

Sixth Avenue UMC Messenger
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

Dear Friends,

As the harvest is gathered and the air turns cooler, we realize that November is right around the corner and Thanksgiving Day will soon arrive. The apostle Paul reminds us to be grateful in all things, not just on a special day (1 Thessalonians 5:18). But I'm thankful we live in a country that acknowledged the fact that we have so much for which to be grateful.

As a Christian, I'm thankful to God for the precious gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. As a husband, father, and brother, I'm thankful for my immediate and extended family.

As your pastor, I'm thankful to be a part of the Sixth Avenue UMC family. You have accepted Janet and me with open arms. It's hard to believe that seven years have gone by so quickly. I believe that God has called us here and I count it a privilege to serve you.

I'm grateful to be in Christian service with you as we learn and grow together on our faith journey. I'm grateful for praying people who seek to do God's will and meet the needs of others outside the church walls. I'm grateful that you support Sixth Avenue UMC with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service.

These are just a few things for which I'm thankful. Have you ever noticed that being thankful seems to feed itself? As we express thanks for something, other people and circumstances come to mind for which we are grateful. Before you know it we have entered into God's presence and we find that we cannot thank God enough.

Friends, express your thanks to God and others daily and discover what joy it brings!

With a grateful heart,

Pastor Rick

Dear Friends,

Many of us are familiar with the themes of Christmas: Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, Santa Claus finding out who's naughty and nice, and chestnuts roasting on an open fire.

Most of us also remember the Biblical Christmas stories: angels singing "Glory to God in the highest", shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night, wise men following the star, no room in the inn for Joseph and Mary, and a baby boy in the manger. These stories of Christmas warm our hearts like glowing fire on a cold winter's night.

And yet there is another neglected part of the Christmas story. It is Christmas through the lens of the gospel of John. In John's gospel there are no wise men, no angels, no shepherds, not even Joseph and Mary. Rather, in John's gospel, we only have the central character in the story: *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14, NIV)

For John, Christmas is all about God stepping into human history, clothing himself in our human fallibility and rescuing us from sin and death. In response, let us center ourselves on the One and Only. Let us discover the essence, character, and purpose of the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He is the light, life, and Word of God. He challenges us to think about and experience Christmas in a personal and intimate way. May this Christmas challenge us to invitation and salvation.

I invite you to worship each week in Advent as we discover God's majesty in the ordinary. I also challenge you to invite as many people as you can to experience the God who not only made his dwelling with us, but also in us. Join us this Advent and Christmas for an unforgettable experience!

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas,

Pastor Rick



Daylight-Savings Time ends November 5th. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on November 4th.

Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 7th, 7:00 p.m. at Lancaster First UMC.



Congratulations to E. J. Gurile on his recent promotion to Assistant Vice President of Fairfield National Bank. E. J. is the Manager of the East Main Street Office.

Rev. Bob and Margaret Hayden welcome visitors to their home:
2790 Clearcreek Rd. SW
(740) 969-8726

Dear Pastor Rick,

Thank you so much for your support and visits during Aunt Jean's illness and for the lovely service at her funeral. We greatly appreciate your caring.



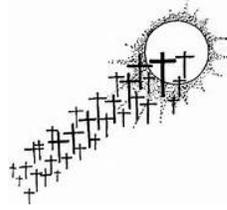
Sincerely,

The family of Jean Gray



Christian Love and Sympathy to:

The family of Marie Sheets upon her death on August 29th.
The family of Jean Gray upon her death on September 18th.
Judy Fahrer upon the death of her sister, Eloise Engel on September 25th.



"All Saints" November 5

We will remember the members of Sixth Avenue Church who have entered the Church Triumphant over the past Year.



Veteran's Recognition

On Sunday, November 12th we will be recognizing our veterans and active duty military personnel. Please join us as we express our gratitude to the dedicated men and women, both past and present, of the United States military. Refreshments will be served in the Narthex following the worship service.

