

Sharon Springs United Methodist Church  
 Pastor Galen Crippen  
 520 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., P.O. Box 339  
 Sharon Springs, KS 67758  
 (785) 852-4734

# December 2017

*JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE  
 JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Pastor Galen will be on vacation until December 3. He will also be on vacation from December 26th through January 2nd.</p>					1	2
3 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> <b>Children's Choir            Christmas Program and            Basket Dinner</b>	4	5	6  UMW @ 1:15 P.M.	7  Bible Study at Prairie Village Retirement Comm. 11 A.M.	8	9
10 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>Holy Communion</i>	11	12	13  UMW prepares cookie plates 1 P.M.	14  Bible Study at Prairie Village Retirement Comm. 11 A.M.	15	16
17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	18	19	20	21  NO BIBLE STUDY	22	23
24 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25  <i>Merry            Christmas</i>	26	27	28  NO BIBLE STUDY	29	30
31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>			www.sharonspringsumc.org email: ssumc@fairpoint.net		<b>Sunday School 9:45 A.M.            Worship Service 11 A.M.</b>	

Pastors Note

December 2017

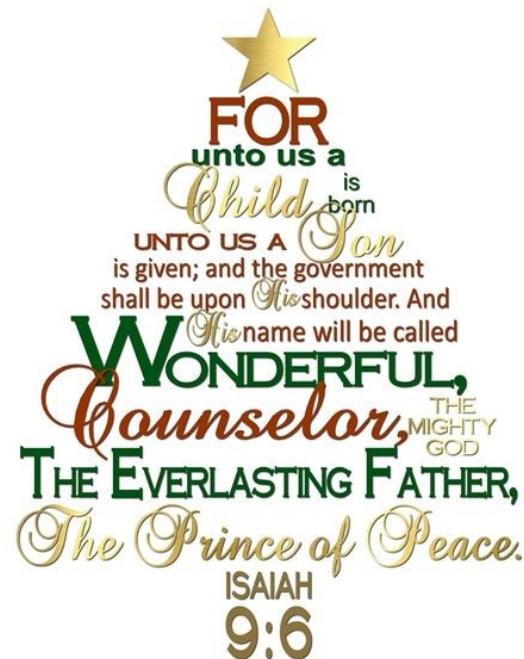
What an incredible year 2017 has been. Hard to believe it is almost over! Advent starts on December 3rd, the same day as our children's Christmas program. Please plan to attend our 11:00 AM church service to watch the program the children (& special ladies) have worked so hard to get ready for you! It promises to be very entertaining.

We are really looking forward to the Christmas season here in Sharon Springs. Our Christmas Eve service is always one of my favorite of the year.

This year I pray that you all have a fantastic Christmas season and spend time with God, don't let the rush and hubbub of shopping and "stuff" get in the way of our Lord. It can be a magical time of year if you let it.

God's Blessings,

Galen



**December Service Committee** (*Funeral, Wedding and Church Dinners*)  
Etta Walker, Chairman, Sharon Van Allen, Angela Van Allen, Emily Bolen,  
Jennifer Smith, Chanity Daily, Madison Nicholson, Noah Van Allen, and  
Chandler Van Allen

**UMW Packs Care Packages for College Students**

**Donations of snack foods flowed into the church for the annual packing of the care packages for the college students. 25 boxes were packed and mailed. Thank you for your donation and great job ladies!**

Children's Choir Christmas Program  
December 3, 2017, 11:00 A.M. MT  
during the Worship Service.  
Potluck Basket Dinner will follow the program.  
Fellowship—Food—Fun



Pastor's office hours: Mon—Thurs  
9:00 A.M. to Noon and 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.  
Treasurer is in on Tuesdays.  
Secretary's office hours: Wed & Thurs  
8:00 A.M. to Noon and 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.  
Fridays 8:00 A.M. to Noon

If you have a church related event, article, and/or picture that you would like published in the newsletter, please have it to the office by the 15th of the month. Thanks!

**A Prayer to Put Jesus First This Christmas Season** By Debbie McDaniel <https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/christmas-devotionals/prayer-put-jesus-first-christmas-devo-dec-24.html>

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” [Luke 2:7](#)*

No room for them. No vacancy. No place. Words that still seem to hang close, even today.

**Luke 1:14** <sup>14</sup> **You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,**

In a world that seeks to crowd Jesus out, where busyness abounds, and hearts are stirred to focus on other things, it can be hard sometimes to choose to keep Him first. It's all too easy to get caught up in the whole hurried dash of the holidays, and to give our attention to what seems more urgent. Our focus gets blurred; and the most important gets pushed aside.

It takes an active and daily choice to put Christ first, especially in a culture that says you're too busy to focus there. Or that life is too full. And there's no more room.

May God help us to choose wisely, what voices we listen to, and where we give our attention today.

He is the One who brings true meaning to Christmas. He is the One who brings real peace in this all-too-often hectic season. He is the only One worthy of our time and attention as we slow down the maddening rush around our lives.

We can know all of this in our heads, but may He help us to really believe it in our hearts...and choose to live it out this season.

Renewed.

Refreshed.

Making room for Him, first.

**Dear God,**

**Help us to keep our focus first on Christ this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention on other things. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care. We choose to press in close to you today...and keep you first in our hearts and lives.**

**In Jesus' Name,  
Amen.**



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND