

The Heartbeat

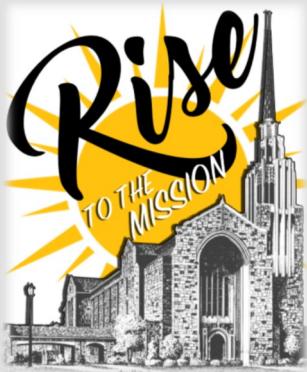
A monthly newsletter of
Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

1225 Chestnut Drive • High Point, NC 27262

December 2019

Vol. 27. No. 11

www.wesleymemorial.org/give



As of 11.18.2019

\$1,686,280

361 Pledges for 2020

(which includes)

44 NEW Pledges
142 Pledge INCREASES

53 Pledges Outstanding
(pledged 2019 not 2020)

Exceeded 2019 Total by
\$15,145

Needed to meet
2020 budget goals:
\$172,768 to \$313,720

Wesley Memorial Labyrinth Project



Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Nido and Mariana Qubein, Wesley Memorial will soon have a beautiful, outdoor labyrinth for our members, friends and neighbors to experience.

A labyrinth offers a delightful way to enter into prayer intentionally as a journey, to slow down and prepare our hearts in Advent for the coming of Christ. One way to journey is as follows:

Releasing – As you enter the labyrinth in prayer, express your praise and thanksgiving to God, releasing unto God all the cares and burdens that are weighing you down

Receiving – In the center, be still and know He is God. Take time to listen for the Holy Spirit speaking the Word of God into your life, filling you with faith and hope

Renewed – Go out from this place of receiving, exiting out of the labyrinth into the world, renewed to proclaim God's goodness and love.





Advent at Wesley Memorial

I WON'T SURVIVE THE HOLIDAYS

December Sermon Series

1st - Remember His Timing
8th - Remember His Vision
15th - Remember His Power
22nd - Remember Your Place
29th - Remember His Presence

PERFECT FOR INVITING A FRIEND!

24th - Christmas Eve Services
5pm - Lovefeast (Sanctuary)
8pm - Contemporary (Fellowship Hall)
11pm - Communion (Sanctuary)



Annual
Christmas Tree Lighting
In the Front Circle

Friday, December 6
6:00 pm

Singing • Hot Chocolate • Family Fun

Sunday
December 8
4:00 pm
Dining Hall
Dinner at 5:30 pm

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS
with Scripture, Choir, and Orchestra

Sunday, December 8
11:00 am
in the Sanctuary

Fun & Fellowship for all ages!
Celebrate the beginning of Advent

Dinner Reservations Due by Tuesday, December 3
Cost: Adult \$4, Child Under 11 \$2
Contact Kim Suda at ksuda@wesleymemorial.org or 336.812.4802

Contact Kim Suda at ksuda@wesleymemorial.org
to sign-up for dinner at Hanging of the Greens OR
to sign-up for a part in the children's Nativity.

Christmas Memorials

In memory or honor of a loved one
to decorate the church

Contact Sue Schoch
336.812.4806
by Friday, December 13

column wreaths • door wreaths • poinsettias • Lovefeast candles

Nativity

Sunday Morning
December 15
11:00 am
Sanctuary

Wesley Memorial
A United Methodist Congregation

1225 Chestnut Drive
High Point, North Carolina



Pastor Jeff

Senior Pastor
336.812.4808
jpatterson@wesleymemorial.org

ways that you can incorporate new members into the life of our church family? Being invitational is something that we all must “keep on our radar.”

We need to do this for many reasons. It is essential to the future vitality of our congregation. New people bring new energy and new gifts to our ministry and mission. Our individual lives are enriched by the people that we invite into our lives. People need Christian community. People need Jesus. People need to experience the abundant life of the Spirit. Through the work of the Church in the world, people find purpose and meaning. We have much to offer at Wesley Memorial Church, so we must be intentional about reaching out to others.

For Wesley Memorial Church to thrive spiritually, we must be both a missional and an invitational church family. Gone are the days when people just socially, culturally, and spiritually feel drawn to church. We've got to invite, bring, and receive new people into our fellowship. Your clergy and your staff can lead and equip you, but you've got to find the joy of accepting responsibility for the health of your church. It takes focused work, but it is worth the effort. It is a basic Christian conviction that we all belong to each other and we are responsible for each other. *“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it”* (**1 Corinthians 12:26, 27**).

