



A Spot of T

(Get it? 'Cause my last name starts with a T?)



Mike Slaughter is a retired UMC pastor. He recently retired from Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, OH – a church of nearly 10,000 people. This church is fairly well known for their “missional” focus on ministry with poor and marginalized peoples the world over – including in their own city. Famously, Slaughter has said, “If it’s not good news for the poor, it’s not the gospel.” Exactly.

I use this phrase quite often. When I first heard it (actually, I read it on his Twitter feed, but there really isn’t any difference nowadays), it connected with something deep inside of me – as if God was connecting dormant neurons inside my head and re-centering my mind around what would be the overarching focus of my life in service to God. There are poor and marginalized folks next door and on the other side of the world. Our job as Christians is to bring them THE good news. My job as your pastor is to motivate you to desire the same thing.

The only problem with Mike’s idea is how limiting it may be, because the terms “poor” and “marginalized” can be relative and fluid. Also, some of you might be asking about how the good news is supposed to apply to “the rich.” Am I – or Mike – saying that if you are not poor and/or are on the receiving end of “privilege,” you cannot receive the good news?

Well, to be clear, Jesus is pretty clear that those who are “fortunate” when it comes to material wealth have a specific set of challenges where faith is concerned. Namely, he says that you can be doing everything else you need to be doing, and STILL need to give up your wealth in order to “inherit the kingdom”. Too often, we who live in the richest nation on earth are willing to overlook the implications of a teaching such as that.

However, what I mean is to say that these terms can be expanded to mean different things. As we enter the holiday season, it is easy to look around at the need we see present in programs meant to provide food and gifts to those who would otherwise be unable to afford them. Certainly, they are poor, What about the folks for whom this is the first Christmas they will spend without their loved one? What about the US citizens on the island of Puerto Rico, many of whom are still without power, shelter, or hope of recovery? What about the victims of sexual assault and harassment who continue to suffer in silence in the factory or fast food restaurant?

This is the Advent season. We are preparing for the best news of all. How can we take that news and make sure it is good news for all those who need it?

Seriously. How? Think about it and let’s see what we can do about it.

Peace,

Community Outreach



As part of participation with "Focusing on the Missions," a project sponsored by Lighthouse Missions in Wabash, this month's theme is "Peanut Butter & Jelly Sunday."

We are asking all members consider

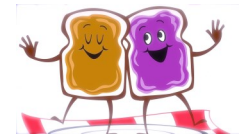
being a part of this mission by donating jars of peanut butter (18 oz) and jelly (18-32 oz).

With your help we serve those in need in our own neighborhoods.

All donations

should be brought to church by Sunday, December 31st.

Thank you for your generosity!



Help make a difference in our community

Ringing of the Bells

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Christmas Campaign began in November and runs through Christmas Eve.

You can be a part of this program by donating two hours of your time to ring a bell. Volunteers are especially needed to

ring bells at our local Kroger and Walmart stores.

If you are interested in being a part of this program, there is a great online resource available for signing up. Simply go to www.registertoring.com to register for a time slot.



If you don't have access to a computer, you may contact Deborah Lehman or Mary Ellen Clark, who can help sign you up.

It's a Boy!



Congratulations to Sarah & Chris Grindle, big sister, Lucy, and grandparents, Susan & Todd Daywalt on the arrival of Jacob Ryan, who was born on November 9.



Please Pray for ...

Mary Davenport	Teresa — cancer
Lois Koehler	Steve Weesner
Dorothy Hahn	Joie (friend of Julie Henderson)
Jon Helfin	Margie Eltzo (Dave & Jane Wagmer's sister-in-law)
Richard Purdy	Steve Reed (Kelli Singer's cousin)
Connie Rosen	Tiffany Frank (Kelli Singer's cousin) - health concerns
Janet Ross	Alice Proffitt (heart/lung issues); (Henderson family friends)
Phyllis Shambaugh	College Students:
Colleen Weesner	Karla Singer, Lyndsie Thomas, Carli Henderson, Danielle Sparling
Lowell Karns	
P.L. Wilson—cancer	
Gary Meyer	
Deloris Anderson	

Military Personnel:

Daniel Smith (Frank & Barb Nordman's grandson)

Also pray for ...

- The leaders of our country
- Our shut-ins (make it a point to call them or send them a card)
- Those who have lost loved ones
- Those struggling financially
- Pastor Chris, church leaders, teachers, our youth and for church growth
- Those serving in our military and their families



With Deepest Sympathy

The faith community of Christ United Methodist Church extends sympathy to:

- The family of Esther Lewis who passed away November 20.
- The family of Imogene Barton, who passed away on November 14.

SUNDAY SERVICES — DECEMBER 24



8am & 10am Sunday Worship
 7pm—Early Christmas Eve Service
 11pm—Candlelight Service

There will only be ONE worship service on New Year's Eve (December 31) at 9:30 am



Serving for December 2017

8am Greeter — Gary & Patty Barnett

10am Liturgist — 12/3 & 12/10: Kerri Mattern; 12/17 & 12/24: Barry Eppley; 12/31: Mary Ellen Clark

10am Greeters:

12/3 Kurt & Liz Brackenhamer, JP & Jan Mattern
 12/10 Kurt & Liz Brackenhamer, Ned & Shirley Woodward
 12/17 Kurt & Liz Brackenhamer, Ned & Shirley Woodward
 12/24 Kurt & Liz Brackenhamer, Ned & Shirley Woodward
 12/31 Kurt & Liz Brackenhamer, JP & Jan Mattern

10am Ushers — Lalon Allen, Chuck Dwyer, Dale Hollenback, Dan Purdy

Scripture Reading for December

12/3 Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 12:24-37
 12/10 Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
 12/17 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8; 19-28
 12/24 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55;
 Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
 Eve Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
 12/31 Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148;
 Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Services
Sunday 8 am & 10 am
Sunday School for all ages 9 am

Phone: 260.563.3308
Email: wabashchristumc@hotmail.com

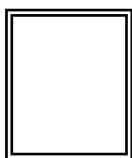


Items for the next newsletter should be submitted to the church office by **December 22nd**.

We're on the Web!
wabashchristumc.org



[Check us out on Facebook!](#)



Christ United Methodist Church
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