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers when I had my surgery.



Thank You

Joan Irwin



Dear Heartwarmers,

Thank you so much for the lovely lunch.

Donna Averill (Jean Gray's niece)



I want to thank everyone for all their prayers.

Barb Beougher



October 11, 2017

Dear Rick,

Thank you for partnering with us in the exciting ministry of bringing people into a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Your actions are causing God's kingdom to be enlarged and lives to be changed.

This came recently from our national partner in Africa:

"Because of a person I don't know and probably will never meet, my life - and That of my wife's - was saved, for we were surely dead. Someone gave a give that resulted in an audio Bible being sent to me to spread the Gospel.

That audio Bible - Treasure - was in my pocket when a highly-agitated gunman held us at gun point. The Holy Spirit spoke from within me, telling me to slowly bring the Treasure out of my pocket and hit the play button.

The gunman listened to the Treasure and it changed his intentions - and his final destiny. That very gunman, originally intent on death and destruction, is now bringing others to life through Jesus using these audio Bibles. Praise the Lord!"

Your \$221.33 gift received on 10/10/2017 will go to Treasure MP3 Players. Thank you for your financial support this year of \$221.33. Please pray God blesses your gift and World Mission even as we pray He will bless you abundantly!

Working together,

Greg Kelly
CEO



Kris Dotinga
Development Director



Mission: To deliver God's Word in audio format to oral learners who've never heard of Jesus.

August 31, 2017

Dear Pastor Jones,

Thank you for participating in the Art of Neighboring's welcome back to school event for the Lancaster City Schools' staff. The donuts, drinks and appreciative volunteers were a blessing to our staff. Your participation in this event helped to get us off to a great school year!

Thank you again for your support of the Art of Neighboring and Lancaster City Schools' employees.

Sincerely,
Steve Wigton



How nice it was to come in for a day-long meeting and have donuts and extra school supplies waiting for us. Thank you so much for your part in arranging that for us teachers. Your kindness is very appreciated!

Lancaster HS teachers



Happy Anniversary



ANNIVERSARIES – NOVEMBER

Lloyd and Diann Helber	November 10
Jeff & Sharon Byerly	November 12
Michael and Sue Stalder	November 25
Mark and Mary Johnson	November 27

ANNIVERSARIES – DECEMBER

Greg and Jackie Howard	December 8
Larry and Gaybra Raymond	December 9
Rev. Robert and Margaret Hayden	December 16

Happy Birthdays!

