



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 2017

*Serving since 1859!*

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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## Just Joshin'

This time of year — Advent leading into Christmastime — is a wonderful time of year. It's a time of anticipation and the coming hope that we have in Jesus the Christ. It's a time to celebrate the gift of Jesus' birth and life and the joy and hope that has been brought into this world. It's a time to remember that Jesus the Christ will come again in glory!

Well, it's wonderful if we keep focused on what we're celebrating. Otherwise the calendar full of added events throughout this time of year start to wear on us and cause stress and anxiety. When we become too overwhelmed by all that activity that's around us (whether it's things that are expected of us or things we think are expected of us) we begin to break down. Pretty soon, we're just hoping to get through the Christmas season so we can get on with our lives.

However, if this happens, we've missed out. We've missed out on the hope, joy, and love that make this time of year great! We've missed out on focusing on what it is that God has in store for us, because we have become consumed by what others want or what we want. Let us stay focused on God during this Advent and Christmas season and remember why it is that he came into this world and what this means for us.

***"... But the angel said to [the shepherds], 'Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people.'" (Luke 2:10, TEV)***

The good news, of course, is the birth of Jesus. The joy for all people comes from the new hope and the new way of life that Jesus gives us. Just as the angel brought this message to the shepherds, so the church today should be bringing this message to the people who don't know, aren't aware of it, or have forgotten about it.

Just like we can lose our focus from time to time, so can the church if we're not careful. We find the church's purpose throughout Scripture, especially in places like Luke 2:10, Luke 24:45-49 (Matthew 28:16-20). We're given the example of how we're to treat people and reach out to those we may not know throughout Jesus' teaching (i.e. Matthew 5). And we see a great example of what can be done when people are letting the power of the Holy Spirit work in them and through them in the Book of Acts.

What does all of this look like at Wisconsin Rapids UMC? How does this play out for us? How can we as individuals, and we as a church, make sure that the spirit of the Christmas story is lived out where we live. We've been given a great gift in Jesus Christ, and it's not a gift to keep to ourselves.

Let us be a church that seeks God first and is bold in our faith. Let us be a church that answers God's calling to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. Let us be a church that lives out the true meaning of the Christmas story in our lives today. Merry Christmas to all!!!



### Bethesda Thrift Shop:

All good things must come to an end. The Bethesda Thrift Shop will close its doors in Rapids December 30, 2017. The Mall is sold and we must vacate, and we could not find a place in town that is large enough and affordable. With a bigger store, we get increased utility costs, insurance, larger rent and the need for some paid staff. When all is added up, our profit to help the disabled folks serviced by Bethesda was less than \$10,000.00 a year. (Our profit this past year was \$220,000.00!) So in December we will have some great "Going Out Of Business" sales including 75% off everything in both stores Dec. 1-17; and 90% of everything in the store Dec. 18-30. Some display carts, cases, shelves and fixtures will also be available. We Thank you for your support for the past 14 years.



## MEN'S GROUP

**All men are  
invited Dec. 6,  
2017 at 8:00 am**



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

# United Methodist Women



Merry Christmas ! The ladies of UMW will be hosting the coffee fellowship December 3, 2017 in place of the Christmas Tea we used to have. This is one coffee fellowship you won't want to miss! Helen Dillingham has placed the brochures for the knives and availability list for what is on hand as well. We will be selling knives and brooms after the December 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service.

I would like to wish Jan Winn, our long time member of UMW best wishes as she moves to Florida to live with her daughter Laura and her family. You will always be in our thoughts and prayers and do keep in touch!

At the November meeting Jean Michaels presented the Thank offering which we all appreciated. The UMW officers for 2018 were installed and a prayer shawl was blessed during the meeting. We will be sending gifts to Helping Hands Gospel Ministries, Northcott Neighborhood House (they need a new roof) and to the UMW Mission projects that were affected by the hurricanes. Please keep these missions in your prayers.

As we move into the season of Advent and Christmas let's remember the reason for the season and all who need our prayers during this time.

Christmas Blessings!  
Cindy



# Front Drive Traffic Flow



**Diagonal Parking toward inside of drive & parking parallel with the building**



**Drive lane & drop off**



**Sidewalk**



Mission Needs



## Noisy Collection

**Sunday,  
December 10th  
for Jennifer and  
the South Wood County  
Humane Society**



**The collection of NEW toys for Toys for Tots ends Sunday, December 10. The toys will be picked up Monday morning December 11, 2017.**



**Homemade caramels will be sold Sunday, December 10th for the Humane Society as well.**



Advent” means “coming,” of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.

—Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

## December

**1 - Cassandra Bartram  
6 - Paula Baeurle  
7 - Lynn Swanson  
10 - Karla Staven  
18 - Faith Frank  
19 - Robin Shaw  
21 - Abigail Barker  
28 - Zacery Graf  
29 - Brenda Dudley**

*Happy  
Anniversary*

**10 - Harry and Carol Calverley  
22 - Kevin and Karlene Dillingham  
27 - Bob and Wanda McIlvain**



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

**To the family of Elosie “Pinky”  
Larsen who passed away on  
October 31, 2017.**

“The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart.”

—Helen Keller

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“Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven.”

—Greg Laurie



# Prayer Calendar December

- 1—Monte, Taylor & Rhett Reinicke
- 2—Russ & Karen Rifleman
- 3—Phyllis Ritchie
- 4—Richard & Kathryn Ritter
- 5—Timm, Anton & Karl Rosenthal
- 6—Brad, Stacey, Marinah & Cody Russell
- 7—Don & Sandy Saeger
- 8—Jonathan, Mackenzie & Cooper Schultz
- 9—Wendy Schwartz
- 10—Jim & Judy Seeger
- 11—Wayne & Shirley Sering
- 12—Roberta Shaurette
- 13—Robin Shaw
- 14—Patti Sisco
- 15—Tom & Barb Sisco
- 16—Holly Skinner
- 17—Scott & Judy Skinner
- 18—Eileen Slinkman
- 19—Mike, Diane, Trevor & Acacia Sloat
- 20—Bill & Annette Spaulding
- 21—Greg, Karla & Taisa Staven
- 22—Molly Staven & Kaden Hicks
- 23—John & Judy Steels
- 24—Mike & Lynn Swanson
- 25—Diane Swiggum
- 26—Michael & Ruth Topp
- 27—Cindy Tyjeski
- 28—Tom & Sara Tyne
- 29—Frances Waite
- 30—Don & Fay Whitley
- 31—Scott & Deb Whitney

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**Have a prayer request? Call the prayer chain:**

**Daytime:** (9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.)

Lynn Swanson — **715-423-4407**

**Evenings:** (6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)

Kathy Duerkop — **715-421-3396**



For encouragement,  
call the prayer phone:  
**715-423-1323**

# Prayer Coordinator

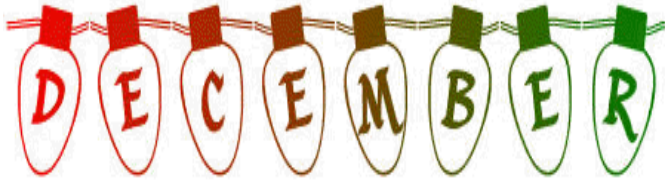
*Isaiah 9:6*

*For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.*

Did you hear the great Messiah Choir singing  
as you read these words? I hear them every  
time I read this verse.

Yes, it is Advent once again - the time of  
waiting for our Savior to be born. I pray your  
Christmas celebration is focused on the true  
meaning of Christmas. As the saying goes  
“Jesus is the reason for the season.” And this  
is not just some jingle to repeat. Let Him truly  
be the reason for the season in your heart and  
mind. Prepare to receive him once again this  
Christmas Eve. Read the Christmas story in  
Luke. Spend time with Christ each day in  
prayer before you go Christmas shopping or  
go to that Christmas party. Listen to the  
words of the Christmas Carols as we sing  
them in church or as you hear them through  
the Advent season. This will help fill you with  
the true Christmas spirit and you will be able  
to rejoice despite all of the stress and  
busyness of this time of year. It is Advent!  
“Oh Come Let us Adore Him!”

Let us pray: Lord God fill us with your Holy  
Spirit as we prepare to receive your Son. Bless  
us as we shop and celebrate and remind us to  
include you in all our activities. Our Savior  
Jesus IS the reason for the season. In His  
name we pray. Amen



### **December 5**

10:00 am - Bible Study  
5:00 pm - Bells  
6:00 pm - Bible Study

### **December 6**

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast  
10:30 am - Disciplines  
5:00 pm - Choir Practice  
6:00 pm - Book Study

### **December 12**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - RCC Board Meeting  
10:00 am - Bible Study  
5:00 pm - Bells  
6:00 pm - Bible Study

### **December 13**

10:30 am - Disciplines  
5:00 pm Choir Practice

### **December 14**

6:00 pm - Futures Team Meeting

### **December 19**

10:00 am - Bible Study  
5:00 pm - Bells  
6:00 pm - Bible Study

### **December 20**

10:30 am - Disciplines  
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

### **December 24**

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service**



### **December 25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**



### **December 27**

10:00 am - Disciplines  
5:00 pm - Choir

### **December 28**

6:00 pm - Futures Team Meeting

### **December 31**

#### **NEW YEARS EVE**



#### **Church Office Hours**

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays.

#### **Pastor Joshua's Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **E-mail Addresses**

Church Office: [umc@wctc.net](mailto:umc@wctc.net)  
Pastor Joshua: [Joshua.peggram3@gmail.com](mailto:Joshua.peggram3@gmail.com)

#### **Church Office Phone**

715-423-8860

#### **Pastor Joshua's Phone No.**

Cell: 920-896-3976

#### **Sunday Services**

9:00 a.m. — UMC Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship

#### **The Neighborhood Table**

The last two Tuesdays of the month: 4:30 p.m.  
Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.

#### **Nar-Anon**

Every Thursday: 6:30 p.m.

#### **Wisdom Seekers**

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

#### **Narcotics Anonymous**

Meets each day of the week as follows:

Monday 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday 7:00 p.m.