

The Leighton News
Week of November 29, 2015

On The Calendar This Week:

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent:

Sunday's Message: - Advent Series "*A Fearful Christmas Story*" – "Never Give Up Hope" Luke 1:5-17

Sunday is Friendship Sunday. Everyone is asked to wear a name tag in an effort to get to know one another. Name tags will be available in the Lobby.

A special offering will be collected Sunday morning for the Leighton Church Good Samaritan Fund which offers financial assistance to those in our church and community who need help with utility bills, rent/mortgage payments, food, etc.

Stop by the Angel Tree and select an "angel" from the tree, purchasing the gift listed on the tag to make this Christmas special for a child with an incarcerated parent. Wrapped gifts are due Dec. 6th.

Children ages 4-7 will be dismissed during the worship service to go to Children's Church which is held down the Children's Wing.

Non-perishable food items, paper products and cleaning items are collected during the offering time by kids and the ushers. Your donations of these items stock our food pantry.

Coffee, tea, lemonade, and treats are available in the Lobby immediately after the worship service.

Sunday School classes for all ages are held each Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-Noon.

No G.L.U.E. Youth Group Sunday Night.

No Christmas Choir Practice Sunday Night.

Monday, November 30:

7:00 p.m. Adult Basketball (Family Center)

Tuesday, December 1:

5:00 p.m. Tyler Kroll Memorial Service

Wednesday, December 2:

5:30 p.m. Family Dinner (Family Center)
6:15 p.m. Pioneer Clubs for kids age 4 thru 6th Grade
6:15 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting with
District Superintendent
7:00 p.m. Annual Church Conference (Sanctuary)
No Prayer Meeting, Adult Bible Study, or Praise Team Practice

Thursday, December 3:

Kitchen & Family Center in Use

Friday, December 4:

Kitchen & Family Center in Use

Saturday, December 5:

Kitchen & Family Center in Use 9:30 am-7:00 p.m.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND SPECIAL OFFERING

This Sunday, November 29th, a special offering will be collected for the Leighton Church Good Samaritan Fund. This fund offers financial assistance to those in our church family and community in need of help with utility bills, rent/mortgage payments, medical bills, food, etc. So far this year, \$6,096.25 has been given from the Good Samaritan Fund. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the Good Samaritan Fund on Sunday.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

This Sunday, November 29th is Friendship Sunday. Everyone is asked to wear a name tag in an effort to get to know one another. Name tags will be available in the Lobby.

PURCHASE A POINSETTIA IN MEMORY AND/OR IN HONOR OF YOUR LOVED ONE(S)

Order a poinsettia in memory and/or in honor of your loved one(s). Poinsettias will be displayed in the Sanctuary from December 20-24 and will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve Worship service. The name of the purchaser will be on the bottom of the pot.

Orders are due Sunday, December 6th. Use the attached order form or the form in the bulletin beginning this Sunday. Questions can be directed to [Stacey Aman](#).

ADULT BASKETBALL MONDAY NIGHTS!

All adults are welcome to come Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center for pick-up games. Contact [Doug Thaler](#) for more information.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December is a busy time of year. May Christ be the center of your Christmas season. Check out what is happening at Leighton in the month of December with many special events to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The December calendar is attached.

PIONEER CLUBS

WHAT IS PIONEER CLUBS®?

Pioneer Clubs is for kids age 4-6th Grade and meets Wednesdays from through March 30th from 6:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m. There is no cost to participate. Kids learn to make Christ Lord in every aspect of life through Bible exploration, memorizing Scripture, playing games, singing, and building skills like cooking, woodworking, etc. while earning badges along the way. Children are welcome to Pioneer Clubs anytime. Registration forms are attached for those who have not yet registered.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PIONEER CLUBS AS SUBS ONCE A MONTH

Several more adult volunteers are needed to help just once a month with Pioneer Clubs. Roles include helping in classrooms, helping in the Nursery, or where needed. Your help is needed as a substitute just one Wednesday night a month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

For more information about Pioneer Clubs or how you can help with Pioneer Clubs, contact Club Coordinator, [Allison Draaisma](#).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNER

Each Wednesday night during the Pioneer Clubs season, dinner is prepared and served in the Family Center from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come! There is no set cost, but donations are appreciated to help cover expenses. Come and enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship with your church family.

