

THE CIRCUIT WRITER

Volume 36

Issue 12

“WHAT COLOR IS FORGIVEN?”

Advent is upon us, the beginning of a new liturgical year. The liturgical color for the season is either purple or blue, symbolizing royalty or purity. The sermons for Advent will also reflect the full spectrum of the season - Nov. 29 - “Hang on to the Greens,” Dec. 6 - “Go for the Gold,” Dec. 20 - “Tickled Pink,” and Dec. 24 - “Out of the Blue.”

Besides a season of celebrations, Advent is also a season of preparation, and reconciliation, a time to seek to be renewed. This often requires a change of color, so to speak, to signal a new season in our life, like the chameleon conforming to his new surroundings. For some, it may be more like a leopard seeking new spots.

To be changed, we all need God’s forgiveness, and perhaps may need to ask forgiveness of others, as well. We’ve heard, again and again, how freely we ought to forgive, “even as we have been forgiven.” But asking for forgiveness is less often discussed. I read an article recently that offered some steps to work through which might help us. The author noted “5 things that need to be said.” I have adapted it slightly to a 7 step process, assigning each one a key word beginning with “R”.

The first step is to *express Regret* - “I am sorry.” Sometimes that is enough, but you may need to add to it. “I am sorry for ____ (saying this, doing that, or forgetting, or ignoring, and so on). You might not know why another is angry with you and have to ask. You need to know, and to say, why you are sorry.

Secondly, you need to *take Responsibility* - “I was wrong,” conveys taking ownership of the problem. It is no good to shift blame or make excuses. Just admit it.

The third step I added, because it occurred to me that there may be a time to stop talking and listen. *Accept Rebuke*. If you have angered or hurt others, they may need to get it off their chests. It is not pleasant to hear how you have made another feel cheated, or unappreciated, but until they have opportunity to release their feelings, they probably will continue to resent your actions.

Number four, *offer Restitution* - “How can I make it right?” We might feel what’s done is done and there is no going back, but only when the hurt party sees the offender offer to try to make amends will they recognize an honest desire to restore the broken relationship. Maybe there is something you can do, to undo some of the damage.

The fifth step is to *promise Repentance* - “I will try not to do it again.” This assures that you are not just sorry you got caught, or sorry it bothered the other person, but are truly sorry that you did whatever it was and don’t want to be a repeat offender. Only after offering to change yourself for the better can you ask for a change in another. Having said these things, you may *make a Request* - “Will you forgive me?”

Following these steps will improve your chance of being forgiven, but they do not assure it. The article stated, wisely I think, that “if they won’t forgive you, maybe it is because they can’t.” We don’t know all the things any one else has gone through, or is currently experiencing. Coming to a place of forgiveness may take them awhile. The author suggests you pray for them and go on your way, knowing you have done all you can. Which is why I added one more “R”, *receive God’s Release*. Forgive yourself, even as God has forgiven you, and go on. Peace, tom

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. TOM GIBSON:

Jesus, The World, and John Wesley
Sundays ... 2:30 to 4:00 - January 10, 17, 24, 31
Register by: Jan. 1, 2016 - Mark your calendars!

MONTHLY & WEEKLY CHURCH SCHEDULING

Pastor Tom’s Scheduled Day off	Fridays
Rev. Connie’s Scheduled Day off	Thursdays
Sunday School	Sundays at 10:00am
Youth Group	Sundays at 10:00am
Staff Meeting	Mondays at 9:15am – 10:30am
Monterey Hilltop Chorale	Mondays at 6:30pm
Civitan Club	3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm
Standing Stone	4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
AGAPE Chapel	Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am
Girl Scouts #1581	First Wednesday of the month
Cub Scouts #15	Fridays at 6:00pm
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesdays at 6:30pm
	Friday, December 11 th at 6:00pm
	(After Dec. 11 th no rehearsal until January 6 th)
Cottage Ministry	Friday & Saturday, 9am - Noon

IN LOVING MEMORY OF STAN BALSLEY



The family of Stan Balsley will receive friends at Monterey United Methodist Church from 3:00pm until time of Service at 4:00pm on Wednesday, December 2nd.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests Memorial donations be given to AGAPE Preschool at Monterey United Methodist Church.

