

# ECHOES

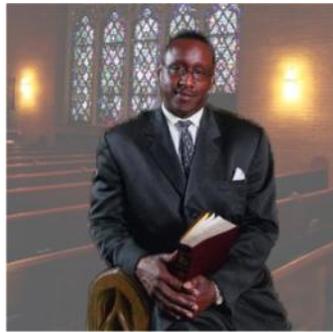
December, 2019

**We Invite  
We Welcome  
We Nurture  
We Serve**



## From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace



### Share the Good News

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people.'" Luke 2:10*

Each year at Christmas time I am reminded of those Christmases of my past as a child when I couldn't wait to get to sleep in order for Santa to arrive. I enjoyed all of the accouterments of the Christmas experience such as decorations, the holiday songs, visits from friends and relatives, Christmas dinners, and most importantly the toys and gifts.

Sadly most of those relatives who were present then have gone on to their heavenly reward, and those days and precious moments are now only memories. However, I will treasure those times forever.

While Christmas is a time of great joy for many, it can also be a time of sadness for others depending on their circumstances. For some, Christmas may only be a reminder of what they don't have, such as lack of funds, no family, or the loss of family members. It may bring about feelings of fear or despair.

In the Luke passage above the angels arrived suddenly and unexpectedly to give a message to shepherds that the messiah was born. Although they were fearful, God's message was one of good news, joy, and hope.

Christ's entrance into the world is about more than a holiday and a time of gift giving. Rather it's about sharing an everlasting relationship with a loving God who will never abandon us. Why not visit someone you know who may be alone or not near family during the Christmas season and brighten their day by your presence. As an ambassador for Christ, take the message of God's good news.

Have a blessed Christmas season.

## Sidelights

### COVENANT'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision Statement: **Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond.**

Our Mission Statement: **We Invite, We Welcome, We Nurture, We Serve.**

Pastor Quentin's theme for 2019 is **Preparing for Increase.**

Please be in prayer for Covenant Church.

### FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Nurture Team and United Methodist Women are sponsoring our Annual Family Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 6, at 6pm. Our guest entertainment will be Chris Ivey, nationally acclaimed Christian Juggler. There will be food, caroling, and gifts for the children. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

### CHRISTMAS COOKIE SUNDAY

It's almost time! Time to start thinking about baking Christmas Cookies. It is a custom at Covenant for our wonderful bakers to share their cookies on Christmas Cantata Sunday. This special time of holiday hospitality will be held on Sunday morning, December 22. Please bring your cookie donations to the Gathering Area kitchen early on December 22 or during the week before. If you bring them in early during the week, please be sure to mark them for this occasion. Thank you.

## Sidelights

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Cries of "Merry Christmas!" and caroling contrast with the feelings of many people at this time of year. For those suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones, dealing with recent separation or divorce, struggling to find employment, or facing depression or family crisis, this can be a very isolated and dreary time. Every greeting and every song reminds the grief-stricken of how unhappy life is at that moment. To fill this void we are offering a Blue Christmas Service. It will be held in our Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8. Light refreshments to follow the service. Please share this invitation freely with anyone for whom this might meet be helpful.

### COMMUNITY AID

Our Community Closet has a relationship with Community Aid on Columbia Ave. Any clothing that we cannot use is sent to Community Aid for their store. Additionally, they give us Community Aid gift cards to help supplement the giving from the congregation. Thank God for partnerships.

### HAVE YOU MOVED?

### HAVE YOU GOTTEN RID OF YOUR LANDLINE AND ONLY USE YOUR CELL PHONE?

### HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Please contact the church office so we can update your e-mail, your cell phone number and/or your address. Stay "in the loop" at Covenant. Call 717-393-1561 Mon-Fri 8-1 or send an e-mail, [office@covenant-umc.com](mailto:office@covenant-umc.com).

## We Worship Together

**Sunday Services**      **9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Worship**  
**10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship**

### December 1, 2019—1st Sunday in Advent

#### Holy Communion

Preaching at both services is Pastor Carrigan. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30.

### December 8, 2019—2nd Sunday in Advent

Pastor Wallace will preach. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30. The Bell Choir will provide special music at the 10:30 service.

### December 15, 2019—3rd Sunday in Advent

Pastor Wallace will preach during both services. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30.

### December 22, 2019—4th Sunday in Advent

Preaching at the 9 a.m. service will be Pastor Wallace. The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata *Everlasting Light* at 10:30. The bell choir will also play at the 10:30 service.

