 1-12 Grief Support Group, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. |
| 1-3 Epiphany Sunday/ Communion | 1-13 Discipleship Now, at 6:00 p.m. |
| 1-5 United Methodist Women’s Meeting, 10 a.m. | 1-19 Grief Support Group, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. |
| 1-5 Grief Support Group, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. | 1-20 Discipleship Now, at 6:00 p.m. |
| 1-6 Discipleship Now at 6:00 p.m. | 1-26 Grief Support Group, from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. |
| 1-10 Leadership Meeting at 2:00. | 1-27 Discipleship Now, at 6:00 p.m. |



United Methodist Women’s Meeting – Tuesday, January 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We are meeting in the Sanctuary to allow sitting 6 feet apart from one another. Please bring a mask to wear. Looking forward to seeing all who are able to come.



Grief Support Group

Theresa Kilgro has been leading a great support group for a couple of years here at Randall’s Chapel. This group meets on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. If you have had the passing of a love one, let me encourage you to check out this ministry and group to find some good support and encouragement. Either contact Theresa or just show up on Tuesday. You can contact the church office if you have any questions.

Discipleship Now -

Come join us on Wednesday Nights at 6:00, as we get into the Bible and discuss the answers to our questions. It’s laid back and you’re welcome to join us.

Children’s Message -

Once again, we are providing a Children’s Message during our worship time. We would like for the children when coming to the front for this time together to wear their mask. We know that social distancing will not be enforced in this group, so if you are okay with this, send your little ones up front for their Children’s Message time. Thanks to you ladies who are being a part of this team.

January Leaders - 1-3 Sheila Morris, 1-10 Janet Matthews, 1-17 Lisa Lusk, 1-24 Kathy Mahan, 1-31 Kelly Ellis



Children's Message



Life Resource Services of Jackson Co.

We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
January Collection: Bottled Water, brown lunch bags, individual bags of chips, mayonnaise, mustard and sandwich size ziplock bags. We can always use volunteers to help.

Thank You for your support.

Epiphany Reflections

Epiphany

Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the *Day of the Kings* (*Día de los Reyes*). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on January 6 or January 7



The word *epiphany* means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Popular usage likens *epiphany* to words such as *eureka* or *aha!* Use of this word by some English speakers conjures images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The texts for the Sundays after the Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was, through his baptism, the miracle at the wedding, or through that bodacious declaration in his hometown synagogue! But, this ever-widening circle of revelation began 'outside the circle' of Judaism, so to speak, with the Magi.

Who were the Magi?

Many versions of the Bible refer to them as the *Wise Men*. We often forget that these Magi or Wise Men were non-Jews. Older sources suggest that they were priestly descendants of one of the tribes of the Medes known for their knowledge of the stars (astronomy) and their ability to interpret dreams.

What can we learn from the Wise Men?

First, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs.

It was a common belief that when a world leader like a king was born that a special stellar phenomenon would appear in the sky. The Magi saw something that convinced them that they had seen the long-awaited sign. Historians tell us that the Jews, the Romans, and the Persians were all watching the skies about that time, looking for signs of the birth of an extraordinary king. A few years before, around 11 BC, Halley's Comet had been seen. There were other stellar phenomena, including a bright star, Sirius, which appeared brightly in the daytime instead of at night. The Wise Men saw the star and began their journey.

May God give us all inspiration for this year's journey.

Second, the Wise Men were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory.

Their journey took them outside their country and their comfort zone. The Wise Men risked the consequences of disobeying Herod, who was known to behave as a madman when provoked and returned to their country by another way.

The Christian journey is often an off-road excursion.

Third, the Wise Men were committed to the journey -- wherever the star might lead.

The Wise Men set out to find a newborn King by following a star and ended up in finding a baby born to young, relatively poor parents! Not exactly what they expected and not exactly what befit their dignity as priests.

In this coming year, may we look to heaven for guidance and comfort and may we accept God's blessings in whatever forms we find them, just as the Wise Men accepted that their long, expensive journey led them to a baby born to young, inexperienced parents who lived on the poor side of town.

Cont'd on page 4

BIRTHDAYS

1/4 THOMAS LUSK
1/6 KRYSTAL ROBERTSON
JUDY FRATUS
1/8 TOM BREWER
1/13 KEVIN LUSK
1/15 LORA HURLBURT
1/16 JIM GROSS
1/18 COLE SNYDER
1/22 NICHOLAS GUESS
DEBRA SNYDER
1/24 SHANE MORRIS
JEAN K. ABEL
1/25 HARTLEY WALKER
1/27 WESLEY CULPEPPER
TAYLOR WELCH
1/29 CONNIE GARNER
1/30 CHARLOTTE MORRIS



ANNIVERSARIES

1/2 CORKY & DELLA GARDNER
1/25 HAROLD & ELAINE BROOKSHIRE

Leadership Team Meeting-

Sunday, January 10th
at 2:00 p.m.



Thank You!