LEIGHTON'S ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE with our District

Superintendent, Bill Haggard, is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is open for everyone to attend. Business conducted includes approving Pastor's salary for 2016, confirming committee members for 2016, and highlighting significant ministry experiences from 2015. Plan to attend.

ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Sunday, December 6th at Noon in the Family Center. This is a special time for the Leighton Family to celebrate together the birth of Christ. Bring a dish to pass and table service. Beverages will be provided.

After lunch, there will be a Christmas carol sing-a-long including the ever popular "*Twelve Days of Christmas.*"

If you would like, this is the time to exchange gifts between Sunday School and/or Pioneer Clubs teachers/students.

Contact Art & Connie Hooker for more information

"Follow the Light" CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 6th during the morning worship service.

Come and re-discover the birth of Jesus as the children of Leighton Church tell how so many followed the light that shone in the sky that special night and how Christ continues to be the light we are to follow.

CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

Save on postage and bring Christmas cards for your church family to be distributed at church. A table will be in the Lobby beginning Sunday, December 6th. Cards are arranged in alphabetical order by last name. Be sure to stop and check the table for Christmas cards addressed to you!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ALL WOMEN

The Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship is hosting its Annual Christmas Party for all women of Leighton Church.

Monday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. at

Art & Connie Hooker's home (contact the [church office](#) for directions)

Bring a dish to pass. Table service and beverages provided.

If you'd like, bring a \$5.00 gift to exchange.

Secret Pals, bring a gift for your pal and discover who your Secret Pal has been this year!

Contact Connie Hooker or [Jean Bender](#) for information.

PIE SALE FUNDRAISER FOR MISSION TRIP

There are a group of adults and teens from Leighton going to Puerto Rico in July of 2016 on a mission trip. To raise funds toward the cost of the trip, the group is selling homemade Dutch Apple pies for \$10.00 each. Pies are frozen ready to bake. See [Misty Getter](#) or [Tina Peck](#) if interested in buying a pie.

CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Church Cookbooks are available now for just **\$5.00!**

Cookbooks make great Christmas gifts!

Contact [Stacey Aman](#) or [Jean Bender](#) if interested in purchasing one.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

There are many opportunities to get involved in the life of Leighton Church; attend worship, volunteer to be part of a ministry, volunteer to lead a ministry, attend Bible study, be part of the praise team, etc.

Listed below are areas where folks are needed to lead or participate in ministries at Leighton Church. Please pray over this list. Perhaps God is nudging you to serve.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL— Seeking individuals who would be willing to teach Sunday School classes while teachers are on vacation, ill, etc. This would be for children's classes (age 2 thru 5th grade), Jr. High (6th-8th grade), Sr. High (9th-12th grade), and perhaps an adult class on occasion. If interested, please contact [Bonnie McBride](#), [Amanda Athearn](#), or [Christine Syswerda](#)

PRAISE TEAM/SOUND TEAM—The praise team is in need of instrumentalists and tech-crew members. If you play piano, bass, drums, or guitar or would like to operate the soundboard or presentation software, contact [Josh Webb](#)

CDL DRIVERS FOR YOUTH EVENTS—On occasion, the youth group borrows or rents a

bus to transport the youth group to their destination. Drivers for the bus must have a CDL endorsement on the license. More drivers are needed. If you have a CDL endorsement on your license or would be willing to obtain an endorsement to help transport the youth group, contact Scott or [Misty Getter](#) or [Stacey Aman](#). Drivers would not be expected to participate in events the youth are attending.

CLEANING CREW VOLUNTEERS - Our church family is blessed to have a team of volunteers who give of their time each week to clean our facility. One more person is needed to join the team. Cleaning can be done when it fits your schedule (day or evening). Average time per week is about one hour. Duties include mopping kitchen, cleaning classroom tables in East wing, dusting in the Lobby, Prayer Room, & Sanctuary, and cleaning the coffee bar area. If interested, please contact [Jackie Corwin](#).

LEIGHTON MISSIONS T-SHIRT ORDER:

One of our missions here at Leighton is to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus. When we do, people wonder who we are and what we are doing. Let people around know by ordering a t-shirt and wearing it when you participate in church or missions projects. Use the attached t-shirt order form and return it along with payment to Connie Blain. Orders will be taken ongoing. Shirts are bright red and cost \$10 each (2X-5X are \$1 per X).

NEED PRAYER? PRAYER ROOM OPEN SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP.

