



## STRAFFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2015

PASTOR: John Inmon

Church Address: 200 E. Chestnut, Strafford MO 65757

Phone: 417-736-3148

Website: [straffordumc.org](http://straffordumc.org)

Sunday Service Times

Sunday School: 9:15am

Morning Worship: 10:45am

Wednesday Service: 6:00pm

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving.....there's a lot of meaning in that word. One might think of a big turkey dinner with all the fixins, another might think of family and friends, but one might think of something totally different....possibly someone that's not in their inner circle, someone who is always there for them in their time of need, listening, comforting, saying all the right things. An individual who is willing to miss their own family plans to help you in your hour of need. Always going above and beyond, yet expecting nothing in return. We have a person like that right here in our church. A gracious individual who we expect to be there for every dinner, parade, funeral, meeting, special event, nursing home and shut-in visits, hospital stays, phone calls to those who don't show every Sunday, so on and etc.... the list goes on and on. With that being said, I'm sure you've figured out I'm talking about our Pastor. We, as a church, pay him to work 10-12 hours a week. That includes the time it takes him to prepare his sermons, drive time to church and sermons on Sunday. We don't pay him to do the Wednesday Night Praise Service, or anything else at that matter. Our church can't afford a full-time Pastor, a half-time Pastor or even a quarter-time Pastor with a yearly raise. But what we do have is a Pastor who is willing to work as much as a full-time Pastor and then some, while still maintaining a full-time job at another place to support his family. That's what I'm thankful for....a Pastor who has asked nothing of us as a congregation other than praying for others and giving to the least of these. He wants us to step-up in our community to bring the un-churched to God and show them his loving grace. Yes, he has to talk about the nasty subject of Tithes and people needing things. He doesn't ask for us to give our last dollar, and he doesn't check our taxes to see how much we are holding back when that plate comes around on Sunday morning. But the things he has asked of us fails in comparison to the things we expect of him.

When counting your blessings, please remember to give **THANKS** for all the **GIVING** our Pastor does for us. Have a wondrous, safe and joyful December, and most importantly remember the true meaning for the season....our Saviors' Birth.

Love, April Potter

**MISSION STATEMENT: We open our Hearts, our Minds, and our Doors and we answer the call of making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**

 IN OUR PRAYERS 

Our Country, Our Church, Our Military, The sick and infirmed, Caregivers

Gail Boever            Wayne Bumgarner    Frank Costello    Martha Easterly

Rex Easterly            Sam Easterly            Ben Estep    Family of Doug Favor

Gena Love            Mary Malard            Mike Paxson

Billie Jo and Anthony Robertson    Roger Todd

Hal Williams            Mary Williams            Derek Wilson



## Message From Our Pastor

Here we are in Advent already this year. We have had a busy season so far this fall. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leaders of the church for their dedication and hard work during the last few months, it takes a lot of time and work to prepare for the coming year.

I hope you all take time to remember that we are now in the season of preparation for the coming of our Lord.

This season take some time, slow down and remember we are about to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Remember those that are downtrodden, those that don't have the ability to buy those gifts for their families and those that are serving our country and will not be able to celebrate with their loved ones.

We will have a Christmas Eve service at 5:30 PM on December 24<sup>th</sup>, I hope you are able to attend, if you are not in the area I encourage you to take the time to find a service to attend.

We celebrate Christmas for a reason, it is not all about the gifts and about being with family, those things go along with the season and are very important, BUT, Jesus is coming and we should celebrate that!

### **Luke 2:10-14**

**But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**

**Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**

In God's Love,

Pastor John



# December



| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                 | Saturday          |
|--|--------|---------|---|---|------------------------|-------------------|
|  |        | 1       | 2<br>6:00<br>Hanging of<br>the Greens<br>7:00 Choir                             | 3   | 4                      | 5<br>UMW<br>10:30 |
| 6<br>9:15<br>Sunday<br>School<br><br>10:15<br>Fellowship<br>10:45<br>Church  | 7      | 8       | 9<br>2:00<br>Quilting<br><br>6:00 Praise<br>Service<br>6:00 Kidz<br>7:00 Choir  | 10  | 11                     | 12                |
| 13<br>9:15<br>Sunday<br>School<br><br>10:15<br>Fellowship<br>10:45<br>Church | 14     | 15      | 16<br>2:00<br>Quilting<br><br>6:00 Praise<br>Service<br>6:00 Kidz<br>7:00 Choir | 17  | 18                     | 19                |
| 20<br>9:15<br>Sunday<br>School<br><br>10:15<br>Fellowship<br>10:45<br>Church | 21     | 22      | 23<br>2:00<br>Quilting<br><br>6:00 Praise<br>Service<br>6:00 Kidz<br>7:00 Choir | 24<br><i>Christmas<br/>Eve<br/>Service<br/>5.30</i> | 25<br><i>Christmas</i> | 26                |
| 27<br>9:15<br>Sunday<br>School<br><br>10:15<br>Fellowship<br>10:45<br>Church | 28     | 29      | 30<br>2:00<br>Quilting<br><br>6:00 Praise<br>Service<br>6:00 Kidz<br>7:00 Choir | 31<br><i>New<br/>Years<br/>Eve</i>                  |                        |                   |

# **Lemon Meringue Cookies**

*By: Country Living Magazine, June 2007*

## **Ingredients**

- **6 large egg whites**
- **2 tsp. fresh lemon juice**
- **Pinch of salt**
- **1 tsp. pure lemon extract**
- **1 tsp. pure vanilla extract**
- **1 1/4 Cup sugar**

## **Directions**

1. **Make the meringues:** Preheat oven to 200 degrees F. Line 2 baking pans with parchment paper and set aside. Place egg whites, lemon juice, and salt in a large bowl and beat using a mixer set on low speed until foamy. Add the extracts, increase mixer speed to medium, and add the sugar in a slow, continuous stream. Increase speed to medium high and continue beating until egg whites form satiny, stiff peaks.
2. **Bake the cookies:** Fit a large piping bag with a large star tip and fill with meringue. Pipe 3-inch S shapes onto prepared baking sheets. Bake without opening oven for 1 hour. Reduce temperature to 175 degrees F and continue to bake for 2 more hours or until cookies are completely dry. Transfer the cookies, on the parchment, to a wire rack to cool -- about 45 minutes. Store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.