

first Edition

A bi-weekly publication of the First United Methodist Church



Iowa City, IA 52245

Christmas Eve = New Year Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship Times:

5:00 P.M. – *Building the Nativity*

This service will feature a way for all the children to participate in the nativity story as we gather to celebrate the birth of our savior with songs and praise.

7:00 P.M. – *Carols and Candles*

Join us on a Journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem as we light the Advent candles, sing carols, hear meditations, and, in the glow of a candle-lit Sanctuary, sing Silent Night.

11:00 P.M. – *Candles and Communion*

Witness the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ through the eyes of the Shepherds as they lovingly watched over their flock on that glorious night. We will gather around the Lord's Table, hear Pastor Barrie's message, *The Witness of the Shepherds*, and enjoy the singing of Silent Night by candlelight, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Christmas Day Worship Time:

10:00 A.M. – Pastor Jonathan will conclude our Journey to Bethlehem sermon series with his sermon, *The Shepherds*. Our scripture will be from The Gospel of Luke 2:8-20. We hope you'll join us for worship to celebrate the birth of Christ child. Young Disciples Time will be a Blessing of the Toys – bring one new toy with you for our time together.

New Year's Day Worship Time:

10:00 A.M. – Pastor Barrie will start off the new year with a focus on Luke 2:22-40 *Holy to the Lord*. Our Scripture tells of Simeon and Anna's witness to the Lord. What is your witness going to be in 2012?





Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Service & the 1st Sunday in 2012!

What a worshipful Lessons and Carols Sunday we had! Great thanks to the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Jon Cryer, Joan Felkner, Rev. Jonathan Fell, Jesse Helgerson, JP Marshall, John & Ronda Marshall, Ron Mirr, Amelia Prybil, Lillian Prybil, Suzanne Smith, and Jan Tschantz for presenting a Festival of Lessons and Carols two Sundays ago. Special thanks to Michael Davidson for playing so many pieces of wonderful music! I also want to say many thanks to all the following readers: The Prybil family, Ryan Cole, Lorna Cress, Joan Felkner, Martin Hill, Dick Johns, Steve Marner, Megan & Michael Petkewec, Pam Ries, Rev. Ken Royar, Gary & Lynnda Sanborn, Peter Stiefel, Kae Tritle, Gretchen & LaVern Vauble, and Joel Wilcox. Tremendous thanks to Rev. Dr. Barrie Tritle for his great support to this special worship service!

We will be singing many Christmas carols to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in all **three Christmas Eve services!**

Many young singers and players will be sharing their musical gifts **at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Children & the Nativity.** The Wesley Chimes will be playing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" conducted by Ken Mullen. The Children's Choir will be singing "He Is Born." At **6:30 p.m.**, our gifted organist Michael Davidson will be performing a Christmas Eve recital. At **6:45 p.m.**, the Jubilation Ringers will be presenting a *Christmas Eve Musical Offering*. This is our first time playing on Christmas Eve in this century! I highly encourage you to come early to prepare your hearts for worship! **At the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles**, Suzanne Smith and I will be playing our arrangement of "It Came upon the Midnight Clear." **At 10:30 p.m.**, the *Langguth Piano Trio* will be presenting a Christmas Musical Offering leading to the **11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Candles and Communion.**

Thanks to Rev. Jonathan Fell and Amy Ostrem for singing in all three worship services. Amy will be singing "Mary Did You Know," accompanied by Wendy Ostrem. Pastor Jonathan will be singing "O Holy Night." They will be singing a beautiful arrangement of "Night of Silent/Silent Night" by Kent Keating. I hope you can come to one or all of our Christmas Eve Worship Services!

We will have only ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. It will be the LAST Sunday service in 2011! Our talented organist Michael Davidson will be playing joyous Christmas music. I will be presenting *A Medley of Christmas Carols* at **9:45 a.m.** Our music will depict a joyous atmosphere of this Christmastide!

We will also have only ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m. on New Year's Day. Donneta Knarr will be singing "I Wonder As I Wander" on the **FIRST** Sunday service in 2012! I hope you can come to worship with us on this special Sunday.

Many thanks to all our dedicated musicians, acolytes, greeters, ushers, liturgists, A/V team, computer inputting team, computer operators, and our Christmas decorators who contribute their time and talents here at FUMC, especially during the busiest time of the year!

Let us experience the abundant love from our precious Lord Jesus!

