



JANUARY,  
2018

### FROM THE PASTOR

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away; see, everything  
has become new!"  
-2 Corinthians 5:17*

Happy New Year! I hope that this letter finds you still reveling in the Joy of the Christmas season as we welcome 2018. I'm sure I am not alone in that in the closing days of 2017 I enjoy looking back at the year that was. I think it is human nature to look back, remember and see what has been accomplished, as well as the growth that has taken place in our and our loved ones lives. I just happened to be flipping through my camera roll the other day, listening to some Christmas music, when a song you may be familiar with came on; John Lennon's Happy X-Mas.

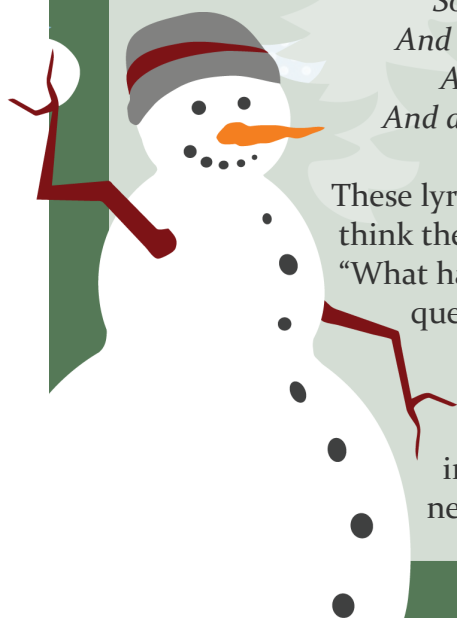
I've heard it plenty of times before (I can thank my Dad, who is a Beatles fan for that) but as I listened to it, the words struck me:

*"So this is Christmas  
And what have you done  
Another year over  
And a new one just begun"*

These lyrics stood out to me because I think they speak a very important truth: "What have I (you) done?" That is a question that each of us would have to ask and reflect on personally to really come to an answer. But I think it is an important one as we enter this new year. (Continued on Pg. 2)



Jennifer Stites 1/2  
Jason Stites 1/3  
Gwen Cruz 1/7  
Lyne Smith 1/9  
Brenda Knapp 1/16  
Dave Knapp 1/21  
Nicole Raker 1/29



### From the Pastor (Continued from Pg. 1)

It can be easy to become beholden to the expected order of things, doing what our calendar tells us to do, day in and day out. Before we know it, Easter is here, then the 4th of July, then it's Thanksgiving, then Christmas and, look at that, another New Year is coming. We find ourselves with another year over and a new one just begun wondering what have we done.

I do know that we just celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I cannot think of a better time to sit down and reflect and pray about the year to come. What does 2018 look like for us as individuals, as families and as a Church? How can we continue to move forward with the mission that Jesus gave us to "go and make disciples?" How can we intentionally live into God's call for our lives? Personally, I am excited to see what God has in store for us as a Church and I hope and pray that our efforts this year will bring honor and glory to God's Kingdom.

Later in Lennon's song, he continues:

*"A very Merry Christmas  
And a happy new year  
Let's hope it's a good one  
Without any fear"*

I wish those same sentiments for each and every one of us, let us go and make it a good one, unafraid of what the future holds.

God Bless,  
Pastor Devin



Thank you to everyone who helped make the season of Advent and Christmas special through your prayers, leadership and participation.

See page 4 for more photos.



*"An Emoji Christmas"  
-Performed by the Wednesday Night  
Youth Group*



# Prayer Ministry

JANUARY,  
2018

"First of all, then, I urge that  
supplications, prayers, intercessions,  
and thanksgivings be made for all  
people"

-1 Timothy 2:1

## Those needing continued healing and strength:

- Wendell & Alice Goetz
- Cathy Jenkins
- Jim & Millie Tipton
- Kate Noelanders
- Lyna Mae French
- David Dexter
- Mary Roback
- Gwen Cruz
- Lynnette Gafner
- Zayne Warren
- Our covenant missionaries,  
Mary Gladstone-Highland and  
Kristen Brown
- Our nation, state and local  
community and those in  
leadership positions

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

For the month of January, the Blissfield Area Food Pantry is asking for donations of Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes, canned fruit cocktail and cereal.

Donations may be left in the church entrance area. We will see to it that they get delivered to the food pantry.





It's Jesus' birthday!  
(Youth Sunday School class skit)



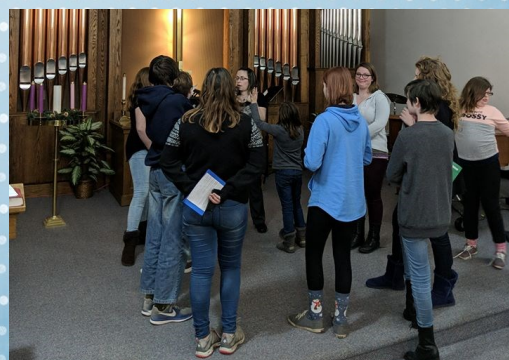
Little singers on Christmas Eve



Caroling!



Youth, practicing for  
their program



# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Dinner Together 6:00 pm Classes for all ages 6:30-7:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship at 10:30	8	9	10 Dinner Together 6:00 pm Classes for all ages 6:30-7:30 pm	11	12	13
14 Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship at 10:30	15	16	17 Dinner Together 6:00 pm Classes for all ages 6:30-7:30 pm	18	19	20
21 Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship at 10:30	22	23	24 Dinner Together 6:00 pm Classes for all ages 6:30-7:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:15 Worship at 10:30	29	30	31 Dinner Together 6:00 pm Classes for all ages 6:30-7:30 pm			





**Loving God. Loving others.  
Making disciples of Jesus Christ.**



Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
215 E. Jefferson St.  
Blissfield, MI 49228