

# ECHOES

COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November, 2017

Issue 62, Number 10

## Never Grow Weary of Doing Good



### Pastor Quentin Wallace

Recently, I read a story by Theodore Wedel that I will share with you below. It is a story of a lifesaving station that provides an illustration of the importance of the church in the world. Here is the story....

*On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station and give their time and money and effort to support its work. New boats were brought and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew. But then things happened...some of the members felt the station wasn't nice enough and poorly equipped. So they sought to make it nice. They renovated it...made it a great gathering place. It turned into a club. Over time members began to make decisions to no longer go out to rescue shipwreck victims themselves, and they hired lifeboat crews to do this needed work instead.*

*One day a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, and*

*half drowned people. They were dirty and sick, and some of them had black skin and some had yellow skin. The beautiful club was in chaos, so the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside of the club where victims of the shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.*

*At the next meeting there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to their normal social life of the club.*

*Some members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they there were still called a "lifesaving station." But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast. This they did.*

*As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It also evolved into a club, and another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit the sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along the shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.*

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

In the sixth chapter of Galatians, Paul, encourages the believers by suggesting they never forget their mission as followers of Christ, and specifically to not become disillusioned of doing good. I imagine the Christians at Galatia were feeling as if they were not receiving the reward they should have for their good works from the people they were serving. Paul goes on to say that the believer's reward is in heaven.

In the Life saving station story above I believe Theodore Wedel was sending a message to the church that each congregation should keep in mind. I have gleaned three observations from his story.

1. Avoid focusing the majority of energy on maintaining the building and satisfying club members rather than pursuing the Christian mission.
2. Avoid shifting our responsibility of doing the ministry to someone else.
3. Avoid the allure of only doing ministry with those whom we are most comfortable.

Let us not become weary in doing good,

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# Short & Sweet

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## NOTES OF THANKS

**Carol Stauffer** thanks Pastor Quentin and Pastor Sally for their many caring visits to her mother, Pat Shank.

## GIFTS GIVEN...

In memory of **Ivadene Nagley** from Joan N. Miller (Building Fund), Mary Ann Nagley (Memorial Fund), Thomas and Stephen Gallagher (Memorial Fund), and Lori and Stephen Gallagher (Memorial Fund).

In memory of **Amy Campbell** from the Lawrence County Fire Fighters and Rapid Responders, Inc. (Music Fund).

## CARE PACKAGES

We will once again collect snack items for college students and the military. Deadline for items is Sunday, November 26. Please consider donating crackers, wrapped candy, hot chocolate mix, or cookies. Also please provide addresses to the church office of anyone that should receive a care package. Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Christmas poinsettias will be available for purchase beginning Sunday, November 26. The plants will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 17th, through Christmas Eve, December 24th. There are a limited number of plants, so place your order early. The cost is \$6.00 per plant. You may call the church office at 717-393-1561 or place your order with the volunteer secretary on Sunday morning. Thank you in advance for helping to beautify the Sanctuary at this joyous time of year.

## QUARTERLY FINANCIAL GIVING STATEMENTS

The third quarter financial giving statements were not sent out during the month of October. Instead, you will receive a full year giving statement for 2017, which will be sent to your home, in January 2018. For anyone that would like a third quarter giving statement please call the church office and one will be mailed to you. If you have any questions please contact the church office.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

## UMW NEWS

United Methodist Women is a supportive community who provides ministries for women, children and youth. We provide education, medical assistance, housing, counseling and training. Join with us in the opportunity to provide "abundant life" that Jesus came to give to all God's children. Make your contributions labeled Covenant United Methodist Women. Place them in the offering plate or give them to Linda Henning directly. We can make a difference!

Put these upcoming events on your calendar and please join us.

**Sunday, 11/19/17, at 9 and 10:20:** Our worship services will be led by the women of Covenant. All members are encouraged to Count Your Blessings and give generously to our UMW World Thank Offering. Our speaker for both services will be Minister Brenda. With hearts of thanksgiving, bring your coins, currency and checks to further the mission of God's work.

**Saturday, 1/13/18 at 9 am:** Annual Winter Breakfast . Join us for breakfast, fellowship and prayer partner exchange. Our theme will be Homelessness in Lancaster with local speakers, and we will work together to complete a hands-on-project.

**Friday – Sunday, 4/6/18-4/8/18:** Women's Retreat at Ocean City, NJ. Sign-up in early March. Theme and leaders to be announced in February.

**Saturday, 6/9/18:** Summer Tea. Pull out those hats as we fellowship with headwear from funny to beautiful , and everything in between. Our theme will be Domestic Abuse with a local speaker. We will collect a Love Offering to be used for women and children locally and around the world. Time and details to be announced.

