MULTIPLY THE BLESSINGS

November is a wonderful time for reflecting on blessings. We are blessed in order to be a blessing to another. We will celebrate the many ways our congregation has been a blessing. On Thanksgiving Sunday new persons will be baptized, confirmed, and become members of our congregation. Their involvement inspires all of us to dream of how we will continue to be a blessing in the future.

Contact the office immediately if you are not baptized, confirmed, or a member and would like to participate with these others on November 24.

Watch your regular mail and email for more information about how you can participate in “multiplying the blessings.”

Orient your life to thankfulness for your blessings by setting aside time to be in worship with us on Sunday mornings.

MULTIPLY THE BLESSINGS SUNDAY THEMES

November 3 – All Saints Sunday – the blessing of mentors
November 10 – Celebration of blessings from serving
November 17 – Celebration of blessings that come from giving
November 24 – Thanksgiving Sunday – Invitation to live as a blessing

OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

It is difficult to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. Thanksgiving is very late in the month this year (November 28) and Advent will begin Sunday December 1. As a result, our Christmas Giving Tree will appear in the narthex on November 24th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. As always, the families served by the Edinboro Food Bank are very appreciative of our generosity so please jump into the giving spirit early and participate in this effort. After removing a name from the tree, follow the instructions and bring your gifts back NO LATER than December 8. Thank you.

All Saints Celebration of lights
On November 3rd at 4:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in this service to be held at the Lion’s Pavilion on Lakeside. Lanterns will be released over the lake in memory of the saint(s) who have brought light to your life. You may wish to bring a lawn chair to the service. See Pastor Lisa if you have any questions.

THE WOMEN OF CHRISTMAS by Liz Curtis Higgs

The Thursday Morning women’s book group will be doing an Advent Study this year for three weeks in December (5th, 12th, and 19th) from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

The study book is written by the same author who wrote the very popular study “Bad Girls of the Bible.” Books will need to be ordered November 10th in order to be distributed before Thanksgiving. The sign up sheet is in the narthex or you may contact the church office. If you are not available for the group, you may want to order the book for personal use. The cost of this hardback book is $10.00 (a $4.00 savings from the cover price.)

CHRISTMAS BEYOND THE BIBLE

As the “New Testament from Scratch” study comes to an end, they will be exploring the Christmas stories of Matthew and Luke. Each gospel tells it from a different perspective. Did you know the birth of Jesus is told in other gospels not included in our Bibles? Even if you’ve not been a part of the weekly group, join us for this evening Tuesday, November 26th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Final Shoe Drive results

Here are the final results from the shoe collection drive we participated in to benefit EUMA and AGCM as well as support micro enterprise in developing nations. Drum roll please.....the final total amount raised by this project is $11,659.20. That is an amazing number for our first time trying this out. The total poundage of shoes shipped is 29,148#. That’s almost 15 tons of shoes!! You all are amazing. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR LISA: in the church office in the mornings call 814-734-3182; at home call 814-734-1858; preferred verizon cell phone, call 412-841-8103, secondary cell phone with 814 area code, call 814-449-0587; and email at this time is lisa.grant@wpaumc.org.
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TED: mornings, call 814-734-3182 or email eumctedc@velocity.net.
CHURCH OFFICE: call 814-734-3182 or email eumcdee@velocity.net.
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: call 814-734-4097 or 397-8982 or email johnwsnow@verizon.net.
The deadline for the December Newsletter is November 22nd.
Wesbury Retirement Community presented the program
On Tuesday, October 22nd two speakers from the Wesbury Retirement Community in Meadville presented the program. Ms. Rhonda Thomas shared activities through the Sunset Auxilliary, a group with whom we can become involved. They include the monthly birthday bash. Precious Memento Boxes and volunteer opportunities at the annual Chicken BBQ. Ms. Melissa Porter updated us on plans for the patio homes to be built here in Edinboro. Those in attendance were pleased to hear the update on the Sunset Auxilliary, the Wesbury Foundation, and exciting developments coming to the Edinboro community.

November 12th meeting-ROTC
Plan to attend the November 12th meeting to meet Lt. Col. Marc P. Beckage, the new director of the Edinboro University R.O.T.C. program. Help us to welcome him, learn more about his family, and how we can become involved in assistance programs such as Wounded Warriors, Veterans returning to college, and Christmas 'Stockings' for those in active service.

