



**The Connection
Orlean United Methodist
Church**

Mission Statement: Love God. . .

Love Others. . .

Reach Out to the Community and the World



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December 2019

Message from Pastor Jim –

As I sat down this afternoon and began to write this message for inclusion in our December Newsletter (yes, I am late again!), it is a rainy and damp and dreary, even melancholy day, and I was having difficulty focusing on the task at hand. My mind was wandering here and there and I was wondering what to say and how whatever that might be, would it be relevant to our faith, to Advent, to the coming of Christmas and worth a reader's attention and time.

First, my imagination brought me to a place where I heard the unmistakable dragging and rustling of chains....no Jacob Marley!!!-----not today.....and then the tap on my shoulder told me to rush to a window and to throw open the shutters and a voice reminded me that not a creature was stirring (except me I guess) andwait....it is not the Night Before Christmas.....and so I also cast those thoughts aside.

As I pondered and thought even more and even harder, the Spirit led me to another path.....who are we, Orlean? Why do we come to our little church in the country on Sunday mornings? What draws us? Why?.....Why?.....Well, we come for a variety of reasons I am sure, but above all we come because we are faithful..... *We are Faithful People!! We Believe!!! We Come to Worship and Praise God!!!! We Come for Christian fellowship!!!!.....We Come Because We are Faithful!!!!*

And then I heard it....and then the hymn resounded in my mind and I heard it yet again and I knew what I wanted to share with you in this message....and here follows a little history about the awesome and powerful hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The hymn, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," was written by John Francis Wade, an 18th century Catholic layman involved in the music business in France. Copies of the hymn migrated to Portugal and then to England. First written in Latin — the original version begins with the words, Adeste Fideles — an Anglican clergyman, Frederick Oakeley, translated it into English. Today it is one of the most popular Advent/Christmas hymns, and is sung by Christians around the world.

One of the reasons for its popularity is the joyful character of its words and music. "O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant," it says — and the music has a joyful, triumphant lilt to go with the joyful, triumphant words.

The hymn calls us to come to Bethlehem to behold the baby Jesus. It calls us to come and adore him. It reminds us of the angel choir that accompanied Jesus' birth — and of the shepherds who gathered around his cradle. It reminds us that God calls us, too, to sing Christ's praises — and to give him glory in this Christmas season.

Christmas is a busy season, and we have a thousand things on our minds and a thousand things to do. But through it all, let us remember to come and adore the Christ who came into the world in this season to bring us light for our darkness — and joy — and life eternal.

And there you have it! Words and music and thoughts to ponder this Advent season. When you next prepare to sing this wonderful hymn during worship this year, pause and reflect and then sing out with joy and wonder and awe!

Merry Christmas everyone!!

And best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year

Blessings to all,

Pastor Jim

Remember! God loves you and so do I!

Church News

Food Pantry and PDF

- ❖ The PDF was able to help four people this past quarter
- ❖ Our church also collected 15 boxes for operation Christmas Child

Tip of the Halo to...

- ❖ Choir members who sang the National Anthem at Orlean Day
- ❖ Sharon for our holiday decorations!
- ❖ Kaitlyn B. for being confirmed November 10, 2019!
- ❖ All musicians/singers who help with special music in our church!

Important Dates

- ❖ **Tuesday December 24th- Christmas Eve Service. 7:00pm**
- ❖ **Sunday, December 29th- Worship but no Sunday School**
- ❖ **Sunday, January 5th 2020- Resume normal worship schedule & Sunday school schedule**

<i>Birthdays and Special Occasions</i>			
November		January	
Bobby T.	11/04	Ann T.	01/07
Steven H.	11/06	Gus C.	01/13
Mack B.	1/13	Tammy & Jeff S.	01/16
James F. L.	11/17	(anniversary)	
Elizabeth (Lizzy) P.	11/17	Caye N.	01/17
Ken P.	11/20	Heidi & Jim J.	01/19
Goldie H.	11/20	(anniversary)	
Harry R.	11/24	Randen J.	01/22
Hannah & Nick B.	11/24	Joan B.	01/31
(anniversary)			
Tarah H.	11/23		
Mary T.	11/25		
Nicholas B.	11/26		
December		February	
Jesse R.	12/03	Joan & Ken P. (anniv)	02/06
Larry P.	12/15	Sharon H.	02/10
Sharon S.	12/19	Erin M.	02/15
Sandra & Larry P..	12/19	Della S.	02/16
(anniversary)		Shaw M.	02/26
Lorraine & R.O. U.	12/20	Julie T.	02/28
Jim C.	12/27	Lisa C.	02/28
Sandy G.	12/27		

Note from Editor – If you have any information you would like included in our quarterly newsletter, or need to change your preference of receiving the newsletter, contact Haley McLean at hemclean626@gmail.com