



Faith in Action

a monthly publication of Bremerton United Methodist Church

"Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?" Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them." Matthew 22: 36-40

Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life... Matthew 28:19 "The Message"

MUSINGS for DECEMBER

What is advent? "It is waiting, hoping, giving shape to our dreams, it is all a part of the human condition. To dream of a world of peace and justice where God's goodness is all in all, and to wake to its realization, is a cherished human hope. So it is, the church waits for Jesus in Advent. Poised, we are alert to the signs of the times in nature, Scripture, newspaper, ready to greet wherever the Christ appears. The Promise comes in unexpected peace blossoming like a garden in winter, in the wake-up call of an unlikely prophet, in the sudden courage to risk bringing God's future into being, in Mary's risk to bring Jesus in to the world. Advent's color can be purple or deep blue. At Bremerton United Methodist Church, we use blue, the color of the sky just before the first rays of sunrise wake the rooster to announce to the watchers the dawning of the new day."

These words above were written in a curriculum guide in *Imagining the Word*. Arts and Lectionary resource, Volume 3 back in 1996. I simply took them and wrote them to fit our church. I loved this curriculum source. I loved the art that would be chosen to view, as one looked at a poem or song, or writing. I think of these words, as we begin **The Redemption of Scrooge** as our Advent/Christmas study and worship themes which we will explore this year. This theme is based on Charles Dickens's **A Christmas Carol** and we'll explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Cratchits, with an eye to Christian faith. Along the way we will meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come and learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus.

I believe that this will be a fresh new way to hear the Christmas story this year, and find that we don't own the culture we are a part of, that God comes in and surprises us again, on turning everything upside down...and finding that God is the one who owns our culture, our secular places and our spiritual places. We will also find, that the same issues that Charles Dickens's writes about in his book, are still issues we are facing today.

And so, we pray that God, during this season of Advent, will move our hearts forward from those days, when we thought Christmas Eve was about us, to this day when we proclaim Jesus' wish list of good news, release, recovery, freedom, and favor. We do this because this is God's story, and through grace, it is our own.

God Bless Us, Every One,

Marta

*Poised, we are alert to the
signs of the times in nature,
Scripture, newspaper, ready
to greet wherever
the Christ appears.*

Upcoming Events for Advent

Caroling at the Mall: Nov 26th, 1:30-2:30 pm

Movie Night: Dec 1st, 6:00 pm Watch the Disney version of A Christmas Carol and eat pizza!

Decorating the sanctuary: Dec 2nd, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

The Breakfast with Scrooge and Characters: Dec 9th, two seatings—9 am and 10:30

Caroling at Bay-Point Dec. 13, 2:00 pm Join the staff to spread joy at Bay Point

The Longest Night: December 21st, 7:00 pm. A prayer service in the sanctuary for all those who wish to come in to pray.

Additional & extended articles are on page 2 & 3

November 26th 10:30 am
 Caroling at Kitsap Mall
 1:30pm to 2:30pm

December 3rd
"Bah Humbug! Making Change"
Scripture Lessons:
 Isaiah 9: 6-7 & Luke 1: 46-47, 52-55

December 10th
"The Remembrance of Christmas Past:
Hope from Heartbreak"
 Isaiah 9: 2,6 & Luke 2: 8-14

December 11th
 Michelle's Studio Recital 11am

December 17th
"The Life of Christmas Present:
Look Upon Me"
Scripture Lessons:
 Deuteronomy 15: 7-11 & Matthew 2: 1-18

December 24th
"The Hope of Christmas Future:
Death-Defying Acts"
Scripture Lesson:
 Revelation 1:4; Luke 4: 18-19;
 Romans 8: 4b-17



God Bless Us, Every one!

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday December 3rd at 10:30am we will be bringing in new members to our church. If you are so inclined to want to be part of this new group, please call the church office, or email Bill Little at wmbillittle@msn.com, and we will make sure you are a part of this new membership class. Thank you so very much.

Wednesday November 29th:

Need help pulling out the Christmas Decorations, and putting them in the Sanctuary to get ready for Saturday December 2nd at 9:30am to begin decorating the whole church.