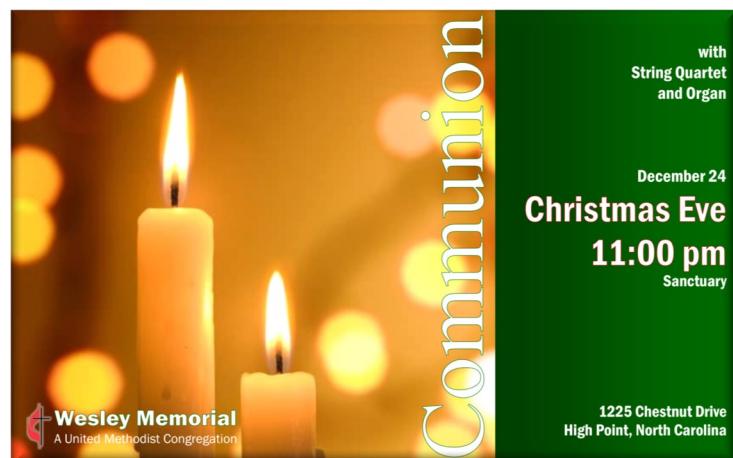
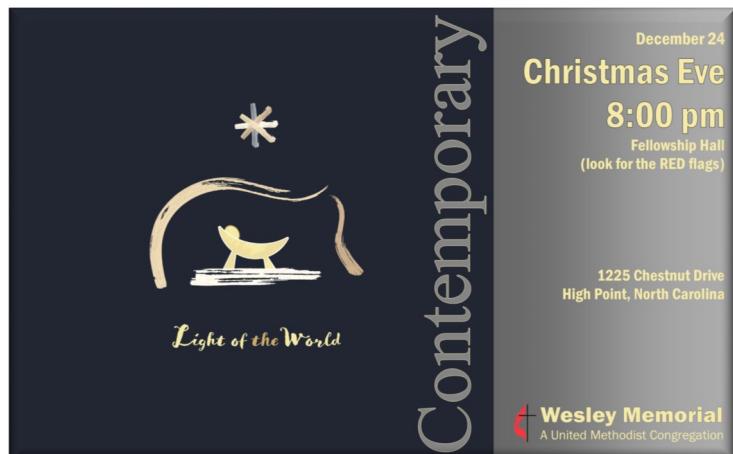
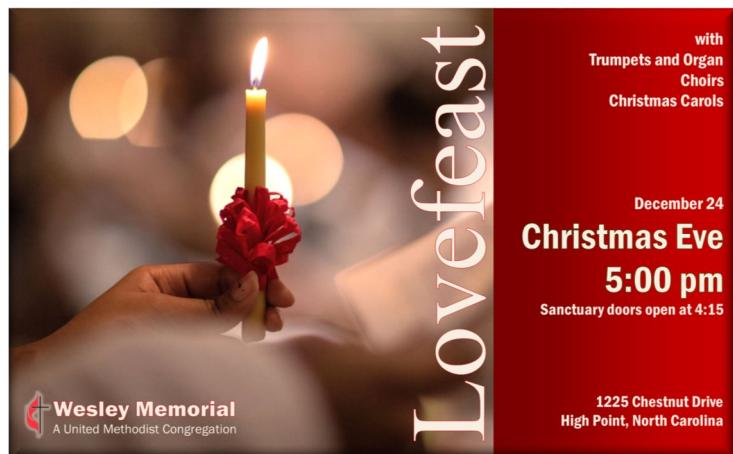
With Confidence in Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Being an Attractive Church

Are we a church that attracts people? The answer to this question is dependent upon how invitational you are. Are you frequently inviting people to experience the life of our church family? Have you recently invited anyone to experience the life of our congregation?