The Prayer Room is staffed on Sunday mornings following the worship service. If you would like to be prayed for or have a need you would like prayer for, feel free to stop in the Prayer Room which is located across from the Coffee Bar. Questions can be directed to Nancy Geertman.

SERVICE IN ACTION

COFFEE SERVERS:

November 29—Mike & Cindy Punt
December 6—Dan & Judy Terpstra
December 13—Open

PROVIDING TREATS FOR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

November 29—Cindy Punt & Keith Pratt
December 6—Judy Hanlon & Colin Mead
December 13—Loyd Elwood & Joyce Gackler

GREETERS:

November 29—Terri & Samantha Farmer
December 6—Dan & Judy Terpstra
December 13—Todd & Judi Galloway

NURSERY:

November 29—Cindy Herring & Britney Bredeweg
December 6—Jacob & Allison Draaisma
December 13—Mark & Ronda Kaechele

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS:

November 29—Sam Farmer, Josh & Kate Webb
December 6—Mike & Christine Syswerda
December 13—Sam Farmer, Josh & Robbi Hilton

CHILDREN'S CHURCH HELPERS:

November 29—Sam Farmer
December 6—Josh & Stephanie Aman, Emeline Seeley
December 13—Sam Farmer, Kaylie & Nathan Taylor

ESTATE SALE ITEMS

Luann Lewis Snyder has household items and antiques for sale from her mother's home. There is a list of items being sold posted on the bulletin board down the North hallway between rooms 8 & 9 and items are also listed below. For more information, contact Luann at 616-891-8348.

Electric Range (must go!!)
wooden frame mirror (15 1/4" x 23")
wall hanging that looks like tree branch
2 round frameless mirrors

ANTIQUES:

Old suitcase
wicker picnic basket with colored dishes
2 gallon crock
metal bread box
carpet sweeper
large brown jug
2 flower pictures
oval mirror (gold frame)
table lamp

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Your donations of non-perishable food items to our food pantry give assistance to the 13 families that regularly visit our pantry (regularly means at least once a month). Any items you can donate are appreciated. Food items are collected each Sunday during the offering time.

Laundry Detergent
Toilet Tissue
Spaghetti & Sauce
Canned fruit & meats
Cereal
Soup
Boxed meals/pasta & rice side dishes
Macaroni & Cheese
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Shampoo & Conditioner
Toothpaste
Deodorant for Men & Women
Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing

Please do not donate items that have been opened or are outdated. Items are collected each Sunday during the offering time. Thank you!

SHOPPING FOR MISSIONS

You can help support the ministries of Red Bird Mission in Kentucky just by shopping at Meijer through the Meijer Rewards program. Just sign up by going to Meijer.com/rewards or to the customer service counter at any Meijer store with the

Leighton United Methodist Church code 415811. Then use your rewards card whenever you purchase gas, pharmaceuticals, general merchandise, and groceries. Payment for purchases to count for rewards must be cash, debit, or Meijer credit card (no checks). Another \$100 has been received through Meijer Rewards and it has been sent to Red Bird Mission to be used where they need it most. For more information, contact Luann Lewis Snyder 616-891-8348.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE COLLECTION

Did you know that many pastors, Christians, missionaries around the world do not have access to materials to prepare sermons, Bible studies, or for their own personal devotions?

An organization called Christian Resources International collects Bibles, devotional books, curriculum, and more to send to pastors, evangelists, Bible colleges, and missionaries around the world. If you have any of these items that you would like to donate, bring them and drop them in the box in the Lounge. Dave & Sharon Kaechele will deliver them to CRI.

DONATE ANY EXTRA/UNWANTED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

If you have any extra or unwanted medical equipment (walkers, crutches, canes, knee braces, wheelchairs, etc.) in your home, contact [Tiffany Thaler](#). Each August, Grand Valley State University's physical therapy program makes a trip to Guatemala with Hearts in Motion. Medical equipment is needed to help aid local residents. Any donation can make a difference.

SON-LIFE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER NEEDS SECRETARY

SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center is accepting applications for a part-time secretary. If you are interested in joining their ministry, submit an application and resume by mail or to hope@son-lifecamp.org. Applications and a job description can be found on the camp website at www.son-lifecamp.org

PROJECT HOPE HAS MANY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN!

Would you like to serve the Lord a few hours a week and enjoy being with the "Body of Christ" or even fulfill the deep need to have purpose for the Lord? Come to Project Hope! We are in need of people to fill these volunteer positions:

Cashiers (Must be 18 years or older)

Drivers to pick up food (CDL is not required, but must have a good driving record)

An experienced person to price antiques and restock floor

A puzzle-putter-together/counter. Can be done in the comfort of your own home and at your convenience.

Volunteers needed to price clothing, housewares, etc. Can be as young as 15 with parental consent.

“Jewelry Happenings” (sorting and pricing) first Thursday of every month. Snacks provided!

Cosmetics and cards.

Frames, pictures and wall hangings – price and stock floor

Gardner to help keep up the “Annetta Garden Center” and the landscape around the building.

If interested in helping us out as a driver or gardner, call Sandy at (616) 681-HOPE ext.

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Please call Jean Bodo, Thrift Store Director (616) 681-HOPE ext. 106 if interested in any other volunteer positions listed.

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT FOSTER PARENTS URGENTLY NEEDED!

There is an urgent need for foster parents willing to open their hearts and homes to refugee and immigrant youth. These young people desperately need a loving and accepting foster home to welcome them to our country and prepare them for future independence.

Bethany Christian Services provides foster care for refugee and immigrant youth between the ages of 13 and 17 who have been separated from their home and family due to war, abuse, or community violence. They have no adult caregiver and are eligible for protection in the U.S.

Learn more at a no commitment information meeting on either November 3rd or December 7th 6:00-8:00 p.m. or 10:00am-Noon. RSVP is required and can be done by calling 616-224-7540 or e-mail refugeefostercare@bethany.org. Meetings are held at 1050 36th Street, Suite 400, Grand Rapids.

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED FOR YOUTH IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE

Bethany Christian Services is seeking loving foster homes for two youth in need of special care. One is a teen from Africa who suffered injuries while escaping an attack on his village and is now wheelchair bound. He needs a handicap accessible home. The other is a 7-months pregnant girl from Central America. If you would like to learn more about accepting one of these youth into your home, contact Ana Jose at (616) 965-8027 or ajose@bethany.org.

LAY SERVANT CLASSES REGISTRATION OPEN

Lay Speaking Ministries is hosting lay speaking classes on Saturday, January 23, 2016 and Saturday, February 6, 2016 at Grand Rapids Trinity United Methodist Church located at 1100 Lake Drive SE. Those completing lay speaking classes receive certification to speak at area churches filling the pulpit for pastor's.

Classes are held both dates from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with lunch provided. Both basic and advanced courses are offered on both dates.

Basic class is \$25.00 which includes materials and lunch.

Advanced classes are \$25 which includes lunch.

There must be at least 10 registrations to hold class.

To register, call Jody Pratt at 269-792-0481 or prattgji@hughes.net.

Saturday, February 13th is held as an alternate date in the event of a weather cancellation. For more details on lay speaking classes, you may also talk to [Jim Ciluffo](#) who has taken the basic course.

SAUGATUCK UMC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saugatuck United Methodist Church is hosting its 16th annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 am-3:00 pm in beautiful downtown Saugatuck. The annual Saugatuck Christmas parade starts at 1:00 p.m. A sloppy joe lunch with homemade pie will be available. Don't miss the terrific bake sale with candy and cookie gifts as well as the treasure trove table. Saugatuck UMC is located at 250 Mason Street, Saugatuck.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

Martin United Methodist Church is hosting a community Christmas Sing-a-Long on Sunday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m. A taco bar supper will follow. Martin UMC is located at 969 E. Allegan Street, Martin.

43rd ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS JURIED SPIRITUAL ART SHOW

Coming February 12-24, 2016 to Grand Rapids First Church located at 227 Fulton St. East, Grand Rapids.

Celebration of the Arts began in 1972 as part of the Music and Arts Ministry of First Church. In its 43rd year, Celebration has grown to represent one of the largest juried sacred art shows in the country. It features artists from throughout the Midwest in a variety of media including oils, acrylic, watercolor, sculpture, fiber, photography, and more. During the 13 day festival, there are many individual events including concerts, drama, and art activities.

This year's juror is Mark Mehaffey, a nationally recognized artist and signature member of the National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society.

Cost is \$20.00 for the first entry, \$10 for the second entry.

Media accepted are oils, acrylics, watercolors, prints, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, fiber, textiles, collage, photography, multi-media, etc.

For more information go to www.thecelebrationofthearts.com.

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