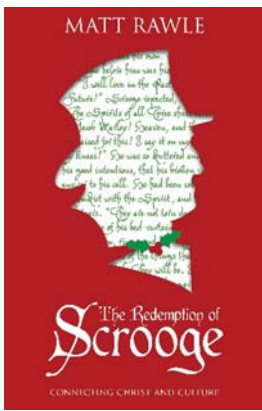
December 2nd from 9:30am until around 12:30.

Need people to put lights outside; to decorate the railing up the steps with boughs, to put the Christmas Tree up, and get it decorated. Decorating the Fellowship Hall, and table tops, and much much more. Many hands make light work! Please come and spend a few hours on this Saturday morning to help out. All ages!

ANGELS WATCHING OVER US

Stop and stand by the beautiful angel Catalina Sanchez created, as you come up the stairs and take a photo of yourself inside the wings...or have someone else take your photo. Email the photos into michelleabad@gmail.com and we will post the photos down that hallway. It is a photo opp for you!





Breakfast with Mr. Scrooge and Characters

In keeping with the Advent Sermon Series, The Redemption of Scrooge - we invite you to breakfast at either of the two breakfast sittings,

9 am or 10:30 am on Saturday morning, December 9th.

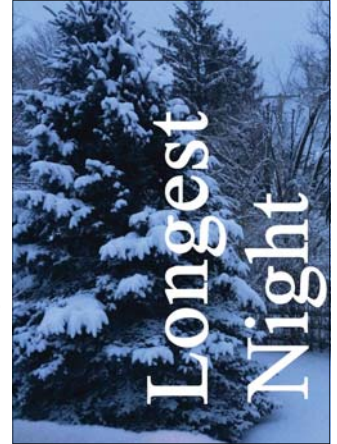
Sing carols with our Carol Singers in the Sanctuary, make an ornament at the children's table, and meet Mr. Scrooge and the other characters. Have your picture taken with Scrooge, one of the other characters, or the Carolers, and relive the Christmases of the days of yore! Suggested donations are \$10 per person or \$25 for the family. Come and join the fun and take a break from the hustle and bustle of this time of the year, never forgetting that JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!!!

Tickets are available now! Invite your neighbors!!

A Longest Night Prayer and Candlelight Service

7 pm at Bremerton UMC December 21st.

During this holy season of Advent/Christmas, hearts can be very tender. We seem to grapple more with human suffering that seems to find us more in this time of year, than any other. This service will offer you the opportunity to light candles for a loved one or for a situation you or a loved one are in at this time. We'll sing carols, and feel the warmth of each other, and the peace, hope, joy and love of this season can bring us.



Hats, Mittens, Scarves

Monday the 13th, we had many helping out, and being involved in serving, setting up the clothes in the sanctuary, and helping in the kitchen as we prepared for our guests for chili, and soup, for Warm for Winter. (An event that Sally Santana, created for the least of these in Bremerton, as she would come to the Kitsap Interfaith Network each month, and challenge us to help the poor.) What is so special about this day, is many people bring items to share. Pacific Fabric has customers who knit hats, mittens and scarves for all sizes all year long. And, many in our Interfaith churches, bring items too. Not to mention our own church families who donate items as well.



Two large groups of homeless guests came over in vans from the Salvation Army and a van full in our van, driven by Robert Sawyer brought 38 homeless to our tables. Other guests came too, to sit at the tables and visit and get to know our guests.. After eating, we went into the sanctuary and sang hymns chosen by our guests, and heard two of them speak. One had been truly touched by one of their homeless friends who is dying of liver cancer. This friend told him, "get off alcohol, get off drugs. You won't want this liver cancer. Get out and eat right and exercise. Change your life!" So, he was sharing how he is trying to do just that!

After singing, the clothes are blessed, and our special guests are given plastic bags and invited to find items of clothing that would be helpful to them. It is such a special day, with many so grateful for having people welcome them, and making them feel at home. Thanks to all who brought items in. Next year, we will need to focus on more gloves for men, and new socks for all ages. God Bless Us Everyone!

