



# LIBERTY LANTERN



VOL. 3, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 18, 2025

## FROM THE PASTORS DESK...

I love to fish. It is something my father instilled in me from the time I was a preschooler. One of the principles I learned was the importance of patience, another was realistic expectations. I knew going in, each time I would go fishing I may not catch any fish that day or I may only catch one or two. The fish were usually smaller than I would have wished.

In the version of the story of Jesus calling his first disciples in Matthew 4, Jesus first meets Andrew and Peter, who were fishermen. Jesus says to them in verse 19, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

There are some analogies that can be drawn between fishing and evangelism. Jesus' great commission to us is to go make disciples and baptize them in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even though we often do not realize it, opportunities to share our faith with others present themselves almost every day.

Just like how we need to know how to fish properly, the keys to success in evangelism are knowledge, patience, and, most importantly, being willing to go "fishing." The same principles apply.

We can expect that we will not succeed in "catching" them all, but we will reach some. Those we are unable to evangelize are left for others to reach. One of the classic lines of a fisherman is, "You should have seen the one that got away."

There were many times I went fishing and got skunked, not catching anything. But there was always next time. A fisherman never lets a catch-free outing discourage them. It is the same with evangelism. All we can do is our best in every human encounter and rely on God to finish the work. After all, it is our job to plant the seed and apply the water. God will supply the growth.

God bless all of you.

In Christ's love,  
*Pastor Bob*



## IN MEMORIAM...

Terry Lee Coxson, age 78, loving husband, father, and grandfather will be remembered on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at Liberty United Methodist Church.

Terry was a dedicated educator and coach for more than 30 years and his passion for mentoring extended beyond the classroom as he coached high school football, basketball, baseball and track, touching countless lives.

Terry is survived by his wife, Phyllis, children Kimberly and husband Scott, Brian and wife Kari, his cherished grandchildren, Ashton, Jett and Slade, sister Shirley and brother Tim.

Fellowship with family and friends will be in Memorial Hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Liberty United Methodist Church for the window fund, a project close to Terry's heart.

## LIBERTY CALENDAR...

There has been nothing but positive feedback on the new Liberty monthly calendar format! Thank you to everyone who took the time to let us know the new format is more convenient and 'user friendly'.

With January well underway we are releasing the February calendar with this newsletter. If you note any events, meetings or other information missing from the calendar please let Rachael S. know and a revised calendar will be included in the next newsletter, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## CHANGE IS GOOD...

In an effort to 'streamline operations' the Liberty Lantern is considering moving to a monthly publication. Your input will help us to make the final decision. Let your feelings be known.

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>POTLUCK SUN.</b> <i>No Adult Study</i> <b>Worship 10 AM</b> Youth Study 10:15 AM	3	4 <b>Liberty UWIF</b> 10 AM Mem. Hall <b>UMM</b> 10:00 AM Conf. Rm.	5 <b>Bulletin info</b> <b>deadline</b> <b>Choir Practice</b> 6:30 PM Sanctuary	6 <b>Hand &amp; Foot</b> (Canasta) 6:00 PM Memorial Hall	7	8
9 <b>COMMUNION</b> Adult Study 8:45 AM <b>Worship 10 AM</b> <i>No Youth Study</i> <b>Ad Council 11:45</b> Conf. Rm	10 <b>Newsletter</b> <b>submission</b> <b>deadline</b>	11 <b>Bodacious</b> <b>Women 10 AM,</b> Mem. Hall	12 <b>Bulletin info</b> <b>deadline</b> <b>Choir Practice</b> 6:30 PM Sanctuary	13 <b>Hand &amp; Foot</b> (Canasta) 6:00 PM Memorial Hall	14	15
16 Adult Study 8:45 AM <b>Worship 10 AM</b> <i>Youth Study 10:15 AM</i> <b>Worship Team 11:45</b> AM Conf. Room	17 President's Day	18 <b>Bodacious</b> <b>Women 10 AM,</b> Mem. Hall	19 <b>Bulletin info</b> <b>deadline</b> <b>Choir Practice</b> 6:30 PM Sanctuary	20 <b>Hand &amp; Foot</b> (Canasta) 6:00 PM Memorial Hall	21	22
23 Adult Study 8:45 AM <b>Worship 10 AM</b> <i>Youth Study 10:15 AM</i>	24 <b>Newsletter</b> <b>submission</b> <b>deadline</b>	25 <b>Bodacious</b> <b>Women 10 AM,</b> Mem. Hall <b>Home Group</b> 6:30 PM, Jarvis Hm.	26 <b>Bulletin info</b> <b>deadline</b> <b>Choir Practice</b> 6:30 PM Sanctuary	27 <b>Hand &amp; Foot</b> (Canasta) 6:00 PM Memorial Hall	28	

Notes: