

Alburnett/Prairie Chapel Parish News - December 2019



Dear Friends,

Amid the preparations for Christmas each year, there always seem to be a few voices proclaiming a “Bah, humbug!” on the whole business. And if the truth be known, some of us may feel less than excited about Christmas ourselves. The expense, the crowds, the overindulgence, the hurried schedules and all the other trappings of modern Christmas celebrations are enough to make all of us take a cynical look at the season.

In the face of the humbug state of affairs, it is helpful to remember that God did not send Jesus to be “at our throats,” but to be “in our hearts.” The difference between those two concepts defines the gap between gloom and glory. There’s a reason we call the gospel good news. As John so fittingly put it, “For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him” (3:17).

Jesus is God’s gift to our world -- and to our hearts. When Jesus resides within, whether we enjoy or merely tolerate the flurry of seasonal preparations, Christmas itself is a grand opportunity to say thank you to God for the gift of the Son.

In the light of that, we are planning several programs as opportunities to thank God together for the priceless gift of Jesus so please review those listed in the newsletter and attend or participate in the ones that you would like to and keep the spirit of Christmas alive in your heart.

Please join us as we all seek to celebrate Christmas in our hearts this year.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jon



Christmas Eve service will be on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm at Prairie Chapel and 7:00 pm at Alburnett.

MUSICAL THOUGHTS

Music has always been a meaningful and important role in worship from the beginning of time. Not only for each of us as individuals but for the gathering of people who come together to share their love, faith, and trust in the Lord. Music can be many things: Quiet meditation, prayer, confession, thankfulness, and joy! When we

worship as a congregation, music can be all of those things. Remember the melody is important, but we all need to think about the words we are singing and make it a part of our thoughts and worship.



Our choir, One Voice, has chosen to follow the Biblical instructions from Ephesians 5:19 “speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”

The music leaders of each Sunday, whether it be the choir, vocals, or instrumental, are there to worship God with their time and talents, not to be a show, but to lead in worship through music and song.

We look forward to the upcoming time of Thanksgiving and Celebration during worship the rest of the year. May each of your hearts be filled with love, joy and peace!

"SING AND MAKE MUSIC FROM YOUR HEART TO THE LORD"

Order a beautiful Poinsettia to honor or remember a loved one. Place your order **no later than Sunday, December 1** by mailing or dropping a form at the church office or call 377-7506 or 842-2388. Cost (including tax) for each Poinsettia is \$10.00.

Name:

Number of Poinsettia:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Plants may be picked up following the Christmas Eve Service or left to decorate the church for the remainder of Christmastide, Please indicate your preference.



Worship Service times will change on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Alburnett will meet at 9:00 am for worship and Prairie Chapel's worship service will be at 10:30 am. These times will be in place for the entire year of 2020.

CHANGE TO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Beginning in January Ad Council meetings will be scheduled differently. Pastor Jon will be in contact with those impacted. There will **not** be an Ad Council meeting in January.

Important 2020 dates for East Central District **United Methodist Women**

January: Sat 1/11 – Human Trafficking Awareness Day
Thurs 1/30 – UMW/UMC Advocacy Day, Wesley UMC & State Capitol, Des Moines

March: Fri 3/6 – World Day of Prayer USA – 2020 Zimbabwe
Sun 3/8 – International Bell Ringing for Women's Rights
Mon 3/23 – 151st Anniversary for United Methodist Women
Sat 3/28– District Spiritual Growth Day Apart – 9:00 – 2:00; CR Lovely Lane UMC
The Gospel of Mark – Radical Discipleship – led by Pastor Jenny Seylar

April: Sat 4/4 – Laity Day with our Bishop; Location TBD

Sun 4/12 – Easter Sunday

May 6: East Central District Women Clergy Spa Day – Brandon UMC

June: TBD – UMW gathering at Annual Conference

6/26-28 – UMW North Central Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting – Sioux Falls SD



July: Sun 7/19- Tue 7/21 - Summer Mission u "Ignited for Justice" - Marshalltown

August: District Mission Study Day – TBA – 9:00 – 2:00

Mass Incarceration: School to Prison Pipeline (UMW Social Action Priority)

September: Sat 9/19 – District Annual Meeting – Lisbon UMC – 9:00 – 2:30

October: Sat 10/3 - Conference Annual Meeting – Cherokee

Fri 10/16 – Sun 10/18 - Fall Mission u "Ignited for Justice" - Marshalltown

November: Fri 11/6 – World Community Day

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather the status of Worship/Sunday School may be found in the following locations:

KCRG TV Channel 9

KCRG TV Web Site - <http://www.kcrg.com/cancellations>

WMT Radio

Prairie Chapel will also post cancellations on their Facebook page



These notices will be made by 8:00AM Sunday morning. If no such notice appears by this time, then you should assume we are having worship as planned. This decision will consider road conditions, access to our worship site, and whether power & heat is available. Of course, we also want to encourage everyone to make good, safe decisions regardless of whether we cancel the worship service or not.