Lord Hear Our Prayer


Prayers for Healing: Sharon Masters, Wanda Butler, Lynn Hume, Robert Sawyer, Anne Leddon; Delma Love; Joan Clemmons; Marvin Leach; Gary Pepper; Betty & Floyd Langton; Lorna Crawford; Lee Crawford; Michael McKinney's dad; Marilyn Schlichting; Loretta Coates; Frank and Ruth Hutson; for families who are hurting; Betty Baker's brother with brain cancer; Barb, a friend of Carol Branscum, and her family; Ellalene Shearer.



Prayers of Joy: For the everyday blessings from God, 'For such a time as this' when our building project is moving along on schedule. For our new Rotation Sunday School; for the many volunteer hours that so many of this church put in; and the generosity of this community during stewardship to help bring about the kingdom of God.

In Their Loss: For Kathleen Allen and family on the death of her sister Marjorie Illman; Pastor Marta and her family, on the death of her mother Betty Addicott; Ione Visick, on the death of her husband Gifford; Marcie Carlsen on the death of her mother; the family of Marian Trautmann on her death; Maggie and Brian McNett, on the death of Maggie's husband and Brian's father, Donald.

Community and World: For, our country and all the people who are in leadership; all the people who have suffered from the shooting in Texas; all the people in Puerto Rico; for all affected by the fires in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Montana. For the people who are affected by Hurricane Irma; For all the people suffering under Hurricane Harvey, and now Hurricane Maria. For the victims of the earthquakes in Japan and Mexico. For our planet earth, and to all who are working on creative ways to bring about a rebirth to end the climate change; our country's leaders, and those in North Korea and around the world, that they make wise decisions that lead to peace; for all the immigrants who are afraid of being deported from our country; for the many who have been impacted because of hate crimes. Let us be the change in Creation care to save our planet, racial issues, homelessness, immigration, health issues, and making sure every child goes to school.

	December Anniversaries		Rasheed Joiner	18
	Mr. & Mrs. Valton Herman	17	Floyd Langton	18
	Ms. Sara Estes	19	Doris Smith	18
	Angel and MaLinda DeJesus	29	Carol Branscum	19
	December Birthdays		Mara Schultz	19
	Michelle Abad	3	Wendie Johnson	20
	Catalina Sanchez	6	Lorna Lee Smith	20
	Westin Thayer	6	Thomas Burch	23
	Kristy Howard	9	Carol Ungren	29
	Justin Silver	11	Kathleen Allen	30
	Donny Yates	16	Penny Trimboli	31

VETERAN'S DAY Thank you for your service!

A Day of Remembrance is shared for all those who have served in one of the armed forces. A slide show of their photos they bring to us, and where they served etc. are shown. A special prayer is given, and it is a day, when one of our uniformed members brings the flag in on the first hymn and the colors are removed on the last hymn. An important day for many.



MONEY MATTERS

Our financial balance information for 2017 is nearing completion and planning for 2018 is well underway. We still have a significant deficit in our operational budget for 2017 with a net income of $-\$184,224$ at the end of September. This has been an ongoing issue. We have been able to withdraw money from our reserves to balance the budget; however the reserves are diminishing. The leadership group of the church has been diligently working on this as have you through your faithful giving. This is not a problem that can be quickly or readily resolved and is an issue confronting many churches. Within our church, we believe that progress is being made and we remain hopeful through God's grace, love and hard work that a balanced operating budget can be reached. Many lives have been transformed, love shared, services provided, and faith journeys inspired and strengthened throughout the life of the church to which we are witnesses.

In our building project, we currently have \$407,820 from the \$619,000 that has been raised however, we still need approximately \$130,000 to complete the project by February 2018 under the contracted limit of

\$750,000. We are excited about the work that is being done and our unfolding vision.

Thank you to all of you for your presence, love, generous giving, your faith and way of living. Thank you for your prayers and stewardship in so many different ways. Many of you have already placed your 2018 financial commitment cards in the offering plate. Thank you so much. For those who have been unable to do so, please continue to give this your prayerful consideration and return your commitment cards as soon as possible. You can mail them to the office, put them in the offering plate or hand them to Debbie Thompson, Larry Watson, Marta or myself. Every contribution is important and furthers God and Jesus' presence, love and work in our community and world.