BIRTHDAYS - NOVEMBER

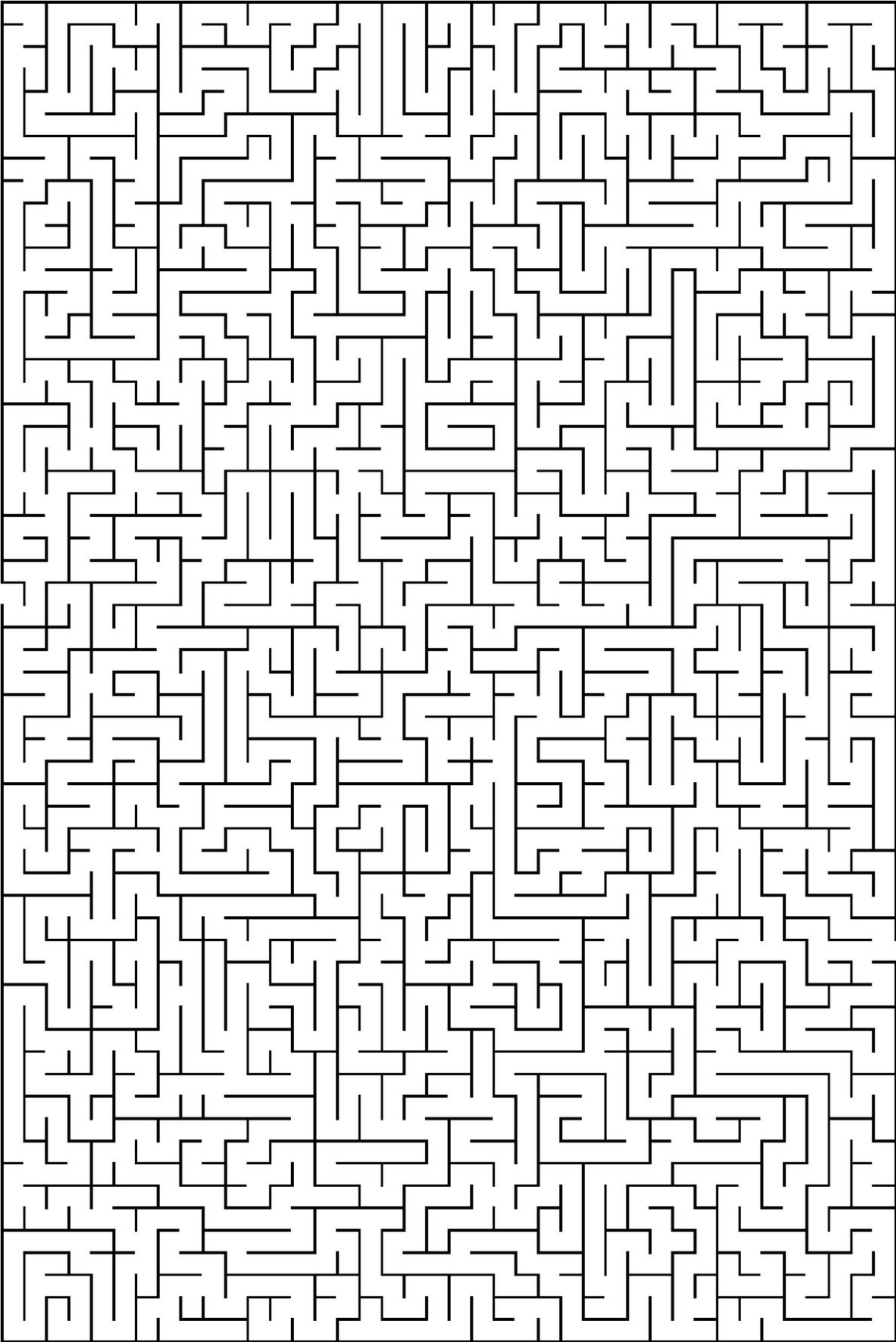
Anthony Wallis	November 8
Barbara Barker	November 9
Sarah Witham	November 9
Billie Stebelton	November 11
Cindy Smith	November 12
Edna Andrews	November 16
David Kemmerling	November 16
Keith Kern	November 16
Kevin Groves	November 17
Larry Wilson	November 17
Hazel Marcus	November 18
Jake Perry	November 18
Ken Disbennett	November 19
Marilyn Spangler	November 24
Nancy Strosnider	November 24
Pearl Waugh	November 25
Robert Green	November 26
Paula Boetcher	November 29
Jean Phillips	November 30



BIRTHDAYS - DECEMBER

Charles (Gene) Boetcher	December 3
Kim Gurile	December 5
Joan Irwin	December 11
Bailey Rader	December 11
Paul Dilliard	December 12
Kathryn (K.J.) Goff	December 13
Diann Helber	December 13
Patti Crist	December 14
Stuart Cupps II	December 15
Rev. Robert Hayden	December 16
Greg Howard	December 17
Carl Mathias	December 18
Betty Agosta	December 22
Rita Cattran	December 22
Pete Reed	December 23
Zene Brunney	December 24
Edward Chaffin	December 25
Harold June	December 25
Vivian Shumaker	December 27
Rita Sater	December 29
Shannon Coble	December 30

Here's something to try in your spare time!



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