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in Christ,
Samuel





Thank You! to all who donated to the finals boxes this year! With your help we were able to send boxes to twelve students in four states – and we'll be sending one to France too! I have already heard back from several students who said your donations of cookies, coffee, candy, toys, and office supplies have already been put to good use as they prepare for their final exams.

Thanks again!

The Youth Group & Pastor Jonathan

FEELING HOLIDAY STRESS??

Please stop briefly and picture how this is amplified for local families in emergency situations. Common Fund giving has fallen off recently; we may not reach last year's total. Economic difficulty for all! However, without help from the Common Fund, a young couple who just had a baby could have had their water turned off; a mother and father of four children and who have had unexpected health problems could have had their electricity disconnected; and a single father of two who lost his job and is currently living on a small unemployment benefit could have had his water disconnected.



Many needs are turned away but these folks were helped, thanks to you and your generosity! Donations: CRC, designated "Common Fund", PO Box 2025, Iowa City, IA, 52244-2025.



Receive help on small home maintenance tasks!

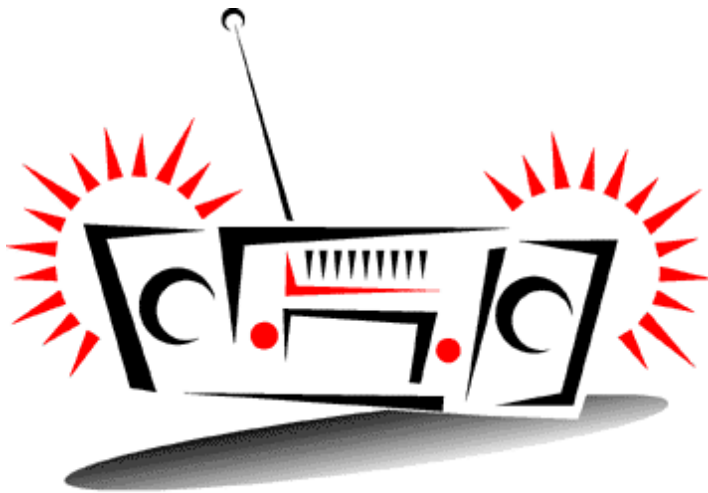
If you are an older individual or know someone who may need help with simple home maintenance, let Habitat for Humanity help. On Saturday, January 21, February 25, and March 31, volunteers will be going out to older individuals' homes to replace and install new, energy efficient light bulbs, furnace filters, and smoke detector batteries. This is a free service provided by the A.M. Rotary Club & Interact Clubs. Please email Ashley at ashley@iowavalleyhabitat.org or call the Habitat office at (319)337-8949 with any questions. Applications for this service may be found at www.iowavalleyhabitat.org (under 'receive help' and 'apply for many hands'), or you can talk to Pastor Barrie regarding filling out an application.

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In celebration of Christmas and the coming New Year, the church office will be closed on Dec 23 & 26 as well as on Dec 30 & Jan 2. The staff wishes everyone a most blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

First Edition Schedule: Because of the shortened work weeks, the schedule for the publishing of the *First Edition* newsletter has been adjusted. **No newsletter will be published the week of Christmas or the week of New Year's Day.** A *First Edition* will be published and mailed on Wed, Dec 21 and on Jan 11, 2012.





Radio Broadcast

Effective January 1 we will no longer be broadcasting our worship services on the radio. This decision was made after budget considerations. The radio broadcasts are a week delayed compared to our TV broadcasts which are normally the current week service. The radio broadcasts cost us \$85 per week due (over \$4000 per year) and the TV is public access at no cost.

We will continue to offer several alternatives to for those who are homebound or for other reasons cannot attend Sunday worship at FUMC:

- Audio files (mp3's) of several previous sermons will be posted on the church website for listening through computer speakers,
- Recordings will be available from the Church office for a small fee in DVD or CD format;
- In the near future we will be distributing audio podcasts of our sermons using iTunes, and;
- Public Access television (channel 18) re-broadcasts an edited worship service each Wednesday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Please know that the recording, editing, and other technical manipulations required for the TV broadcast, mp3 files for the website, and Podcasts are all made possible by the efforts of a team of volunteers and our staff. We greatly appreciate all of the volunteer time given to do this ministry.

If you have any suggestions for this ministry or would like to volunteer your talents please contact Claire Bartleson at the church office at 337-2857 or by email at claire-bartleson@icfirstchurch.org.

WESLEY CHIMES

Calling all kids, ages 1st through 8th grade. Have you ever wanted to try playing chimes with the group? This is your perfect no-pressure opportunity to have fun and learn about music during January. On the last 4 Sundays in January of 2012 the Wesley chimers and friends will gather at 8:30 am in Room 205 and have a party playing chimes. We will not perform in front of the congregation. The purpose is to introduce music to young folks and have fun.