Corky Sullivan, Finance and Stewardship Committee



Construction Continues

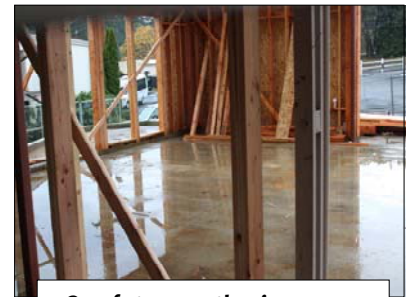
For weeks we have watched our new addition growing and changing. Some steps have gone so amazingly fast. Other changes are more gradual. As you stand in the parking lot you can look through the openness and see how the 4 individual restrooms are framed in on the left side. Across the openness on the right will be the “gathering space” where we can have coffee sharing and fellowship. We plan an area to sit and visit, have a class or small group gathering.

In the next few weeks we will see the roof framed after all the trusses are set; the windows will be framed and set; and the exterior glass doors will be added to the front and side wall by the ramp. Meanwhile, interior framing, drywall and other inside work will continue, even if we can't see it happening.

Our goal is that we will have raised the necessary funding (even if we have to borrow from ourselves) by the time that the construction is complete. We hope not to take out a loan. Thank you to all of you who have pledged, and paid off your pledge from 2015-2017. You have another chance to help with a pledge for 2018-2020 time frame. Having a total pledge amount allows the church's finance team and the building committee to make plans for getting bills paid. You also might like to underwrite buying a specific item that we will need, thus saving that amount from the total due. (See the poster, the list and estimated costs of suggested items.)



Soon to-be restrooms



Our future gathering space



O, for a roof overhead!

All Saints Day ...

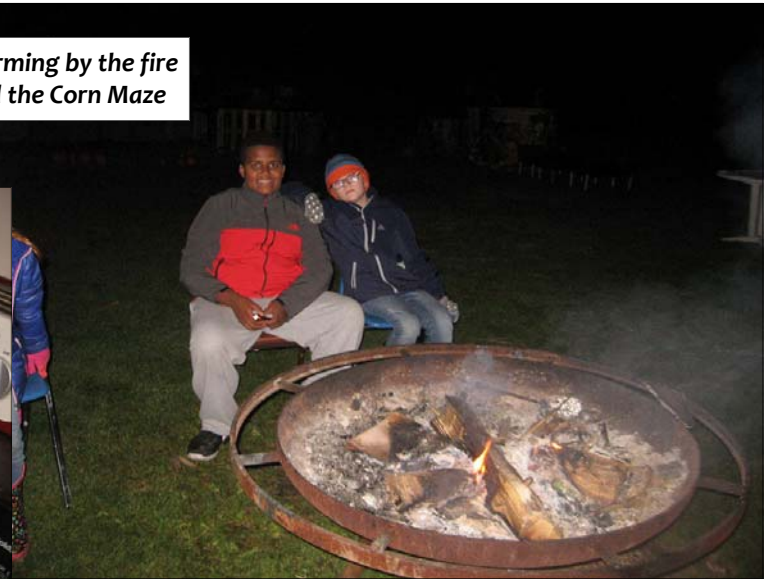
... our special worship service in which we honor the saints who have gone before us. We lit candles and shared communion, which is a part of the celebration of remembrance. The names of those who died as members of our church, and those who died as family members of our church members were read aloud, as a bell tolled. Between the various groups, we sang verses from Bless Be the Tie That Binds...

Rotational Sunday School... continues on with Ms Audrey and Mr Corky teaching about Abraham and Sarah and gave a wonderful hands-on feel for life in the Bible days by constructing their own tent as the people of those days would have lived in.



JUST 4 YOUTH!

Muhiga and Donny warming by the fire after their trip around the Corn Maze



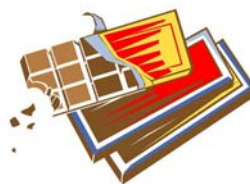
Brought the Port Orchard youth group back with us for Hot Choc and Hot Apple Cider and games



Guess what flavor this one is?