# We Worship Together

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## November 5—22nd Sunday After Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Holy Communion

**Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20):** Pastor Don Zechman will preach the message at both the 9:00 a.m. & 10:20 a.m. services. We will recognize members that have passed away since last year's All Saints observance. The Chancel Choir will sing at the 10:20 a.m. service, and Holy Communion will be observed.

## November 12, 2017—23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

Veterans Recognition

**Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20):** Pastor Wallace will preach during both services. The Chancel Choir provides music during the 10:20 service.

## November 19, 2017—24th Sunday After Pentecost

UMW Thank Offering

Harvest Home

**Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20):** On this annual United Methodist Women Thank Offering Sunday, Minister Brenda Wallace will preach at the 9 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. services. The Chancel Choir will present an anthem at the 10:20 service. There will be an All-Church Conference following the 10:20 service today to vote on the leadership team nominees.

## November 26, 2017—Last Sunday After Pentecost

**Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20):** Pastor Wallace will present the message during both services. Music at 10:20 will be provided by the Chancel Choir and the Kingdom Kids.

## December —1st Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

**Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20):** Pastor Wallace will preach during both services. Music at 10:20 will be provided by the Chancel Choir.

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We as the people of God in the church must never lose sight of our mission as a lifesaving station whose duty is to daily watch the sea of life for ways to assist those who encounter life's shipwrecks.

For at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Sometimes the work of ministry is not always exciting and at times may feel tedious, messy, and inconvenient. However, if we remain steadfast in our task of sharing the gospel through words and deeds, there is a harvest to gain. Sharing the love of Christ to the community around us, and the world is our lifesaving mission.

## "Blue Christmas"

The holiday season is hard for some of us, but we as a church community want to remind you that you are not alone. Part of the reason for Jesus' coming was to bring hope and comfort.

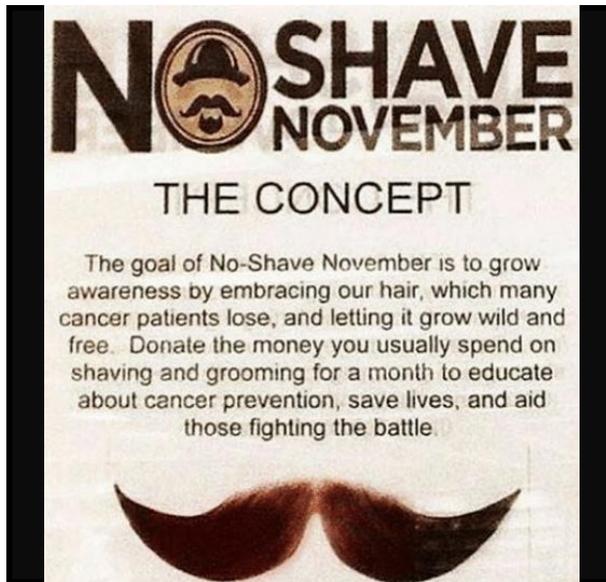
On Sunday afternoon, December 17, at 4:00 pm, Pastor Don will be conducting a unique Christmas season experience. "Blue Christmas" is a Service of Remembrance and Hope, for those who are mourning or struggling during this season while those around them are celebrating. The service will include scripture, prayer, candlelight, quiet meditation, and the sacrament of communion. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this kind of Christmas experience, you are invited to come.



# Here's to Good Health



## November Health Issues



It's November and you just might see some men who usually don't have any facial hair growing a beard or a mustache. What's that all about?

Some men grow facial hair for warmth because of hunting season or the onset of colder weather. Or they might just be taking part in "No Shave November."

What is "No Shave November?" For 30 days men are encouraged to grow a beard or mustache to help raise awareness of prostate and testicular cancer or other health issues that impact men, including depression and physical inactivity. "No Shave November" focuses its efforts on benefiting cancer research. Prostate and testicular cancers are the two most common cancers among men.

Men of all ages should see a health care provider at least once a year. Have the testing done that they suggest. Be open with them about how you are feeling emotionally, and get some sort of exercise.

You often hear that women need to take time for themselves, but, men, you need to do that too. You need to be healthy so you can do your best in caring for your family and work. Eat healthy, drink 6-8 glasses of water a day, get enough sleep, exercise, and see your health care provider.

Happy Hairy November!

Cindy Smith,  
Wellness Coach

## Women's Fellowship Saturday

### SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Fellowship Saturday will be held on December 9th at 10 a.m. All teenage girls and women of Covenant are invited to an informal get-together in the Gathering Area. A small group of women met in September to find ways to strengthen relationships and build new connections between the women at Covenant.

When do we get a chance to get to know each other better? Between worship, Sunday School and choir, our Sunday mornings are often too busy to meet and greet new and "old" friends. Join us for a relaxed gathering and light refreshments. This is your SAVE THE DATE notice: you will each receive a personal invitation, so please plan to join us. If you have any questions, please see Minister Brenda or Chris Kimmich.



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The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

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