Thank you for your generous giving to our Christmas Love Offerings. Sarge's Café & Life Resource Services of Jackson Co. Both will be blessed by your giving. Your giving brought in \$895.00. Thanks!

Cont'd from page 3

Finally, the Wise Men brought gifts.

They did the thing that people in the East or in Africa or in India would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts.

Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king.

Frankincense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest.

Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die.

On This Twelfth Day, or Three Kings Day, otherwise known as Epiphany, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?

Their greatest gift comes to us in the form of a realization. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. Good news is for everyone, not just a select few.

Star of wonder

Star of light

Star with royal beauty bright

Westward leading

Still proceeding

Guide us to thy perfect light.

Amen.





JANUARY



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2



3 Epiphany Sunday

4

5 United Methodist Women's Meeting 10:00

6

7

8

9

Worship
10:00 a.m.



Grief Support,
10:00 - noon

Discipleship
Now at
6:00 p.m.

10

Worship,
10:00 a.m.

Leadership
Meeting at
2:00

11

12 Grief Support,
10:00 - noon

13

Discipleship
Now at
6:00 p.m.

14

15

16

17

Worship,
10:00 a.m.

18

19 Grief Support,
10:00 - noon

20

Discipleship
Now at
6:00 p.m.

21

22

23

24

Worship,
10:00 a.m.

25

26 Grief Support,
10:00 - noon

27

Discipleship
Now at
6:00 p.m.

28

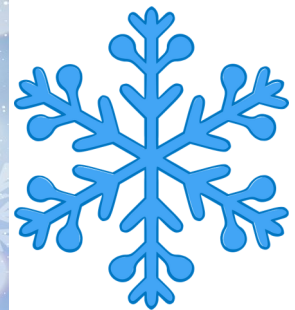
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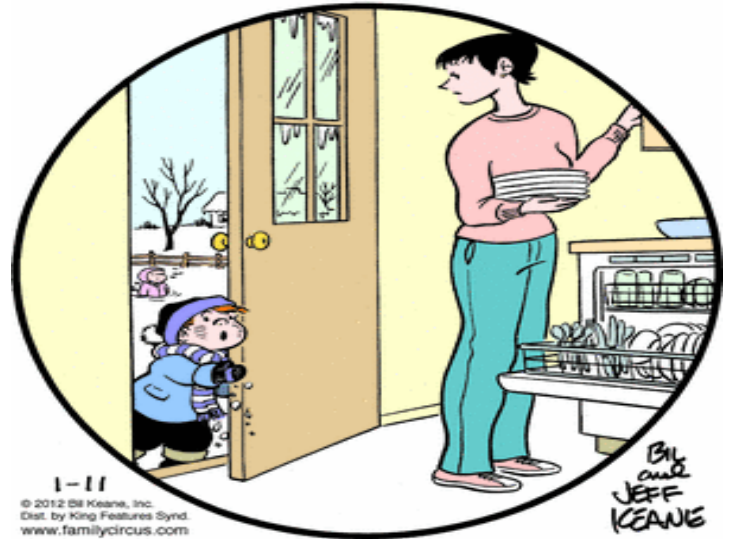
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*Here's to the blessing
of the year,
Here's to the friends
we hold so dear,
To peace on earth,
both far and near.*



THE FUNNY PAGE



1-11
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Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

"Mommy, have we stayed out long enough to get some hot chocolate now?"

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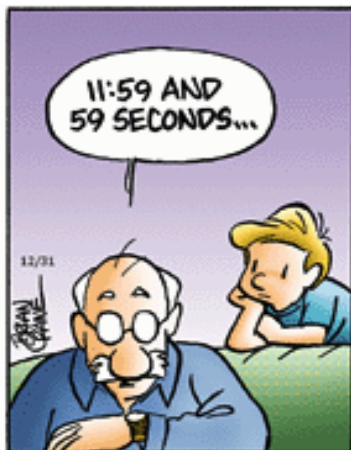


01-03-2003

EDWARD WAS SO FOND OF HIS NEW SNOWMAN THAT HE COULDN'T HELP BUT MAKE HIM A GUARDIAN SNOW ANGEL



"WATER HAZARDS ARE NO PROBLEM IF YOU PLAY IN THE WINTER."





Randall's Chapel United Methodist Church



CHAPEL CHIMES

RANDALL'S CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CORNER VETERANS DR & CRAWFORD ROAD
P O BOX 1518
SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768

CHURCH PHONE - 256-574-6685
PASTORS CELL PHONE—256-541-2747
WEBSITE - RANDALLSCHAPEL.COM

PAT MAHANPASTOR
HAROLD BROOKSHIRE.....COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
CHARLES GIDDENS.....LAY LEADER
PATTY MILLER.....SECRETARY

FOR NEWSLETTER OR WEBSITE ADDITIONS, DELETIONS,
CORRECTIONS, CHANGES, SUGGESTIONS AND/OR
COMMENTS.....
CONTACT—RCUMC@SCOTTSBORO.ORG

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY
NEW TIME
WORSHIP 10:00

WEDNESDAY
ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6 PM