Did you know there were this many different flavors Oreos cookies?





Discussions That Dig Deeper



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Keep Your Eyes Peeled

Beforehand, hang treats to a room's ceiling with yarn and tape—high enough so family members will have to stretch to reach them. Gather in another room. Say: **Close your eyes and I'll lead you somewhere. No peeking until I tell you which direction to look for good gifts.**

When you're in the treat room, say: **Put your chin on your chest and look only at the ground! What good things do you see?** (Answers might include shoes, feet, carpet, furniture, and so on). Say: **Now put your hand above your eyes and look only straight ahead. What good things do you see?** (Pause for answers.)

Say: **Keep your hand above your eyes and look only to the right. What good things do you see?** (Pause for answers, and then repeat for the left.) Say: **On the count of three, look up for good things!**

After enjoying the treats, read Psalm 136:1. Ask: **What are some surprising places you find gifts from God? How can we thank God for his good gifts?**

Good questions help children process what they've learned. They also help kids own their faith and think more deeply about it. Intriguing questions move beyond Bible verses and lessons to how they relate to children's own lives. It's important to spark kids' imaginations and move into life application. Thought-provoking questions make kids pause to think about their answers rather than blurting out pieces of memorized trivia. Let children share their opinions and personal experiences. When they start opening up, listen attentively and actively. And don't be afraid of getting a question in return that you don't know the answer to. This can be a time of humility to show kids that it's okay not to have all the answers. Here are some other ways to launch meaningful conversations with children:

Table Tents Make simple table tents (like restaurants use to advertise desserts!) for mealtimes. Have family members take turns creating questions and artwork for the tents. Or use this template: <http://childrensministry.com/articles/family-ministry-conversation-tent/>

Devices Down Not only are phones distracting, but they're affecting children's ability to converse. Research shows that parents' use of phones hampers their kids' social skills. Device-free times are essential for in-depth conversations.

Arts & Crafts Kids of all ages enjoy being creative. While they're working on simple age-appropriate projects, they'll express themselves not only through their artwork but in response to questions you ask.

Encourage Commitments Hypothetical questions don't require any buy-in from kids. Instead, ask life-application questions that move into real-life changes and commitments. For example, ask, "What's one thing you'll do this week to serve God?" or "How can we work together to tell others about Jesus?" Then be sure to follow through.

Take Time to Debrief Debriefing questions help children make discoveries about how the Bible relates to their lives. This is essential after Sunday school, VBS, and other faith lessons so kids make connections between faith and their day-to-day experiences.

Make It a Game Help older kids and preteens open up by turning question-and-answer time into a game. Brainstorm a list of "Would You Rather?" questions, or use the "Preteen Throw and Tell Ball" (<https://www.group.com/product/9781470720346-preteen-throw-tell-174-ball-this-or-that.do>).

Start Shuffling Card games such as Uno, which don't require much focus, are perfect for encouraging discussions. Once you fall into a groove, you can easily start a discussion—one that may turn more meaningful than who has to draw four.

Bingo! Print some Bingo cards for use at your Thanksgiving meal, filling in the squares beforehand with likely conversation topics. Templates are available here: <http://childrensministry.com/articles/november-december-2014-web-exclusives/>.

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."
—Psalm 19:14

Sunday Van Driver Schedule

1 st Sunday	MaLinda DeJesus	471-3393
2 nd Sunday	Rich Pfeiffer	373-2940
3 rd Sunday	Tom Russell	373-1832
4 th Sunday	Marcie Carlsen	917-5976
Accessible Bus	Robert Sawyer	692-0130