### December 24, 2019—Christmas Eve

There will be two Christmas Eve services, the first at 7 p.m. and the second at 10 p.m. Both will include candle lighting. The Praise Team will sing at the 7 p.m. service. The Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir will participate in the 10 p.m. service. Pastor Wallace will have a moving message at both services.

### December 29, 2019—1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Preaching at both services is Pastor Wallace. Music will be presented by Praise Team at 9 a.m., and there will be special music at the 10:30 service.

## December Volunteers

### December 1

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Ruth Neuman & Brenda Roth; 10:00 - Lori Brown & Tina Butler  
Anchorite: Glenn Miller

### December 8

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Cindy & Bob Hean;  
10:00 - Youth  
Anchorite: Janet Seyfert

### December 15

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mary Lou Hill;  
10:00 - Sandy & Rev. Guy Carrigan  
Anchorite: Janice McElroy

### December 22

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mee Schuler;  
10:00 - Janice & Harold Ulmer  
Anchorite: Carol Brower

### December 29

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - TBD  
10:00 - Bobbie Schwan & Cathy Boyd  
Anchorite: Cindy Hean

### December Ushers

Don Dale, Head Usher  
Dave Beznoska, Bill Grau, Jr.,  
Ron Kimmich

### January Ushers

Glenn Miller, Head Usher  
Tina Butler, John Longenecker,  
Maryanne Miller, Meryl Groff

## Here's To Good Health!

As I sit here to write the Echoes article for December, 2019, it is less than a week until Thanksgiving Day. But can you believe that I have already received a Christmas card? It seems each year the Christmas season gets pushed upon us earlier and earlier.

We look forward to the holidays and being able to spend time with family and friends. We have so much to do! How will we get it all done?

A good way to start this month would be to "Remember the Reason for the Season." "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." It is Jesus' birthday. Keep that in mind as you get busy with the doings of the season.

Here are some tips to help reduce the stress of the season.

- Money can be the biggest stress during the holiday season. Make a budget and stick to it.
- Homemade gifts can be very meaningful and personal.

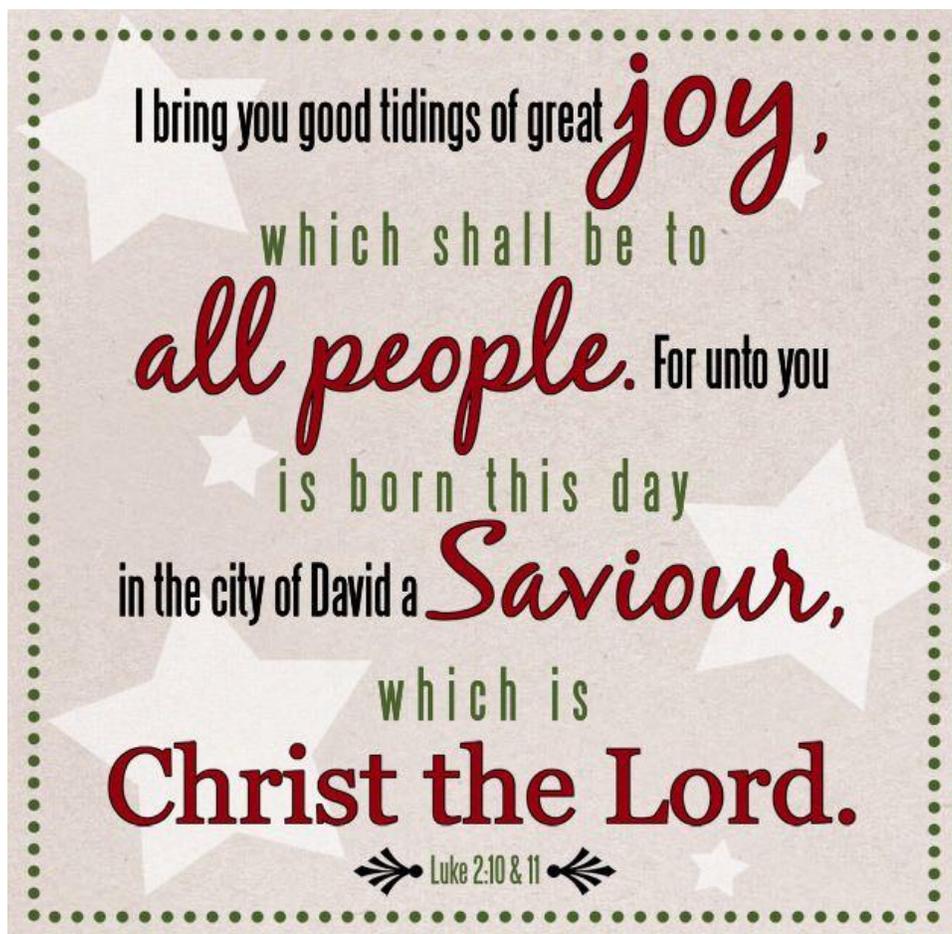
- Maybe a phone call or writing a note would be a great gift for someone.
- You don't have to do it all. Share some of your tasks like baking cookies. It gets the job done and spending time with family members or friends can make it a special memory of the holiday.
- It is okay to say no. Decide what is most important to you and do those things.
- Be realistic about what you can do. Focus on what is most important to you.