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist Marcy Milligan
 Ushers David & Judy Webster
 Acolytes *if interested please see Rev. Connie*

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Wedding Shower for Ken Crandall & Crystal Johnson
 Sunday, December 6th following Worship Service
Pancake Breakfast Sunday, December 13th at 9:30am
Christmas Music Program Sunday, December 13th
Monterey Community Dinner Distribution Day
 Saturday, December 19th
Wedding Day for Ken Crandall & Crystal Johnson
 Saturday, December 19th at 2:00pm at MUMC
Live Nativity during Worship Sunday, December 20th
Christmas Eve Service Thursday, December 24th

MONTEREY'S DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to update our records and to include your information in the newsletter, please send the church your birthdays and anniversaries. *(Please list the name(s) and date(s) of all in your family who are connected to the church. Thank you!)*

Ron Sontag	(12/3)
Chris Looper	(12/5)
Annie Looper	(12/6)
Theresa Looper	(12/12)
Judy Powell	(12/12)
Alfreda Ford	(12/12)
Joyce Steinmetz	(12/13)
Meretha Durham	(12/13)
Abby Baker	(12/14)
Rev. Dickie Hinton	(12/14)
Kathy Denton	(12/15)
Bob Eldridge	(12/16)
Richard Jackson	(12/19)
Patricia Hudgens	(12/20)
Megann Sheckler	(12/22)
Sandi Vanacore	(12/23)
Taylor Reese	(12/26)
Ed Bruce	(12/29)
Matthew Webb	(12/30)

MONTEREY'S DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

John & Marion Barwick	(12/1)
Richard & Linda Jensen	(12/21)
Ed & Judith Bruce	(12/29)
Rev. Dickie & Thelma Hinton	(12/30)

With special congratulations and best wishes for Ken Crandall and Crystal Johnson on their marriage on December 19th

YOUTH NEWS:



The Youth will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on December 13th starting at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Donations will be used for Warmth in Winter expenses and Youth activities.

Come enjoy a good breakfast and then join us for our Christmas Music program immediately following in the sanctuary..
 Frances

A RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS NOVEMBER 29TH, 2015

By Our Gifts

2015 Budget income needed/week	\$3,057.75
2015 Budget income received last week	\$1,721.88
2015 Budget income this week (under)	\$1,336.47
2015 Budget income year to date (under)	\$21,323.88

AGAPE PRESCHOOL FUN



AGAPE STUDENTS DO LIKE GREEN EGGS!

GIRL SCOUTS #1581



CREATIVE FUN WITH MRS. DEBBIE SONTAG

NOTE FOR THOUGHT

The winter prepares the earth for the spring, so do afflictions sanctified prepare the soul for glory.

—Richard Sibbes

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The people of The United Methodist Church

Church office: 931-839-2597
Church e-mail: church@montereyumc.com
www.montereyumc.com

Come worship with us at Monterey at 11am



*The mission of Monterey United Methodist Church is to make
Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Monterey United Methodist Church
124 North Holly Street
Monterey, TN 38574

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Monterey United Methodist Church



December 2015

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever. Isaiah 25:6-7 (NIV)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:00p-Girl Scouts #1581 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel	4 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	5 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
6 Ruth:3:1-5, 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service 12:15p-Wedding Shower for Ken & Crystal	7 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	8	9 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel	11 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	12 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
13 1 Samuel 1:4-20 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8 9:30a-Pancake Breakfast 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a- CHRISTMAS MUSIC WORSHIP SERVICE	14 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	15 6:30p-Civitans	16 9:30a-AGAPE Chapel	17	18 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	19 Monterey Community Dinner distribution day 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 2:00p-Wedding of Ken Crandall & Crystal Johnson
20 2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132: 1-12 Revelation 1:4-8 John 18:33-37 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	21 AGAPE WINTER BREAK 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	22 6:00p- Standing Stone	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
27 Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	28 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30p-Monterey Hilltop Chorale Rehearsal	29	30 6:00p-Girl Scouts #1581	31 NEW YEARS EVE		