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00am Adult Faith Formation
10:30am Worship Service
12:00pm Coffee Fellowship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 Adult Faith Formation 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	4 1:30 Building Committee DR 5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room 6:30 Bridge Club	5 10:30 Bridge Club 1:00 Craft Group WR	6 10:00 Staff Meeting DR 10:30 Bridge Club 6:30 Chancel Choir	7 4:00-4:30 Paul @ Bay Pointe 6:30 Praise Band	8 6-9:00 Youth Group All Newsletter Items Due	9 9:00 Breakfast with Scrooge and friends 9:30-11 Study Group 6:30 Bridge Club
10 9:00 Adult Faith Formation 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School All Sainis Day	11 1:30 Building Committee DR 5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room 6:30 Bridge Club	12 9:00 Committee Chairs Lib. 9:30 Quilters WR 10:30 Bridge Club 12:30 Massage Group DR 1:00 Craft Group WR	13 10:00 Staff Meeting DR 10:30 Bridge Club 2: Caroling at Bay Point 6:30 Chancel Choir	14 6:30 Praise Band	15 11:00 Newsletter Folding 6-9:00 Youth Group	16 9:30-11 Study Group 11:00 Recital 6:30 Bridge Club
17 9:00 Adult Faith Formation 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	18 5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room 6:30 Bridge Club 7:15 Trustees, Finance, Ad Board Meeting Disciple Rm	19 9:30 Quilters WR 10:30 Bridge Club 12:30 Massage Group DR 1:00 Craft Group WR	20 10:00 Staff Meeting DR 10:30 Bridge Club 6:30 Chancel Choir	21 4:00-4:30 Paul @ Bay Pointe 6:30 Praise Band	22 6-9:00 Youth Group	23 9:30-11 Study Group 6:30 Bridge Club
24 9:00 Adult Faith Formation 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	25 5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room	26 10:30 Bridge Club 5:30 Adult Children of Alcoholics Wesley Room	27 10:00 Staff Meeting DR 10:30 Bridge Club	28	29 6-9:00 Youth Group	30 9:30-11 Study Group 6:30 Bridge Club
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360.620.3771
- Angel DeJesus, Custodian
- Albert Buster, VADIS Worker

Calling for a Ride?

To request a ride, please call the
church office at 360-373-3510; for the
van, choose option 2, and for the
accessible bus,
choose option 5.



Sunday Schedule:

9:00 am Adult Faith Formation
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
DECEMBER
8**

Bremerton United Methodist Church celebrates the diversity of our community and the world. We affirm the sacred worth and dignity of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, or physical and mental capabilities. We openly proclaim this welcome to all, including those who have known the pain of exclusions or discrimination, and invite everyone to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, respect and understanding.





what to put in your **EMERGENCY KIT**

Dear Church,

As we move closer into having some important training here for our neighborhood, as we build resiliency in our community for when emergencies happen, this is what we can begin doing right now in our own homes. The more people who have supplies in their home, the more prepared the neighborhood is. Thank you for getting your supplies ready.

Pastor Marta

What to Put in your Emergency Kit

There are many excellent resources for building your emergency kit available on the internet. For example, The Red Cross, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Ready.gov all have recommendations for emergency supplies.

Consider what items are important for your specific situation as you gather materials. Think about special needs for the elderly, young children, pets, and people with medical concerns.

Certain geographical locations may require additional supplies; for example, if you live in a location with very cold winters, consider adding stocking caps and other warm clothing to your kit. And if you live in a rural area that may be difficult to reach during a disaster, think about adding supplies that will last five or more days.

Here are some non-exclusive suggestions for building your emergency kit:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day)
- A three-day supply of non-perishable food (which could include items that don't require heating, such as granola bars and peanut butter), plus a manual can opener, and utensils
- Cash in small denominations
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery-powered or crank radio with extra batteries
- Crank, solar, or battery-operated power source for charging cell phone and other small electronics
- Multi-purpose tool, such as a Swiss army knife
- Emergency contact information for friends and family
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Whistle
- Wrench or pliers

- Local maps with evacuation routes marked
- Personal hygiene supplies, such as trash bags, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene items
- Fire extinguisher
- Duct tape
- Matches
- Bug spray
-

A first aid kit is a very important component of any emergency kit. Again, consider what items might be necessary for your particular situation as you build your kit. Non-exclusive suggestions for building a first aid kit include:

- Antiseptic cleansing wipes
- Antibiotic ointment packs
- Aspirin
- Antacids
- Bandages, sterile gauze, and tape
- Hydrocortisone
- Vinyl gloves
- Thermometer
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Prescription medications and a list of medications taken
- Extra glasses

Once you've gathered these items, store them in a safe location.