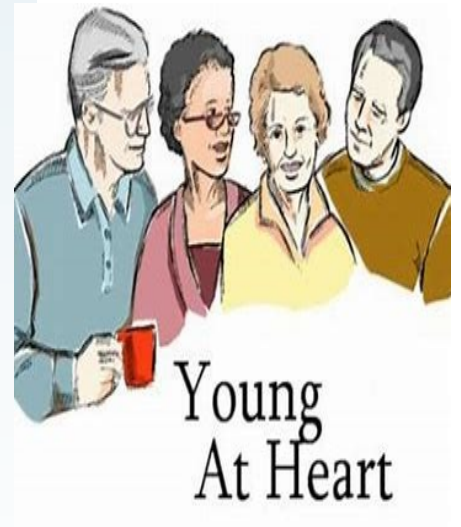


YOUNG AT HEART NEWSLETTER



Dear Church Leaders,

Each Christmas a young pastor and his family would put together their family creche piece by piece as they read the Christmas Story from Luke's Gospel. When they were finished one year, their 2-year old jumped off his mother's lap to run to his room. He came back quickly with a large plastic dinosaur in his hand which he plunked down in the middle of the creche figures with the dinosaurs head and open mouth hanging threateningly over the manger with the baby Jesus. His father wanted to scream "NO! NO!" but after thinking about it for a few moments he decided it belonged there.

Jesus came into this world where there were monsters—King Herod, Rome, hunger, poverty, sickness, leprosy, etc. And monsters still exist in our world today—dictators, addictions, arthritis, sickness, starvation, poverty, etc. Jesus wants to transform our lives so we too can overcome the monsters in our lives. That may mean healing but it may also mean a peace in our hearts that says we can endure and will be "more than conquerors" in Christ Jesus. Jesus came for everyone, even those of us who are struggling this Christmas. Talk to Him and tell Him how you feel. He wants to hear from you this Christmas. He came for you and loves you with a love that is unmeasurable. Rev. Sue Eaton

Come, Lord Jesus

Christmas is coming.

Jesus is coming.

Sit in anticipation.

Close your eyes & breathe

Breathe in and out.

Breathe in & think: Come

Breathe out: Lord Jesus

Come...Lord Jesus

Come...Lord Jesus

Breathe this prayer often.

Invite Him to come.

Christmas is coming.

Jesus is coming.

Does Your Older Adult Ministry Need a Fresh Start?

Now that we have been living with the coronavirus pandemic for the past 22 months, I suspect that some congregations in the Kentucky Conference are facing daunting challenges of re-energizing or reimagining their older adult ministry. I have a suggestion to help you re-think and re-image your ministry with older adults in your church: an in-person or virtual Zoom meeting with S.A.G.E Ministry Committee leaders. Committee members are here to help you to start or revitalize your intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults.

This is a free service to you and your church. At a time that's convenient for you and your church's older adult ministry leaders, we will meet virtually via Zoom or in person at your church. During the meeting, we will:

- Review your church's existing older adult ministry (if applicable)
- Assess your older adult ministry needs
- Develop older adult ministry plans
- Share resource ideas
- Offer program models to help you start and/or sustain intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults

To take advantage of this offer, please email me at: sueeaton@bellsouth.net I look forward to hearing from you and to helping your church capture a new vision for older adult ministry.



Scam of the Mont

While we shop and cook and hang holiday lights, scammers are busy looking for their next targets. The Better Business Bureau has issued a list of scams to be on the lookout for during the holiday season and tips on how to keep yourself from being the next victim. **Keep your holidays safe and jolly by not falling for these follies!**

- 1. Online Shopping:** Most stores have switched to chip reading credit card machines to reduce the risk of fraud and skimming. However, scammers are now focusing their efforts online. To protect yourself and your money, financial experts recommend using a credit card instead of a debit card when making online purchases.
- 2. Look-Alike Websites:** It's very easy for scammers to mimic real websites. Look for the HTTPS and lock symbol at the top of the webpage; the "s" stands for secure. Also, look at the spelling of the web address. It is extremely easy for tricksters to change or add an extra letter to make it look legitimate.
- 3. Fake Shipping Notifications:** This scam is used with different techniques. You may receive an email with attachments or links that could download malware to your computer to steal your personal information. You could also receive a nondescript postcard where you are instructed to call the number on the card which could lead to you revealing private information and/or when the house is vacant. Don't fall for it!
- 4. Phony Charities:** Scammers like to take advantage of the holiday spirit by using fake charity solicitations in your email, by phone, and on social media sites. You can verify charities at www.give.org or <https://givingmatters.civicore.com/>.
- 5. Temporary Holiday Jobs:** A lot of companies need additional help during the holidays. Steer clear of job postings that ask you to share personal information or pay for job leads.
- 6. Emergency Scams:** Be extremely skeptical if you receive a call from a "relative" saying they have been arrested, kidnapped, or hospitalized while traveling. Never send money unless you can verify the information with another family member first.
- 7. Letters from Santa:** There are several reputable companies that offer personalized letters from Santa Claus; however, scammers like to use this as a way to obtain personal and financial information from parents and grandparents.
- 8. Unusual Forms of Payment:** Be wary of anyone asking for prepaid debit cards, gift cards, wire transfers, etc. as a form of payment. These transactions cannot be traced or refunded.
- 9. Travel Scams:** Use caution when searching for travel bargains. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- 10. Social Media Gift Exchange:** It sounds fun to purchase one gift and receive so much more in return; however, this holiday "fun" is actually a pyramid scheme, which is illegal.
- 11. Gift Card Scams:** Gift cards are always a great idea for the holidays. Just remember to be vigilant. Avoid gift cards displayed in the open. If you choose one that is in a package, inspect the package or open it in front of the cashier to ensure it has not been replaced with a phony. Keep your receipt and register the card online with a new PIN (if possible).