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December 2, 2020

Dear WCN Family,

The Humphreys County United Way Radio Auction is a beautiful expression of many organizations and people working together to make good things happen where we live. United Way funding supports local causes like Helping Hands, the Humane Society, our Homeless Coalition, the James Center, disaster relief, Meals on Wheels, Small Steps Preschool, the senior center, Women Are Safe, and several more. The goal for the auction was \$50,000. We raised \$60,000! Thanks to those who represented WCN, partnering with others to serve our community: Pastor Janice Rudolph, Jana Brazzle, Lisa Oakley, Kathie McClanahan, and Carla Vinkler. In addition, many folks from WCN baked and/or donated items. And many others were active in the bidding and buying. You are making a difference.

Thanks to Gary and Marilyn Evans for hosting Thanksgiving dinner in WCN's D-Zone. Nine people attended the meal on Thanksgiving Day. Three families had meals delivered to homes. The number of participants was not large. But for these nearly twenty people, it mattered.

WCN's Hanging of the Greens service was our "ready, set, go" moment for a new Christian Calendar year. The sanctuary was comfortably full. Many people doubled and tripled up on responsibilities, making our space ready for Advent. This service was a true test for a videographer's skill. Jason Batchelder rose to the challenge, switching cameras and angles in order to catch all of the action. I was also impressed with those who presented homilies (short sermons). All 7 of those who shared homilies are ladies. Two of the seven are children. Two are teenagers. One is a college student. All seven were amazing, immersing us in the meaning of advent symbols. Thanks to Pastor Mary Forester, Pastor Janice Rudolph, Kelsey Elliott, Haley Irons, Addie Irons, Ainsley Forester, and Macy Brown. These ladies can preach!

If you drew a name to purchase Christmas gifts for a Group Home resident, please bring your items to the church campus no later than this Sunday morning. Gifts will be delivered, along with a video, in lieu of our usual (or should I say *unusual*) Christmas party. One year from now, we will all be more than ready to gather back with our friends.

If you have not yet been baptized and are interested, join our pastors in the D-Zone on Sunday, December 13th at 10:00am between our services. We will talk about the meaning and practice of baptism. We will answer questions. We ask that minors be accompanied by parents.

The Festival of Carols will be Sunday, December 13th at 6pm. We will read the stories behind some of our beloved carols, then we will sing them. Out of an abundance of caution, this service will not be open to the public. Readers, the praise team, and a choir will be present. We invite you to join us online.

This year's *Yuletide Wingding* will have a different flavor. Instead of gathering for games and caroling in nursing homes, we will decorate the outside of residents' windows at Humphreys County Nursing Home. On Wednesday, December 16th, meet at the D-Zone at 6:30pm. We have 75 windows. All ages are welcome to participate.

December 21st brings the longest stretch of darkness all year. That makes it fitting for our *Blue Christmas* service. If you feel the holiday blues, this service is for you. In-person and virtual. Because of the pandemic and because of our expanded virtual presence, we have the opportunity to engage many hurting people in Humphreys County and beyond. Postcard invitations are at the church campus. Digital invitations are circulating online. Help us get the word out. It may be the most important ministry we offer all year.

During this Advent season, we have scripture reading guides and activity guides for families that build on the theme. Hard copies are available at the church campus. Digital copies are on our website and app.

When I was younger, there was such a thing as Sunday night worship. It was a little less formal than Sunday mornings (sometimes the preacher would not wear a tie on Sunday night!). Sunday nights were my primary chances to preach as a teen/young adult. I was not "Sunday morning ready." I needed those opportunities. Over the course of time, few churches kept Sunday night worship. At WCN, we do not have Sunday night worship. We found an alternative that works well for us. My main regret about not having Sunday night worship is that we have no adequate training arena for future preachers. At WCN, we currently have at least 8 people who are called and are learning to preach. I do not have enough Sunday morning space for all of them on the calendar. Some of them, like I was, are not yet "Sunday morning ready." I have bemoaned this reality for a few years. This fall, something occurred to me. I believe the Spirit spoke. *Why not have a season of Sunday night services in which future preachers have the chance to preach?* Therefore, beginning Sunday, January 17th, we will begin *The Season of Emerging Preachers* on Sunday nights. Simple services. A song or two. Prayer. And a sermon from an emerging preacher. The season will last about six weeks. This is our chance to support and affirm their call. *The Season of Emerging Preachers* is one more reason to look forward to 2021!

Speaking of those called to ministry, if you believe God may be calling you, WCN hosts a gathering every year called *Kaleo*. We meet with people of all ages and their spouses/families. We talk about what it means to be called, educational paths, life in ministry, etc. If this applies to you, *Kaleo* happens on December 22nd at 5:30pm. Contact Pastor Mary to RSVP.

2020 is eleven twelfths done. One month to go—which means one month left to give. Some of us may need to catch up on giving. If you have not been attending in person, offerings can be "out of sight; out of mind." Let's finish the year with strong giving. You may bring tithes and offerings to the church campus. You may give at wcntn.com. Or mail giving to PO Box 603, Waverly TN 37185. Thank you for investing in God's work through WCN.

Stay warm. Be well. Remain thankful. Know that you are loved.

-Pastor Daron

UPCOMING...

- Dec 13: Baptism class, 10am
- Dec 13: Festival of Carols, 6pm (virtual)
- Dec 16: Yuletide Wingding (decorating HCNH windows), 6:30pm
- Dec 21: Blue Christmas service 6:30pm
- Dec 22: Kaleo Lunch, 5:30pm
- Dec 23-25: Church office closed
- Jan 6: New Year's Family Communion
- Jan 17: Season of Emerging Preachers begins, 6pm
- Feb 7-10: WCN elections

If you have a prayer need please email prayer@wcntn.com

Worship:

8:45 & 11am

619 E. Main St.
(931) 296-4184

wcntn.com



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