Take time to relax and enjoy the season that celebrates the birth announcement by the angels long ago "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

Merry Christmas!

Cindy Smith

Wellness Coach



## Sidelights

### GIFTS GIVEN

In honor of Covenant's 135th anniversary, a gift to the church in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Nissly** from Daniel Talbot and family; a gift to the church from Joyce McClure; a gift to the church from an anonymous donor.

In memory of the **Smith and Rife Families**, a gift from Cynthia Smith.

In memory of **Randy Dippary**, a gift from Sandy Leonard.

In honor of **Joan Miller**, a gift from Ann and Joe Wolfe.

In honor of **Jeannie Schall**, a gift from her UMW prayer partner.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Get ready to "deck the sanctuary" with Christmas poinsettias. You can purchase plants either in honor or memory of a loved one. They will be displayed in the sanctuary from December 22nd through Christmas Eve, December 24th. There are a limited number of plants, so place your order promptly. The cost is \$6.00 per plant. Deadline for orders is Tuesday, December 17. Place orders with our volunteer secretary Sunday mornings or through the church office at [office@covenant-umc.com](mailto:office@covenant-umc.com).

### CHRISTMAS PARTY COVERED DISH

Family of Covenant, let's get together on Sunday, December 15, after the 10:30 service for a Christmas covered dish. After eating a great meal, stick around for a while to fellowship and maybe play some games. Please let us know you are coming by filling out the sheet in the Gathering Area.

## Sidelights

### GROCERY CARDS

Support our Outreach Team and Outreach Ministries by purchasing a grocery card at the table in the lobby. Cards can be purchased on the first and third Sunday of each month. By using the card, a percentage of your purchase price returns to the church.

**Please note:** In the past we used to have John Herr's grocery cards: however, they did not sell as well as Giant and Stauffers, and we discontinued selling them. If you have an interest in John Herr's grocery cards, please let the church office know at [chris@covenant-umc.com](mailto:chris@covenant-umc.com) or talk to Dick Galen. If there is enough interest we may add them again.

### NOTE OF THANKS

**Bobbie Schwan** would like to thank her Covenant family for all of their kind prayers and cards in her time of sorrow.

### CALLING ALL WOMEN

You're invited to join in a unique housing ministry opportunity for women, and make a difference in our community. Learn and work together in an all-female volunteer work crew. IMPACT Missions staff will provide the training and the tools. Our Manifest Urban Alliance will supply snacks and coffee. Just bring work gloves and wear sturdy shoes (work boots if you have them). Come to "on the job training" on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (This is a change from the original day, scheduled for Nov 30.) The location is still to be determined. Contact Correen Russo by email at [correen.lumina@gmail.com](mailto:correen.lumina@gmail.com) for additional information.

## Church Budget Update

The following figures show the church's income and expenses through the month of October.

**Income:** \$473,629.25 which is 96% of the budget of \$495,936.00

**Expenses:** \$453,767.85 which is 91% of the budget of \$495,936.00

## Chancel Choir to Present Cantata

On Sunday, December 22, the Chancel Choir will present the cantata "Everlasting Light" during the 10:30 a.m. service. From the collaborative efforts of Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse, and Larry Shackley, "Everlasting Light" showcases the profound significance of the light of Christ come to earth.

