

# From the Pastor

December 2019  
A Message from Pastor Sondra



*"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."* Luke 2:20

When our babies arrived, the news spread quickly. We called grandparents and aunts and uncles. We called the church office and the "prayer chain" started. With our firstborn, a page in the info book of Riverside Hospital's respiratory therapy breakroom heralded the news. Both births were listed in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church's newspaper: "East Ohio Today". The internet was not what it is today ... I actually mailed birth announcements to many people.

For Mary and Joseph, as labor pains intensified they frantically searched for a comfortable place to welcome their first baby. However, they had to settle for a manger. There were no trained professionals to help, no comfort of medicine or even a fluffy pillow. The Christ Child was welcomed by a trusting couple and a stall full of animals.

The news spread. Angels sang and shepherds hurried to see. Stars shone – one in particular – and wise men began a long journey towards Bethlehem. Scripture does not mention townspeople gathering or newspaper articles being written. It seems to be the shepherds who return to their lives changed by a little baby's birth. They couldn't stay silent! They sang and glorified God.

Thousands of years later we are still asked to tell the story ... proclaim the birth ... send forth the announcement .... Jesus is born!

What if sharing the news of Jesus' birth was up to you?

In reality – it is!

Will you tell the difference Jesus makes in your life to the world?

Will you glorify and praise God with enthusiasm; with a sense of gratitude?

Will you spread the news ... as if the world depended on you for the Good News?

I hope during this Advent and Christmas Season many more will come to know what God has done ... Jesus comes to save ... because of our faithfulness in telling the story. Let's glorify and praise God together, until the whole world knows!

*Pastor Sondra*