

Sharing God's Amazing Love in Jesus Christ. . .



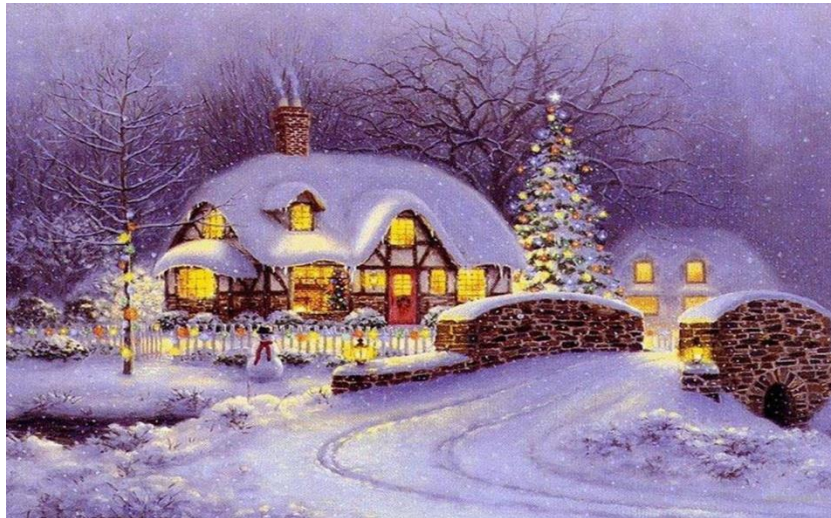
The Avery Bells

December, 2017

2017 Christmas Party at the Pastor's House

Krista and I invite you to an all church Christmas Party at our house on December 17th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate Christmas with warm fellowship and light appetizers, cookies, and cider. Our address is 518 Martin Drive, Bellevue.

Our family wishes you a very Merry Christmas!



Christmas is almost here! We are now entering the period of Advent where we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. During this season we reflect on the meaning of the incarnation—God coming in the flesh—and what Jesus' birth means for us personally and what Jesus' birth means for the world. What happened in a manger so long ago has profound consequences for the here and now, but also for our future. 1 John 4:9 says "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him." As we enter Advent take time and meditate on the joy of Christmas and the peace and new life we are given by our Savior.

In Christ,
Jeff

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays, December 3, 10 and 17**

Food and Fellowship: 8:30 – 9:00 am

AWAKEN the New Contemporary Service: 9:00 am – 10:00 am – Fellowship Hall

Sunday School: 10:00 – 10:50 am (lower level classrooms)

Food and Fellowship: 10:30 – 11:00 am

LEGACY the Traditional Service: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

****Note: December 17 Traditional Service will be a combined Legacy/Hispanic Service
A Pizza Lunch will be served following the service hosted by the Avery Deacons.**

Sunday, December 24

ONE MORNING SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m. (Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.)



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 at 9:00 p.m.

Nursery Care Available

Did you know Avery is active on social media?!?!?!?!?

Like us on Facebook: Avery Presbyterian Church

Follow us on Twitter: @AveryChurchBell

We will post fun facts and important information for you about the exciting fall we have planned.

Be sure to follow and share with your friends, coworkers, and neighbors!

Grow in God, grow in love, grow in community!

Pastoral Information

If you need to contact Pastor McDonald, please contact him on his cell phone: 402-682-1439

December Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 3**. If you would like to have communion brought to your home, please contact the church office at 402-733-1104.

Congregational Meeting

**Annual Congregational Meetings
Sundays, December 10 and 17**

The annual meeting of the congregation of Avery Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, December 10, immediately following the Legacy worship service. The meeting is for the purpose of making board, committee and officer reports, authorizing salaries for the pastoral staff and any other business as may be determined by the Session.

The following Sunday, December 17, we will have a meeting for Election of Church Officers and

Election of the 2018 Nominating Committee (at Large Members), following the Legacy worship service.

Stewardship and Finance

Deadline for 2017 Donations

The Stewardship and Finance Committee reminds members of the congregation that the last day financial gifts to the church will be credited for the year 2017 will be **Sunday, December 24**. Federal tax regulations regarding both Avery

Church's tax-exempt status and each contributor's tax-deductible donations require that we follow strict guidelines regarding end-of-year giving. Checks must be dated and received by the church no later than Saturday, December 24 in order to credit financial gifts for the year 2017. Checks may not be backdated and received by the church in January and be credited to the 2017 giving records.

2018 Giving Envelopes ~ if you haven't already done so, please pick up your envelopes on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Peanut Brittle Thank You!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all the many volunteers who are making the peanut brittle project a success. Over 5,000 pounds of peanut brittle was made and we had wonderful fellowship, laughter, and fun in the process. We are experiencing sore muscles and tired feet, but also God's strength and grace is evident. We are finished for another year, but if you missed out or need some extra bags, please call the church office. Blessings to ALL who helped in any capacity. We couldn't have done it without you!

Poinsettia Orders



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, order blanks are on the table in the back of the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The cost is \$8.00 each. The form and your cash/check (payable to Avery Church) can be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office.

December Events



Avery Christmas Open House
 Hosted by Pastor Jeff and Krista
 Sunday, December 17
 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 518 Martin Drive, Bellevue
 (NE part of Fontenelle Hills)
 Please join us for cider, cookies and other holiday goodies

Avery Church Day at Don & Millie's
 Sunday, December 10

The **second Sunday of each month** is Avery Church Day at Don & Millie's Restaurant (24th & Cornhusker). 20% of all purchases that day by people who say they are from Avery Church will be donated back to the church.

Avery Quilters



Saturday, December 30
 10:00 am to 4:00 pm – Fellowship Hall
 Bring your lunch and an optional snack to share



Personnel Announcement

Nursery Support on Wednesday Evenings

We have been opening our nursery on Wednesday evenings to support choir practice, Awaken Service rehearsals, and small group bible studies. We have noticed lately that we very seldom have any children to care for.

Starting in December, the nursery will provide support on Wednesdays by reservation only. If you will be participating in an event on a Wednesday evening, please notify Steve Horn (wxman6990@centurylink.net) and Angela Lopez (aptitudecpr@outlook.com) not later than the Sunday before the event so they can schedule workers to open the nursery. This will ensure we have nursery staff to support your needs, while conserving Avery Church resources.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will meet on December 6 and 13, and will not meet the rest of December. Bible Study resumes on January 3. Bible Study meets in the lower level conference room from 9:00 am-10:15 am. Please join us for this study. All are welcome.

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will be doing lessons from the book "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs to complete 2017. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (with a few exceptions) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Please join us for fellowship, prayer and a lesson. We would love to have you join us!

December 12, 2017

Home of: Kay Baldwin

14110 S. 22nd St., Bellevue, NE

Lesson: Susie Nielsen

Dessert: Donna Lawson

New Year . . . New Study

"GLORY DAYS"

DVD & study guide by Max Lucado

"Maybe you're feeling stuck. Caught in a rut. Fighting the same battles and facing the same

temptations. Wondering if this is as good as the Christian life gets. If so, there's good news. You were made for more.

You were made for Glory Days!

We are looking forward to 2018 with a new study and would love to have you join us.

We meet at 7:00 pm the second & fourth Tuesdays of the month.

January 9, 2018

Home of: Susie Nielsen

11618 S. 39th Street

Bellevue, NE 68123

#402-292-9016

Lesson: Janice Bright

January 23, 2018

Home of: Lisa Aiken

10707 S 29th St., Bellevue, NE

Home # 402-964-2217

Mission Opportunities

Avery School Angel Tree

Please note that the Angel Tree will be in the back of the sanctuary for congregants to choose an Avery child to help at Christmas. Missions Committee partners with Avery School on this project. The school counselor identifies families in need and provides the list to us with requested items. Each year, the families we have served have been so very grateful for our help. It has been a very humbling project for us as a committee. We are so thankful to be a part of this church family reaching out in our community. Please consider choosing a child from our Avery Angel Tree to support. Wrapped gifts should be returned no later than December 10 so that we can sort them, ensure each family is equally represented and prepare them for pickup. Questions can be directed to Angi Burmeister aburmeister@berkshire-law.com 402-672-4002.

Habitat for Humanity

On October 16, 2015 Avery Church started a fundraising adventure with a dinner and auction for the members and friends of Avery Presbyterian Church.

Along with a group of other churches, all but one located in Sarpy County, our goal was to raise \$100,000. The goal was achieved in December 2016.

A site was located and ground was broken on Sunday, June 11, 2017. Now we are ready to start the building process. The foundation is poured and as soon as the plumbing, electrical and framing are completed we should be able to have our first group ready to work on Saturday, December 16th. To work at the job site a volunteer must be at least 16 years of age.

In addition to working on site, there will be an opportunity for people to prepare and deliver lunches for the workers. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

We welcome your enthusiasm and labor as we assist the family in completing their home.

Grace Ford
(402) 515-1249 gsplunkett1@gmail.com

Bellevue Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of:

Canned Tomatoes Sloppy Joe Mix
Cranberry Sauce Stuffing Mix
Peanut Butter Jelly Rice

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Clip and take to the store

December Greeters

Awaken: Cheryl White
Legacy: Jennifer, Ashley and Beth Libby

Volunteer Opportunity -Greeters

If anyone is interested in being a greeter for either Service, please contact Nell Fuller at garyandnellfuller@gmail.com or 402-291-2975.

December Worship Assistants

- 3 Donna Lawson
- 10 Steve Quinn
- 17 Steve Horn
- 24 Dan Svehla/Susie Nielsen
- 31 Kay Baldwin

Building & Grounds

Avery Church Facilities Use Reminder

If you would like to use the church facilities for any reason, please notify the church office to check the availability of your requested date/time, and ensuring it is on the church calendar. Please return the completed application to the church office (if possible) 30 days prior to your requested date. The applications are an important communication tool for the Buildings and Grounds committee who are responsible for the opening/securing the facility, and for the Church custodian.

Everyone's cooperation in following this procedure is important and appreciated, so that we avoid conflicts of dates/times and space for all church and non-church related events. Applications can be obtained by contacting the church office. Thank you!

Avery Bells Guidelines

DEADLINE: 15th of each month

If you would like something included in the newsletter, please submit the information **by email** to the church office by the deadline date.

Information will not be included without confirmation from the chairperson or committee representative each month. Thank you!



2017 Leadership

Elders and Committee Responsibilities

Moderator of the Session: Pastor Jeff McDonald; **Clerk of the Session:** Bev Hrdy

Treasurer for the Session: Cindy Crisp

Delores Barber: Nominating Co-Chair; Communion to Shut-Ins

Mark Carpenter: Christian Education Chair

Bob Cook: Buildings and Grounds Co-Chair, Vision Team Co-Chair, President of the Corporation

Gary Fuller: IT Chair, Representative to Presbytery, Peanut Brittle Task Force and Coordinator

Steve Horn: Personnel Chair, IT Committee

Pat Mullins: Worship, Music, and Prayer Co-Chair

Susie Nielsen: Missions Chair

Richard Osterholm: Wills and Memorials Chair

Dan Svehla: Worship, Music and Prayer Chair, Vision Team Co-Chair

Robert Taylor: Stewardship/Finance Chair, Buildings and Grounds Co-Chair, and Nominating Co-Chair

Jason Van Holland: Membership and Evangelism Chair

Current Deacons and Committee Responsibilities:

Mark Lawson: Moderator of Deacons, Care Ministry

Barb Carey: Secretary of Deacons, Care Ministry; **Barney Chandler:** Deacon's Closet, Kitchen

Grace Ford: Fellowship; **Nell Fuller:** Newcomer Welcoming, Greeters; **Kathy Amegandji:** Fellowship

Rodger Kendall: Care Ministry, Deacon's Closet, Fellowship, Kitchen

Dina Merrick: Communion, Baby Gifts; **Mary Jo Osterholm:** Funeral, Correspondence

Cheryl Stensby: Communion, Fellowship; **Stacy Weber:** Fellowship; **Judy Williams:** Funeral, Ushers