Are you inviting people to attend our Sunday morning services, our special services (Advent services, Christmas Eve Lovefeast and Communion services), our special classes, and our special fellowship times? **Are you inviting people** to your small groups, your Sunday School Classes, your women's group, your men's group, your children's group, your student group, your choir? **Are you inviting people** to help your Ministry Teams with its work? Are you finding new spaces for new faces? Are you constantly thinking of





Welcome New Members



Joining Sunday, December 15

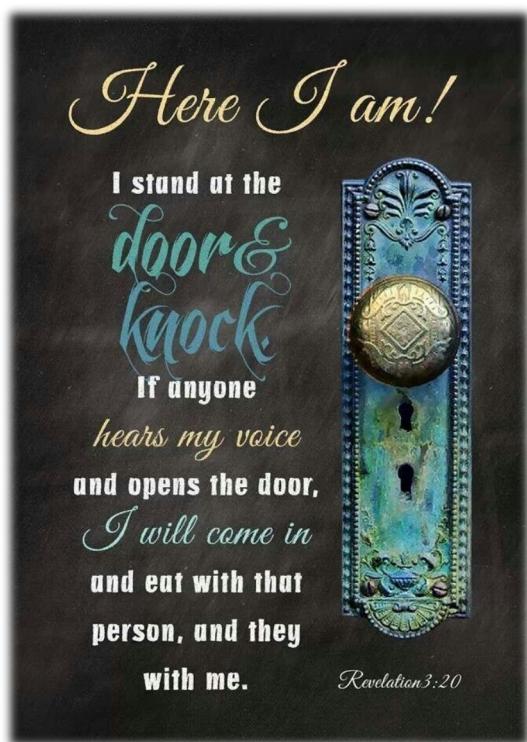
"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes - and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, this is not a bad picture of Advent." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I came across this quote many years ago and it has always stuck with me in regards to Advent and Christmas.

For one, the quote acknowledges the dilemma of the human race. We are a people in need of rescue. It is a great strength to admit of our weakness and need for help.

God has seen our dilemma, and he has responded. More than just respond, God himself became a man, the only perfect life that has ever been lived. Majesty borne into the mundane. Royal splendor borne into the filth of a trough, a birth more than likely encapsulated within a dark and dusty cave.

God became flesh for you, to bear your sins, to set you free, to bring you home. God sees the debt you owe, a debt that you cannot repay. In the place of your debt, the lamb of God has given his life.



It can be hard to receive a gift that is large, extravagant and gracious. It requires a letting down of your defenses and an admission of humility. Surrender can be unsettling and perhaps even counterintuitive, but that doesn't mean it's wrong.

Jesus has opened the prison door. For you.

It is finished. You are forgiven. Emmanuel, God with us, has come. God in His grace has acted on your behalf. The only question left is, "How will you respond?"

Jesus has opened the prison door for you this Advent season.

Will you step through?



Pastor Clark

Associate Pastor of
Contemporary Worship &
Evangelism
336.812.4813
cchilton@wesleymemorial.org

**Missed
a sermon?
Want to
hear it again?**



Attention Leaders of Journey Groups, Unity Groups, and Sunday School Classes

This fall we have a large group of new church members and the next step is help get them connected into vital, godly relationships. Every church wants to grow, but in order to grow we must increase our capacity to receive new members. If your group or class is open to receiving new guests, please contact Clark at cchilton@wesleymemorial.org and help us increase our capacity!

**Search for
"Wesley
Memorial
Podcast"
in iTunes or
Google Play
stores**



Pastor Melissa

Associate Pastor of
Congregational Care &
Missions
336.812.4815
mlowe@wesleymemorial.org

Book Club 10:30 am • Lunch & Program 11:45 am

LIVE alive
Serving Adults 55+
Reservations **336.884.2204** (by 11/13)

Advent Journey

*“And Mary said: My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...”*

Luke 1:46-47

I LOVE Christmas! Vibrant red and forest green colors surrounding everything, banister railings covered in greenery and twinkling lights, carols playing everywhere I go. This time of year seems like it is sprinkled with celebration. While Christmas decorations and holiday festivities already surround us, we have not yet actually arrived at Christmas.

December 1st, 2019 marks the beginning of Advent, the “New Years Day” of the Christian calendar. We begin the Christian year with Advent, as a way through which we begin with the end in mind. Advent is different than Christmas, for Advent is actually a celebration and looking toward the second coming of the King! The very meaning of the word “Advent” is “*the coming or arrival*”. Advent is to be a pilgrimage journey preparing our hearts and lives for the second coming of Christ, a time of expectation.

Slow down during this time of Advent and reflect intentionally about preparing your heart to receive the coming of Christ. Are you rushing around during this season in a flurry of activity, or are you waiting prayerfully - listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in your life, anticipating the arrival of the King of kings?

I am excited this Advent season to be watching the development of our new Labyrinth here at Wesley Memorial UMC (see front page)!

I invite you to join me on a pilgrimage this advent season through Scripture to worship the coming of the King. To the right is a listing of suggested readings leading up to birth of Jesus in the manger culminating on Christmas Day. I invite you to read these with new eyes this Advent season...keeping the end in mind even as you read of the beginning - anticipating His second coming. For this is the hope of the world. May your heart be filled with joy today as you await the coming of our King!

December 1	Matthew 1:1-17
December 2	John 1:1-4
December 3	Luke 1:1-7
December 4	Luke 1:8-17
December 5	Luke 1:18-20
December 6	Luke 1:21-25
December 7	Luke 1:26-33
December 8	Hebrews 1:1-2
December 9	Luke 1:34-38
December 10	Galatians 4:4-7
December 11	Luke 1:39-45
December 12	Luke 1:46-56
December 13	Psalm 98
December 14	Luke 1:57-58
December 15	John 1:5-8
December 16	John 1:9-13
December 17	John 1:14-18
December 18	Luke 1:59-66
December 19	John 1:19-23
December 20	Luke 1:67-80
December 21	Luke 2:1-7
December 22	Luke 2:8-14
December 23	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24	Matthew 2:1-12
December 25	Luke 2:15-20

December Dates

Sun 1: Confirmation Class

Sun 1: Edge of Adventure

Thurs 5: Ward Street Outreach Dinner

Fri 6 – Sun 8:

TVR Christmas Tree Family Retreat

Sun 8:

Hanging of the Greens (family event)

Wed 11:

Middle School Life Groups End

Sat 14:

Angel Tree Outreach Dinner Party

Sun 15: Confirmation Class

Sun 15: SNL Annual Christmas Party



Steven Nelson

Director of

Student Ministries

336.812.4812

snelson@wesleymemorial.org



Life Groups



Edge of Adventure



Navigating

The

Noise

(with

Children's Ministries)



2020 Save The Dates

High School Ski Trip:
January 24 – 26

Spring Workshop:
March 6 – 8

Confirmation Retreat:
March 21

wesleymemorial.org/childcare

reservations

for
CHILD
CARE



Debbie Foust

Director of
Children's Ministries
336.812.4804
dfoust@wesleymemorial.org



join our
group +

facebook®

Wesley Memorial Children's Ministries

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday December 8 at 4:00 pm
Dinner at 5:30 pm

Fun & Fellowship for all ages!
Celebrate the beginning of Advent

Dinner Reservations Due by Tuesday, December 3
Cost: Adult \$4, Children Under 11 \$2
Contact Kim Suda ksuda@wesleymemorial.org or 336.812.4802

Angel Tree Party Treat Bags for Children



Collection is underway for supplies to fill 70+ Christmas treat bags for boys and girls who are part of our Angel Tree Outreach. Items needed are prewrapped snacks, candy, fruit, trail mix, etc. These treat bags will be given out at the Angel Tree party on December 14. Please follow the link on the church website wesleymemorial.org to the Sign-Up Genius and enter the items you will bring. Please bring items to the church and place in

labeled bins on the Elementary Hall by **December 10**.

Children's Nativity

December 15 at the 11:00 am Worship Service

Children in the 4-year-old class through 5th grade will dramatize the story of the birth of Jesus. This is a service that has been enjoyed by many generations here at Wesley Memorial. We will ask for signups for all the parts mid-November. The list of ages and parts are below:

Ages 4 & 5-Boys & Girls - Sheep

Grades 1 & 2 Girls - Angels

Grades 1 & 2 Boys - Shepherds, Donkey, Cow

Grades 3, 4 & 5 Girls - Shepherds, Angels, Magi

Grades 3, 4 & 5 Boys - Shepherds, Magi

Grades 4 & 5 Boys & Girls - Narrators

Please contact Kim Suda at ksuda@wesleymemorial.org by December 9 to sign up for a role for your child.

Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am

Lunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Friday, December 13, 12:00noon – 1:30 pm, Dining Hall

Families bring their own lunch, including beverage. Children and their parents/grandparents will eat together. **Santa and Mrs. Claus** (Chad and Dawn Miller) will be there to greet the children and will be available for picture opportunities. Come join the fun and fellowship and joy of the season! No reservations required. Don't forget your cameras!



JoAnn Clifton

Wesley Memorial School
Director
336.884.4232
jclifton@wesleymemorial.org

Merry Christmas and Thank You



to the church staff from the children!

Children are bringing Christmas treats of fruits, nuts, candies & cookies to combine into a gift bag for each Wesley Memorial church staff member. Our students will assemble around the Children's Tree in the Dining Hall to "surprise" church staff members on December 18 and 19 with their special gift. We want to express thanks for the blessing of our church staff's love and support of Wesley Memorial School.



Susan Kelley

Wesley Memorial School
Associate Director
336.884.4232
skelley@wesleymemorial.org

Our Kindergarten Christmas Program

Thursday, December 19, 11:00 am, Sanctuary



Our Kindergarten children have been learning songs, learning about the Birth of Jesus, and practicing handbell skills! All are welcome to come and experience some Christmas joy.



WMS Children In Mission!



Thanksgiving Food Collection for Fairview Elementary



Come and share the music of the Advent and Christmas Seasons at the 11:00 am services with the choirs of Wesley Memorial. The **JuBELLation Choir** will ring for worship on December 1st. This group of young ringers does amazing work in a small amount of rehearsal time. Mary Frances Collins, Maddie Doak, Charley Doak, Arden Yates, Hannah Reeves and Wesley Singer Steven Davis make up this exceptional group with the help of Carolyn Shaw, Claire Wilson and sometimes sub Patty McLarty.

On December 8 the **Chancel Choir** with orchestra and organ will lead a **Lessons and Carols** service. Join us as readers, congregational carols and choir anthems relate once again the beautiful and meaningful Advent and Christmas stories.

Our **children ages K-5th grade** will sing the introit on December 15 for the 11:00 am service and then participate in the Children's Nativity. This worship service is always a highlight of the Advent season.

Chancel Bells will ring an engaging arrangement of "Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night" on Sunday, December 22 and two Christmas Carols at the 5:00 pm Lovefeast on Christmas Eve. This year's Lovefeast will include few anthems and many carols to be sung by the congregation. Join us for a most memorable holiday season. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service will feature Christmas music played by a string quartet

If you wish to sponsor an instrument for one of the services above, or choose an anthem from a list compiled by the director of music, in memory or in honor of a loved one, friend, teacher, etc., contact Anne Carroll.



Anne Carroll

Director of
Traditional Music
336.812.4816
acarroll@wesleymemorial.org



Wesley 100 Christmas Trees

We are sorry to report that our tree supplier had a bad growing season so the Wesley 100 will not be able to provide Christmas Trees this year. We hope to be able to resume sales next year.



A poster for a Meditative Prayer class. It features a woman in profile with her eyes closed, set against a sunset background. The title "Meditative Prayer" is in large white letters, with "An Ancient Christian Practice" in smaller yellow script below it. A speech bubble contains text about the class's purpose and Dr. Phillips' qualifications. The bottom left corner includes a phone number and a note to reserve a spot.

Charletta Phillips, Ph.D.

Thursdays

January 9 – February 13

9:30 – 10:45 am

Conference Room 3

Annual
UMW Angel Tree Circle

**Angel Tree
Party**

**Saturday
December 14
3:00 pm**

Dining Hall

We Remember and Honor our Loved Ones

In Memory of:

Gifts received October 2019

William (Bill) McIlwaine Blanton, Jr.: Ivey & Richard Orr

Carolyn Bundy: Alice Ervin, Jeanette & Tommy Langley, Mary Geddie Lyon

W. Howard Coble: Anne & Norman Andrews, Jerry Bain, Dwight & Jean Bumgarner, Barbara & Paul Coughlin, Jennifer & David Covington, Ned & Katherine Covington, Floyd & Faye Craven, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Crowder, Anne Davis, Alice Ervin, Kenneth Geddie, Jr., Jackie Gillespie, Jim & Karen Gooding, J. Phillip Henley, Butch & Betsy Hodge, Peggy Honeycutt, Elizabeth & Richard Howle, Judy & Corky Hustrulid, Liz Jones, David & Barbara Joyce, Sarah Kemm, Jeanette & Tommy Langley, Mary Geddie Lyon, Donna Machen, Harold & Betty Martin, Joann McCuiston, Katherine & Henry McMullan, Joe & Judy Needham, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Niebauer, Ivey & Richard Orr, John Peeler, Nido & Mariana Qubein, Jimmy Randle, Helen & Rocky Rice, Margaret Shuping, Kay & Jim Snow, Dr. & Mrs. Bill Stewart, Jerry & Louella Stinson, Dwight & Sally Story, Charles & Vanessa Surles, Patsy & Charlie Surles, John & Lara Surles, Bootsy Tucker, Royster & Donna Tucker, Britt & Tom Tyson, Leon & Carolyn Koontz Wagnon, Gloria Wilson

Alene Enoch (Grandmother of Keith Byrd): Anne Davis

Jean Holcomb (Mother of Jim Holcomb): Ivey & Richard Orr

Virginia Watkins Johnson: Peggy Honeycutt

Ginger Johnson Kerr: Peggy Honeycutt

Arnold Koontz (Father of Martha Redmond): Helen & Rocky Rice

Strupe Lackey: Martha White

Wanna McAnally: Elizabeth & Richard Howle

Cheryl Riggs Rice (Sister of Jackie Gillespie): Mary Geddie Lyon

In Honor of:

Gifts received October 2019

Dr. Jeff Patterson: Jackie Shackelford

Mr. Pete Thompson: Ken Thompson

In Memoriam

Dorothy McMichael Oliver October 29, 2019

Leo Bess Skidmore November 4, 2019

Nixon (Nick) Ingram Bingham November 15, 2019

Sympathies

The family of Dorothy McMichael Oliver upon her death on October 29, 2019

Karen Morris and family upon the death of her brother-in-law; Amory Leland Williams Jr. on November 2, 2019

The family of Leo Bess Skidmore upon her death on November 4, 2019

Amber Hayes and family upon the death of her stepfather; David Odell Moore Sr. on November 7, 2019

Mae Bingham, Yvonne Lloyd and Polly Bingham upon the death of their husband, brother and brother-in-law Nixon Ingram Bingham on November 15, 2019

Christmas Memorials

It is that time of year again! Time for you to order your Christmas Memorial in memory or in honor of a loved one to decorate the church for Christmas. We have **column wreaths, door wreaths, and poinsettias**. This year we are selling **Lovefeast candles** in lots of \$25, \$50 and \$100 to be used during the Lovefeast on Christmas Eve. We will be taking orders until **December 13, 2019**. To place your order, please call **Sue Schoch** at **336.812.4806**. Leave your message and she will call you back.

JANUARY 2020

Heart[♥]beat

Deadline

Thursday, December 12

5:00 pm

showell@wesleymemorial.org



United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UMW Board meets Monday, December 9, noon at The String and Splinter

Thank you to everyone that baked, cooked, donated, volunteered, shopped, boxed and swept for the recent Carolina Christmas Bazaar. It takes many hands working all year to plan and execute this successful event. Proceeds will be used to support local and national programs. We are thankful for your time and support. **We couldn't do it without YOU!**

The ladies of Circle 8 recently spent 3 mornings at the YWCA making pottery bowls sold at The Feast of Caring to benefit Open Door Ministries.

December Circle Meetings:

Angel Tree - Wednesday, Dec 4, 5:45 pm in the Small Dining Room. Saturday, Dec 14, 3:00 pm, Dining Hall for the Angel Tree Party

Circle #6 - Monday, Dec 9, 7 pm at the home of Carolyn Steed, 1201 Wynnewood Avenue

Circle #9 - Tuesday, Dec 17, 10:30 am in the Dining Hall

Friendship Circle and Circle #8 will not meet

UMW Members, if your contact information has changed over the last year, please tell your Circle leader so it can be corrected in the 2020 UMW Yearbook.

HEARTBEAT
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