Looking for the **Birthday / Anniversary** list???

The list can be found in the church foyer.

There are printed copies of the Newsletter at both churches. At Prairie Chapel copies are located in the Narthex. At Alburnett copies are by the doorway (in wall holder) beside the refreshment table. Please provide your email address to ensure a copy is sent to you.

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS - forward any newsletter articles to the following email address:
AlbPCNEWS@Gmail.com

Alburnett



We would like to invite everyone to our children's Christmas program on December 22, at our 10:30 church service. We will be remembering "The First Christmas Night" and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Join us for birthday cake afterwards. Hope to see you there.

The Alburnett School has asked for our help and it has been decided to give the Christmas offering to the school. In addition to the Backpack program there are several children in need of cold weather clothing..... snow-boots, snow-pants, hats and warm mittens. Judy Burns has a list of shoe sizes for the snow-boots. Call Judy at 319-533-2633 for details.



MISSIONS

During the month of November Missions will continue to support the Alburnett Community Schools Backpack Program. Each month a list of specific items will be requested or people may purchase items from the main list.



DECEMBER LIST

Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, various other Soups

ONGOING MAIN LIST

Spaghettios, Pop Tarts, Granola Bars, Fruit Snacks, Ramen Noodles, Chicken Noodle Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Plastic Fruit Cups, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter, Jelly and Boxes of Raisins.

**** SNOW REMOVAL ****

With the impending winter weather snow removal at the church needs to be addressed. We are looking for a family to commit to clearing the sidewalks for one month. Someone has volunteered to cover the month of December-bless you! Looking for church members to step-up and volunteer for remaining months - January through March. Please let Dick/Judy Burns (319-533-2633) know if this is a task you are willing to take on. THANK YOU!

Prairie Chapel

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Plan on staying after Worship Service Sunday, December 1 to help decorate the church in preparation of the birth of Christ.



Start your Christmas Spirit off right by coming out to Prairie Chapel's Live Nativity held Saturday December 7th from 5:00-7:00 P.M. Follow the candle luminaries from highway 13 all the way up Prairie Chapel Road to the church. Visit the stable with Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus and angels all around. See and pet the animals and visit the shepherds around the campfire. They may even roast you a marshmallow or two. Come inside for hot cocoa and freshly baked cookies. Let the wonder of the season surround you. Inclement weather date is the following evening, Sunday, December 8th.



Prairie Chapel's Christmas offering will go to **CROP**. There will be an envelope in the bulletin for the two weeks prior to Christmas for your convenience. **CROP** was started in 1947 and stands for *Christian Rural Overseas Program* and is under the wing of Church World Service. It now helps to end hunger at home and around the world.

UMW will meet Saturday, December 7th at 9:00 A.M. for Christmas Brunch. Marcia Jordan has the program and Holly Ryan and Marcia Jordan are hostesses. Reveal your Prayer Partners at the brunch and bring 3 doz. cookies or bake them at the church for the Live Nativity that evening. Our mission projects are socks, underwear, hats and mittens.





The Sunday School Christmas play and program will be Sunday evening December 15, at 6:30. Please come and support our youth as they present their talents. A special guest will be arriving after the program.

Count down the new year at Prairie Chapel with their annual New Year's Eve Party December 31st starting at 6:30. Bring your own pizza and pop and also snacks to share and bring your favorite games. This is for all ages so bring some friends. Everyone is welcome to come. Questions? Call Kathy Clemens 319-350-1281



Community Club --Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 in the church basement. Bring food to share and your own tableware. Everyone is welcome for this monthly potluck. Hope to see you!

GIVE+ Online Giving at Prairie Chapel

YOUR CHURCH GIVING APP

If you need help with on-line giving contact Kevin Banisik at Kevin.Banasik@csbiowa.com or Jarod Bowman at jarodbowman@metro-motorsports.com. In addition, either of these members of the Finance Committee can assist you in creating your login, installing the app on your device or learn how to donate through your home computer.

[Online Giving Link](#)

*The church calendars are on "real time". This means if accessing the calendar in October you will **see** the October calendar even if you are reading the November newsletter. There is a back/forward arrow on the calendar in left-hand corner that allows you to view past-present-future calendars.*

[Alburnett Calendar](#)

[Prairie Chapel Calendar](#)

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