Invite family and friends to share in this inspiring musical experience as we anticipate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

**COVENANT CHURCH is Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond AND Preparing for Increase in 2019.**

## Covenant Members in Business

### Aunt Sandy's Attic

Sandy Leonard  
Antiques, Collectibles, Books, Art, etc.  
545 W. Market Street, Marietta, PA 17547  
717-426-5091

### Conestoga Innovations Promotional Products

(for all your advertising needs)  
Wanda Snyder, 1.800.759.8885 or  
[sales@conestoga-innovations.com](mailto:sales@conestoga-innovations.com)

### CTC Lollipop Company

414 N. Pine Street, 717.509.5916  
Tues.-Fri. 11am-7pm; Sat. 9am-2pm

### Dale Building Designs

Donald A. Dale, 872.4263  
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc., 17603  
[www.DonDaleDesigns.com](http://www.DonDaleDesigns.com)

### Groffs Family Funeral

& Cremation Services, Inc.  
Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300  
528 W. Orange St.

### Interiors by Kristen

Kristen Stemmer, 875.4014  
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc. 17603

### JM Services

Jeff and Brad McGary  
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,  
Handyman, and Junk Removal  
717.330.9616 or [jcmcgary@comcast.net](mailto:jcmcgary@comcast.net)

### Kresge Computer Consultation

Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or  
[rkresge123@comcast.net](mailto:rkresge123@comcast.net)

### Miller Optical

Glenn & Maryanne Miller, 393.2020  
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams  
Lancaster & Willow Street

### Richard B. MacDonald

Attorney at Law  
312 W. Orange St., Lancaster  
717.394.1508

### Willard Hypnosis Center

Roger J. Willard  
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA 17516  
717.872.7561 or [willardhypnosis.com](http://willardhypnosis.com)

# December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Holy Communion 9a Adult & Children's Sund 9a Contemporary Worship 10:30a Traditional Worship	7p N/A	6p Opera Lancaster Board 11a Staff Meeting	10:15a Prayer Group 11a Staff Meeting 5:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p Chancel Choir Reh 7p Praise Team Rehearsal		6a Conference Call Prayer G 5:30p First Friday Family Fu 6p Family Christmas Party	8:30a Care and Share Break
8 9a Adult & Children's Sund 9a Contemporary Worship 10:30a Traditional Worship 12p New Member Social 2p Blue Christmas Service 6p Small Group	7p N/A	7p Visioning Team	Poinsettia delivery 10:15a Prayer Group 11a Staff Meeting 4:30p Community Meal 7p Chancel Choir Reh 7p Praise Team Rehearsal	4:30p Shalom Partnership	6a Conference Call Prayer G	9a Nurture Team Christmas
15 9a Adult & Children's Sund 9a Contemporary Worship 10:30a Traditional Worship 12p Christmas Pot Luck	6:30p Child Care Board Mee 7p N/A	7p Trustee Board	10:15a Prayer Group 11a Staff Meeting 5:30p Bell Choir rehearsal 7p Chancel Choir Reh 7p Praise Team Rehearsal		6a Conference Call Prayer G	9a IMPACT! Missions Work
22 9a Adult & Children's Sund 10:30a One Christmas Servi 11a Bell Choir Plays	7p N/A	7p Christmas Eve Service 10p Bell Choir Plays 10p Christmas Eve Service	10:15a Prayer Group 11a Staff Meeting 7p Chancel Choir Reh 7p Praise Team Rehearsal		6a Conference Call Prayer G	7:30a Men's Fellowship Bre
29 9a Adult & Children's Sund 9a Contemporary Worship 10:30a Traditional Worship	7p N/A		10:15a Prayer Group 11a Staff Meeting 5:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p Chancel Choir Reh 7p Praise Team Rehearsal			
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# COVENANT

## United Methodist Church

110 North Mulberry Street

Lancaster, PA 17603-3507

Office Telephone: 717.393.1561

Senior Pastor's Phone: 610-334-3440

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

## Church Staff

The Reverend Quentin E. Wallace, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

Minister Santa Jenkins, Youth Director

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

The Reverend Theodore C. Mefferd, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

Mrs. Chris Kimmich, Administrative Assistant

## Email

Senior Pastor...[pastorquentin@covenant-umc.com](mailto:pastorquentin@covenant-umc.com)

Admin. Asst....[chris@covenant-umc.com](mailto:chris@covenant-umc.com)

Echoes Editor...[jcmcgary@comcast.net](mailto:jcmcgary@comcast.net)

Web Page...<http://www.covenant-umc.com>

Covenant United Methodist Church  
110 N. Mulberry St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603-3507  
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