



# THE CHIMES

*The official newsletter of Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church.*



## Upcoming Events

FILLING STATION

SANTA EVENT

ALL MUSIC SUNDAY

CAROLING

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

CHRISTMAS

## A Word From the Pastor

Psalm 78 – A Maskil of Asaph

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders that he has done.

Psalm 78:1-4 (NRSVue)

As another calendar turns and the liturgical new year for Christians is upon us, I've felt recently that we would do well as the people of God to celebrate all that has happened and look expectantly ahead to what the Spirit is calling forward into. Perhaps, then, we might find it a blessing to engage in a simple practice of remembering, rejoicing, and reflecting. As the psalmist in psalm 78 says, "I will utter [mysteries] from of old, things we have known and heard," and, "we will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord..." Especially in times...

# A Word From the Pastor Continued...

...of change, both great and small, it is the simple act of being a bridge between what has been and what might be that gives us solid footing to follow the Spirit of the Lord.

We as a church have been busy this last year. From Sunday worship to our Wednesday night filling stations, Vashtai to Sunday School (for both children and adults), and our youth groups, children's choirs, and chancel choir, we have been an active community. This isn't even accounting for the various yearly events, fundraisers, and ministries nor is it mentioning the ways that we have opened our doors to various organizations and non-profits within our community. Proclaim and affirm, says the psalmist, the great things that the Lord has done; we, as the Body of Christ, should also remember all we have done and the ways that we've been faithfully proclaiming and affirming the love of Christ. It is so easy to forget that sometimes we don't realize all the good that God is doing through us.

Because of all this, we have cause to rejoice: to give thanks for our ability to worship God and gather together in the love and presence of Christ; to be able bless groups and organizations in our community by freely providing space for people to meet and provide important community services; to have incredible congregation members and staff who carry out the work of Christ and support the needs of our local church in the specific ways they are called. We are blessed, and there is so much good going on in our church that it is important to remember what we do and rejoice in the faithfulness of God and the commitment of the community. God is good, and we have much to be thankful for.

So as we enter into a new year, the Spirit calls us into reflection and hope. To dream about the adventures and the discoveries that are in store for us as a congregation are one of the continued gifts of God. The questions that have arisen in me as I reflect on the places that Christ is calling us to situate themselves around equipping our parishioners and caring for our community. How can we as individuals become aware of our gifts and what we are called to? And how can we as a community and as leaders become aware of the gifts we see in others and invite them into what God is already doing? How can we continue to uphold and continue to breath new life into the traditions we hold dear, or as the psalmist says, "tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord?" And in what ways do we need to pass the torch and continue to support our youth and younger adults, who have been called as well, who will faithfully carry the Gospel on in their own way after we have breathed our last?

There are wondrous deeds that God has done throughout this year, if we would learn from the Wisdom of the Lord and open our hearts to perceive them, and there are wondrous deeds that will be done in these coming years. Efforts to reduce violence in our community, plans to create a greener future for our children, and continued building up of our congregants so that they might lead our people into what God is calling us into. May you find some time this Advent season, or even in the quiet days after Christmas, to remember, rejoice, and reflect. For in doing so, we might find healing, catch a glimpse of salvation, and truly feel the presence of Christ.

May it be so. Amen.

Ps. Luke Fillmore

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## NEWSLETTER

Month of December | 2023

First UMC

### From Adyson,

Hey everyone! Merry Christmas! I am so excited for this season and th emany events we have going on in the church.

I know this time of year can be hard for some families. If your family is in need of anything, please let me know!



### Topics for this month

#### Sunday School

During Sunday School we will focus on the different parts of the Christmas story. On Dec 20th we ask that all youth come to join us for a caroling event at 6:30-7:45pm.

#### Youth Groups

We will be diving deeper into the Christmas story and the traditions of the church. December 20th is the youth caroling event 6:30- 7:45 (WNL will still meet after)

### What we learned last month

- How the church works (WNL)
- Cities in the Old Testament (Sunday School)
- Working with one another as the body of Christ(MS)

### Important Dates

- Dec 2 Play practice
- Dec 3 Christmas play
- Dec 20 all youth caroling event
- Dec 24 No Sunday School

### Ministry Needs

- Volunteer teachers for Sunday School
- Books for the youth library
- Supplies for the take what you need baskets

# Announcements

## Donation Requests

Our church will be collecting shampoo throughout the month of December for The Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the shopping cart in the back of church. Also, they can always use extra plastic sacks (grocery stores, Menards, etc).

## Al-Anon Meetings

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope, in order to solve their common problems. They believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery. Their purpose is to help family of alcoholics. There is no cost to attend. Meetings take place each Monday at noon in the Gathering Room.

## Technical Support Team

Many thanks to our members who make it possible for livestreaming church services each week. These tasks include recording, checking sound, controlling the cameras, and much more! Thanks to Charlene Anderson, Dave and Lori Beekman, Scott Johnston, Elizabeth Metier, Brent Meyer, Cody Peterson, Alec Schanz, Jim Stephenson, and Jeremy Swanson.

## Happy Birthday

Lois Martin will be celebrating her 100th birthday on December 30. If you would like to send her a card, please contact the office for her address. Lois is the wife of Rev. Bob Martin.

## Vashti Circle

The next meeting is Thursday, December 7 at 1:30 pm in the Church's Gathering Room. Connie Schnurr will host.

## FILLING STATION

Join us for a **homemade meal, fellowship, and contemporary worship service**. Meal starts at 5:00 pm. Service to follow at 6:15 pm.

### DECEMBER 6

#### Menu:

Ham  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Homemade Bread  
Brownie with Peppermint Ice Cream



#### RSVP

Contact the church office at 515-576-7586 to RSVP for the meal. Meal is \$6 per person or \$18 per family.

## Radio Broadcast

Thank you to Betty Niceswanger and Ray and Nancy Scharf for sponsoring radio broadcasts in November. If you or a family member enjoy services being broadcast on the radio, please consider donating to the cost of a broadcast (\$100). Payment can be sent to the office. If you would like this to be in honor of memory of someone, please contact the office.

## Meals on Wheels

Our church's next opportunity to help with Meals on Wheels is December 6-8. Thank you to those who signed up to deliver meals: Liz Johnson, Marcia Main, Sharon Moser, Becky Ostheimer, Deanna Rhiner, Cheryl Trunnell, Mike and Judy Waddell, and Lana Waggoner.

# Announcements

A graphic for a "Cozy Sunday Service" featuring a red knitted hat at the top, a blue and white mountain range below it, and a blue background with white snowflakes. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif font.

**COZY SUNDAY SERVICE**

**December 24**  
**9:45 am**

**Join us for service in the Sanctuary!**  
Come dressed in your festive  
Christmas sweater, comfy pajamas,  
or wear your favorite Christmas tie.

**Hot chocolate & cookies provided.**

A graphic for a "Christmas Eve Service" with a black background. The title is in a glowing yellow script font. Below it is a white sans-serif font for the invitation and date. At the bottom is a photograph of lit candles.

*Christmas Eve  
Service*

All are welcome to our celebration of music,  
candlelight, and the love of Christ.

**December 24**  
**6:30 pm**

## Caroling

Our youth groups are excited to invite the congregation to sing carols and experience the Christmas Story. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on December 20 at 6:45 pm. Invite your friends and family to join!

## Cookies

Cookies will be provided after the Cozy Sunday Service on Christmas Eve. If anyone would like to provide a dozen or two cookies for the morning service, please contact the office. We appreciate your help!

## Church Office

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

*Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas!*

## All Music Sunday

All Music Sunday is set for Sunday, December 17 during service. Enjoy the music and talent from our music groups including Chancel Choir, Christmas Band, High School Small Group, Joyful Noise Choir, King's Kids Choir, and Wesley Ringers.



# Poinsettia

## ORDER FORM



Fill our sanctuary with *joy* and *life* this Christmas season.

Return this form and payment to the church office by **December 15**.

Poinsettias will be displayed for both Christmas Eve services and can be taken home after the evening service.

**Name:**

---

**Phone Number:**

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**In Memory of:**

---

AND / OR

**In Honor of:**

---

***\$13.00 per poinsettia***

\_\_\_\_ **Number of Poinsettias**

\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed**

**Cash**     **Check** (Please make checks out to First UMC with poinsettias in the memo)

Thank you to Becker Florist for providing the poinsettias.

FUN WITH

Santa



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

**10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM**

**COME JOIN US!**

**FREE**  
pictures  
with Santa!

Story time,  
activities,  
and crafts!

**FREE**  
lunch and  
dessert!

**First United Methodist Church**  
**1002 1st Avenue North**  
**Fort Dodge**

## **Our Best Year Ever for Total Amount Raised for Missions**

A total of 64 people helped make the fall Rummage Sale a success: 39 church members plus 6 workers from other churches, 8 women from the YWCA, 1 from Lotus, and 10 from the Girl Scouts. This includes members who called for volunteers, members who provided lunch for the workers, and everyone who worked before, during, and after the sale. The number of volunteers from our church was much lower this year due to conflicts and illness, so it meant that the volunteers we did have, worked just that much harder and longer. We are hoping for a larger number of volunteers for our 2024 spring sale.

After the sale, we distributed items to 30 different groups: Almost Home - Humane Society, Augustana Lutheran Church (Manson), Beacon of Hope (Second Chance), Beckers, Coats for Kids: Community Health/Shimkat Motors, Connie's Closet (meeting needs at FD Men's Halfway House), D/SAOC, Fighting Angels Abreast, First Baptist Church Clothes Closet, First United Methodist activity bags, First Presbyterian fabric for quilts, Florida UMC Camp, Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge Schools (Cooper, Duncombe, ELC), Friends of Fort Dodge and Rockwell City Public Library, General Store, Goodwill, Grace Lutheran Church, Heartland Hope and Homes Store, Little Free Libraries, Lord's Cupboard, Lotus (emergency shelter for women and children), Lutheran World Relief, Nancy Spire (pillows & fabric for humane society), Parkside, PICA, Pomeroy Covenant Church, Retired School Personnel, St. Olaf (backing for quilts).

Because of your generosity in donating and purchasing items, we made \$7516.25 this fall. Adding this to the spring total of \$5833.75, means that this year we raised \$13,350 – our highest total ever!! Since October 2005, we have raised \$142,340.21 for missions.

The Rummage Sale Committee has voted to give \$13,000 raised from proceeds of the spring and fall 2023 FUMC Mission Rummage Sales to the following organizations:

\$2,500- Methodist missionary: Althea Belton, Gulfside Assembly of Waveland, Mississippi – she is developing a Helping Hands ministry

\$2,500- Methodist missionary: Temba Nkomozepi, Mujila Falls Agricultural Center, Zambia, Africa – his projects help the people of the area have a more sustainable agriculture

\$1,000- Fort Dodge Community Foundation - to help kids and their families during an emergency or crisis to prevent homelessness, hunger and other critical challenges

\$1,000- AFES - Athletics for Education and Success - Fort Dodge

\$1,000- D/SAOC (Domestic Sexual Assault Outreach Center) - Fort Dodge

\$1,000- Life Works - Fort Dodge – organization that supports people with disabilities

\$1,000- Heifer Project – Equip communities with sustainable tools that enable them to provide for themselves

\$1,000- Lord's Cupboard

\$1,000- UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

\$500- Church of Damascus Road – (Ministry for Men at Fort Dodge Prison)

\$500- Women at the Well -(Ministry for Women at Mitchellville Prison)

**The spring sale will be June 6-8 with workdays on June 3-5 plus cleanup on Monday, June 10. Please mark your 2024 calendars and plan to join us as we work together to make our mission sales a continued success.**

**Rummage Sale Committee – Dori Snow, Cheryl Trunnel, Jody Donahoe, Phyllis Wilson, Pat Bennett**



# Lectionary Readings

## December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

Isa 64: 1-9

Ps 80: 1-7, 17-19

1 Cor 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

## December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa 40: 1-11

Ps 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Pet 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

## December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 61: 1-4, 8-11

Ps 126

1 Thess 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

## December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7: 1-11, 16

Luke 1: 47-55

Rom 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

## December 24

Christmas Eve

Isa 9: 2-7

Ps 96

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-20

## December 31

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isa 61: 10-62:3

Ps 148

Gal 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 22-40

# Financials

## Year to Date Giving:

\$270,158.23

## Year to Date Expenses:

\$335,552.75

## Income Over (Under) Expenses:

-\$65,394.52



# Birthdays

## December 2

Clarissa Brown

## December 5

Mark Siems

## December 5

Laura Siems

## December 6

Lynne Popp

## December 6

Melissa Olson

## December 7

Nick Garst

## December 9

Reid Branderhorst

## December 10

Carol Thatcher

## December 10

Bonnie Messerly

## December 11

Pat Thomas

## December 14

Don Seltz

## December 16

Tom Brainerd

## December 19

Bill Kent

## December 19

Charlene Anderson

## December 24

Howard Ortmeier

## December 27

Carol Harrison

## December 30

Joseph Peterson

## December 30

Lois Marin

# Anniversaries

## December 22

Ray & Nancy Scharf

8 years

## December 27

Jerry & Connie Schnurr

64 years

## December 29

Stuart & Julie Andresen

38 years



# PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Scharf  
Donna Pearson  
Elsie Wallingford

Mary Lou Fibiker  
Nursing home residents  
Men & women serving our country

# Volunteer Schedule

## Tech Team

### Sound | PowerPoint | Camera

<b>December 3</b>	Dave Beekman   Charlene Anderson   Jim Stephenson
<b>December 10</b>	Scott Johnston   Brent Meyer   Jeremy Swanson
<b>December 17</b>	Jim Stephenson   Lori Beekman   Cody Peterson
<b>December 24</b> (Morning Service)	TBD
<b>December 24</b> (Evening Service)	Scott Johnston   Brent Meyer   Jim Stephenson
<b>December 31</b>	Jeremy Swanson   Charlene Anderson   Cody Peterson



## Ushers

<b>December</b>	Scott McQueen & Marlo Branderhorst
<b>December 24</b> (Morning Service)	Marc Krass & John Metier
<b>December 24</b> (Evening Service)	Scott McQueen & Marlo Branderhorst

## Altar Guild

<b>December 3</b>	Connie Schnurr: Parameters & Communion
<b>December 24</b>	Charlene Anderson: Parameters

## Greeters

### West Doors | East Doors

<b>December 3</b>	Connie Schnurr   Iris Jones
<b>December 10</b>	Cody & Katie Peterson   Henry Brain
<b>December 17</b>	Deb Larson   Nick & Heather Cochrane
<b>December 24</b> (Morning Service)	Lynette Bumann-Pearson   Lana Waggoner
<b>December 24</b> (Evening Service)	Jerry & Linda Beck   Connie Schnurr
<b>December 31</b>	Byron & Diane Chalstrom   Jerry & Beth Schnurr III

## Liturgists

<b>December 3</b>	Scott Johnston
<b>December 10</b>	Michael Stanley
<b>December 17</b>	Dave Beekman
<b>December 24</b> (Morning Service)	Jan Krass
<b>December 24</b> (Evening Service)	Jerry Schnurr III
<b>December 31</b>	Michael Stanley

## Altar Flowers

<b>December 3</b>	Brown
<b>December 10-31</b>	Christmas/Poinsettias

# THANK YOU!





# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Children's Program  SPRC Meeting after service Christmas Band Reh. after service	4 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	5 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm  Advent Study: 7:00 pm	6 Meals on Wheels  Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm Filling Station Meal: 5:00 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm Filling Station: 6:15 pm WNL: 7:00 pm Wesley Ringers: 7:00 pm	7 Meals on Wheels  Vashti Circle: 1:30 pm  Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	8 Meals on Wheels	9
10 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am  Christmas Band Reh. after service	11 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm  Ad Council: 6:30 pm	12 Advent Study: 7:00 pm	13 Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm Wesley Ringers: 6:00 pm WNL: 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh: 7:00 pm	14 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	15 Poinsettia orders due to the office	16 Santa Event: 10:30 am  Manna Meal (Noon Rotary) 5:00 pm
17 Sunday School- 8:30 am Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am All Music Sunday  Fort Dodge Choral Society's Christmas Concert: 3:00 pm	18 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	19 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm  Advent Study: 7:00 pm	20 Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm Caroling: 6:45 pm Wesley Ringers: 7:00 pm WNL: 7:00 pm	21 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	22	23
24 Filling Station Reh: 8:30 am Cozy Sunday Service: 9:45 am Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: 6:30 pm  31 Worship Service: 9:45 am	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	29	30



# FORT DODGE

## First United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 am Sunday School  
9:45 am Worship Service  
11:00 am Radio Broadcast  
(KVFD 1400 AM)

### CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
515-576-7586  
[www.firstumcfd.org](http://www.firstumcfd.org)



Fort Dodge  
First United Methodist Church  
127 North 10th Street  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## STAFF

### PASTOR

Luke Fillmore | [revluke@firstumcfd.org](mailto:revluke@firstumcfd.org)

### FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Adyson Schanz | [adyson@firstumcfd.org](mailto:adyson@firstumcfd.org)

### ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Lindsay Kavanaugh | [office@firstumcfd.org](mailto:office@firstumcfd.org)

### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS DIRECTOR

Amy Champagne

### CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Gretchen Stanley

### WESLEY RINGERS DIRECTOR

Brian Robison

### PRAISE BAND CO-DIRECTORS

Amy Champagne & Gretchen Stanley

### NURSERY ASSISTANTS

Lyndsey Bennett & Ella Champagne

### FINANCIAL OFFICER

Danelle Willer

### MAINTENANCE

Jordan Harvey