December events
Be certain to ink in December 10th for a full day of Holiday cheer. The annual Stone Soup luncheon will begin at 11:00 a.m. in Grace Hall. After lunch, Cheer Bags will be packed for our church friends and family who are unable to get out and about as much as they would like. We will then travel to the Wesbury Retirement Community as sponsors of the December Birthday Bash. Residents celebrating a birthday in the month of December will be honored with cake, ice cream, and entertainment by Paul Dean and his musical group. It’s difficult to measure who has the best time, the residents or those putting on the party!

There will be no meetings in January, February, or March. Watch for announcements of fun, exciting, and meaningful programs for the 2014 year. Service projects will continue to be the main focus, along with informative, enjoyable speakers and programs, camaraderie, and fellowship.

UMW Spaghetti Dinner Thanks
Thank you to everyone who helped set up Grace Hall, prepare the food and bought tickets to eat at the Spaghetti dinner. The project was well attended by church and community members.
Students invited to participate

- **All Saints celebration of Lights.** Students are invited to accompany their parents for this meaningful event. See the item on page 2 for details of the event.
- Sunday School children will participate in the church’s recognition of veterans during both services on Sunday, November 10th.
- **Each week,** children from 3 years of age through high school are learning of God’s presence in their daily lives. Lesson’s from Sunday School offer them guidance in handling the joys and challenges of growing up. Do you know a child who would like to join us? We meet every Sunday Morning at 9:30 am.
- **High School. 9:30-10:30.** Faithlink gives youth the opportunity to discuss events in the world today in relation to scripture that reflects United Methodist positions on the topics. Reflection on how it applies to their lives follows.
- **Sunday Evenings 6:00-7:30.** The Senior High Group and 7th and 8th grade EPIC meet the first and third Sundays of each month. Activities and discussion will provide opportunities for fun, fellowship and faith formation.

**Heading south for the winter?**
Don’t forget to leave your winter contact info with the church office! **We need the following:** name(s), address, phone, e-mail & dates you’ll leave & return. Call or email (eumc@velocity.net) the church office with information.

**Support Our Diaper Fund**
Please be generous, as the cost of diapers is ever rising. As the new year approaches, consider an ongoing monthly donation to the diaper fund. If this idea appeals to you, or if you want more information, see or call Tim & Darla Elder. In the meantime, remember to place your loose change or a few folded bills in the baby bottle as you leave our Sunday worship services.

**How to make out a check for a donation**
If you are donating to a charity through our Church, please make out the check to Edinboro United Methodist Church and designate on the check (or on the envelope) where it is to go. We cannot process checks that aren’t made out to our Church. Occasionally, the Treasurer can send them to the appropriate charity but that is not always the case.
There is a lot of pedestrian traffic up and down High Street during Edinboro University's home-coming week-end – students heading downtown or back to their dorms. We saw the potential for the church to interact with these students, so we set up a tent on the front lawn of the church, offering cookies, hot dogs, bottled water and conversation as they pass by. At first they are suspicious and when offered a hot dog or cookie, they would ask: “How much?” And when we tell them the dogs and cookies are free, they politely said, “No thank you,” and continued on their way. I am reading their mind: “Church + Free = Sucker.” Or: “They probably hand you a hot dog wrapped in a tract that outlines Ten Steps Toward Salvation, or a copy of the church bulletin. Or once they get you under the tent they’re going to ask you if you are saved. Free? Right! Nothing is free. There’s a catch.”

The more daring and the more curious come over and get their hot dog and cookie. “Don’t you want a donation?” After we assure them that they are free, they want to know why. And we tell them that we appreciate them, that they may be away from home for the first time and maybe the dog and the cookie and some conversation will make them feel at home in a strange place. And they are puzzled. Once they let their guard down they tell us about home and family. They tell us about classes and grades. And when other students pass by they see their friends chowing down on hot dogs – some are on their second and third hot dog. So, they walk over and join the group – and they too are puzzled at the hospitality that comes with no strings attached, no agenda. “Are you sure we can’t pay you for the hot dogs?” And they walk away, still puzzled, but feeling good that they encountered something rare – Christianity without the hook, without the asterisk.

We are known now by many university students as “The Cookie Church.” I like it! It reminds me of what Jesus said in Matthew’s gospel: “For I was hungry, and you gave me a cookie.”

Our Christmas Giving Tree Begins Sunday, November 24th
See details on page 2