If you would like your child to participate in one, some, or all the sessions, please email Joyce Marner at jmarner@southslope.net. If you forget to do that and your youngster decides to participate, just show up. All are welcome.



Handchimes

Growing in Health & Wholeness:

The Journey

I've long found the word *journey* to be a very evocative word, and some of the imagery and symbolism and feeling from T. S. Eliot's ***Journey of the Magi*** are a part of that haunting, wistful, yet expectant feeling that is generated for me:

*'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For the journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter...'*

For me, and I would guess for many of us, the shortening of the days this time of year- coming home from work after dark, getting up before there is light- feels heavy, difficult, even ominous sometimes. As the Magi realize on their journey, it is both a spiritual and physical journey they are on, and it must have been terribly long and arduous to follow a star across the desert, not knowing where they would really end their journey. And since they were following a star, they must have traveled mainly at night:

*'...A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches...'*

They continue on their journey, much like we continue on ours, not knowing exactly where we'll end up, but trusting and having faith that we are indeed being led. Eventually the Magi reach their destination, and find the Holy Child in a stable, as they had been told.

*'...And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.'*

'Satisfactory' is said to have several possible meanings here, but the one I like best is 'fulfillment of the sacrament'. They had journeyed as instructed, they had found their destination, and they were there to kneel in complete adoration of the newborn Babe.

*'...All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This:...
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death,
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.'*

Birth and death are intrinsically linked, they find, as are Christmas and Easter, winter and spring. The spiritual perplexity of the meaning of birth, death, and rebirth unfolds so hauntingly here, and the Magi who have traveled so far to witness such a miracle, must now return to their old homes, to people who now feel foreign to them, having not experienced the Christ child, or the journey to find him.

As we journey on, together and alone, through these darkest of days leading up to Christmas, we can know: there *will* be Light, there *is* hope, and the darkness *will* give way to the Light.

May the peace of Christ be in you and with you,

Sage River

Wellness & Caring Ministries



Take time to pray - Our Church Family

We Pray For:

- Those whom we know to be hospitalized at this time:
Mercy: Daniel Metz
- All those in need of continued healing including:
Deb Even who will undergo surgery at UIHC on January 4th,
Wyonna Hartwig as she recovers from surgery on December 16th to remove a melanoma,
Faye Alger and her daughter, Roxann, as they face health concerns,
Jim Lentz as he recovers from a spinal cord injury and two broken wrists,
Suzanne Bainbridge at Windmill Manor who has lost sight in one eye,
Dave Powers, husband of Mary Jane (Janie) Woolridge Powers and niece of George and Marj Dane,
has been diagnosed with renal cancer and is facing surgery,
Glenda Gabel, Jan and Jim Down's sister-in-law, who is in acute rehab working towards recovery,
John & Allie Dane's great granddaughter, Angel Rose, born prematurely on October 14, and recovering
from surgeries,
Mary Schroeder, dear friend of Diane Duncan-Goldsmith, who has non-smoking related lung cancer,
Rita Howe, daughter of Florence & Meredith Maas and friend of Leah & Harold Adams, as she receives
treatment for lung cancer,
Kaidyn Alexander Shayde Cleveland, born at 24 weeks and in the NICU at UIHC; the great-grandson of
Pam Berven Jackson, former member here, and grandson of Kimberly Brockman,
Cher Wojnicki, family friend of the Ries family, undergoing treatment for stage 3 cancer,
Dr. Jim Skarda, his wife, Jennifer, and their children Jonathan and Juliann, as Jim is receiving hospice
care at home,
Darrell Allman, brother-in-law of Charles Thiede, as he receives chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer,
Conan Dalton, brother-in-law of Jennifer Ballard, as he recovers from brain surgery,
Sergeant Collin Raaz, dear friend of the Sue & Sam Mullins family, who lost both legs in an IED
explosion in Afghanistan, and is now in San Diego continuing his recovery,
Vicki Burketta, friend to many in the congregation, as she continues treatment for cancer,
Sharon Campbell, who is suffering from an aggressive bone cancer; Sharon is the aunt of Sherry Mars,
Ron Krueger, friend of Connie & Jim Olson, as Ron undergoes treatment for lung cancer,
Ginnie Woodard, who has been diagnosed with adenocarcinoma; she is a friend of Matt Downen,
Barbra Johnson, friend of Jan Vaught Brezina, as she undergoes chemo and radiation for breast cancer
in Kansas City,
Harold Schenk, now at Atrium Village, and all those in our congregation who are homebound or
residing in nursing homes or extended care facilities.
- Those serving in our military:
Nathan Bontrager, son of Carol Bontrager, has returned safely from Afghanistan and is now stationed
with his unit at Ft Polk.
Luke Tschantz, son of Jan & Mike Tschantz, Ensign in the Navy stationed in Hawaii,
Todd Royar, who has is serving in Afghanistan,
Nathan Platz, son of Bob & Kristy Walker, now stationed in Italy,
Joseph Russell, son of Mary Lou Russell, serving in South Korea,
Alan G. Kellogg, son of Gary & Catherine Kellogg, now serving in Iraq,
Chris Miller, son of Harvey & Maxine Miller, who is serving by Army Special Operations,
- The healing of breaking and broken relationships,
- For those struggling with mental illness that they may receive the medical care they need,
- The mission, ministries, and staff of First United Methodist Church,
- Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble, East Central District Superintendent David Crow, Field Outreach Minister
Jill Sanders, the Iowa Annual Conference, and the DeWitt United Methodist Church and Pastor Chuck
Kelsey.
- All those who have been impacted by violence, oil spills, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes,
and other natural disasters throughout the world,
- Peace with justice for the world.

Attendance @ FUMC

12/11/2011 PRESENCE

8:00	121
<u>10:30</u>	<u>302</u>
Total	423

12/18/2011 PRESENCE

8:00	67
9:15	80
<u>10:30</u>	<u>222</u>
Total	369



Volunteers needed! The 6th Judicial District Department of Corrections Adult Mentoring Program needs volunteer mentors to help empower offenders in our community to make positive life choices. Volunteers can mentor in two different ways: Mentors can work **1-on-1** with clients, assisting them to make pro-social choices, overcome obstacles, and reach goals. The mentor develops a trusting relationship with a mentee who is screened and matched specifically for them based upon shared interests, skills, and goals. Groups of mentors can also form a **Circle of Support and Accountability (CSA)** to support an offender using circle dialogue processes that allow people to respectfully discuss difficult issues in safe ways. CSAs surround the mentee with individuals that pledge to support them and hold them accountable to their goals.

For more information or to apply, contact Elizabeth Low, the Johnson County Program Coordinator: (319) 625-2128, Elizabeth.Low@iowa.gov

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEC. 21

Susan Miller

DEC. 22

Kathy Rebal
Vicki Metz
Bryan Ruyle

DEC. 23

Scott Osland
Gordon Corlette

DEC. 25

Robert Libby
Keith Rayner
Heidi Madsen
Elise Walz

DEC. 26

Wanda Brinton
Lynn Summers
Gary Lundquist
Kristy Walker
Cohen Karnell

DEC. 27

Lyle Miller
Duane Allison
Chauncey Jones
Andrew Cress

DEC. 28

Diane Judge
Richard Paterson
Sarah Klemuk
Ryan Kriz
Dylan Portwood

DEC. 29

Donna Wendler
Jim Ross
Hans Stolfus

DEC. 30

Florence Millsap
Dwight Drury
Sarah Rebal
Jeremy Rew
Jami Ampey

DEC. 31

Reta Lopic
Chris Best
Christy Zierke
Denise Prybil

JAN. 1

Jane Davis
George Paterson
Claudette Heddens
Deb Harris
Christine Mullen
Chris Hagen
Lisa Galassi
Sarah Smith
Lauren Fleener

JAN. 2

Dorothy Rowland
Ellen Cram
Hillary Biancuzzo

JAN. 3

Marcia Welch
Kelly Hayworth
Samuel Kwok

JAN. 4

Debbie Plath
Jared Hix
Francine Rath
Jaci Hall

JAN. 5

Ida Belle Paterson
Jim Ridenour
Ashley Bentler

JAN. 6

Beverly Yoder
Lynn Colony
George Khal
Julie Ostrem
Sherry Mars
Graham Beckman
Ruby Frank

JAN. 7

Betty Warner
Lelia Helms
Myron Welch
Dwight Schuessler
John Ruyle

JAN. 8

Michael Shaffer

JAN. 9

Liz Swanton
Von Lilly
Bill Burger
Steve Houghton
Katherine Flermoen

JAN. 10

Mardella Carlson
Leora Hein
Susan Stump
Ashleigh Seydel

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year!

~ from the Staff at FUMC



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