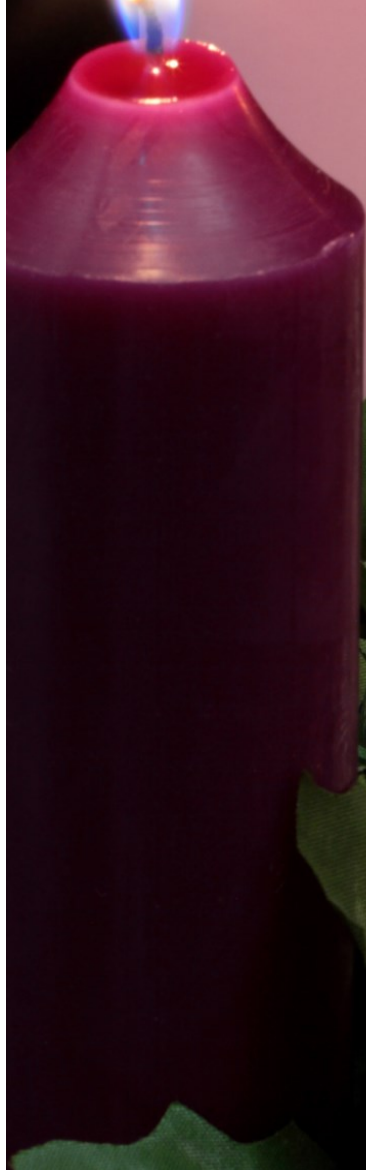


St. John's United Methodist Church
Monthly Newsletter

Tidings

DECEMBER 2023





Pastor's Reflections: Ready to take a chance?

It takes a willingness to risk. It takes a little time. It might get you into a longer conversation than you intended, but it just might be worth it! Talking to someone about coming with you to St. John's. We're coming back from the pandemic, but the effects are still lingering. Research is suggesting that a lot of people got bumped out of the habit of attending worship during COVID and they aren't finding their way back. *Unless someone reaches out with a friendly invitation.*

This summer I was pleased to meet a new face on Saturday evenings at Jesus Country. They came back several times before I realized that everyone else knew this person but me. I asked what had brought them back? They responded, "someone bumped into me at the grocery store and invited me to come back." **It was as simple as that.** They harbored no hard feelings towards the church, but the nudge of a familiar face was needed to reconnect and return.

This is the time of year when hearts turn towards God and spiritual matters; the turmoil of our world; the unresolved fighting in the Middle East; our own country's political races...it all tends to push us into a corner. These current circumstances also mirror the days of Herod, the circumstances into which a little baby was born and God stepped into human history. This next month we have an extra number of special events on the Advent Calendar to which someone you know might be willing to come. Will you take a chance? Will you take the time? Invite a friend or family member to come with you as we celebrate together.

I love being one of your pastors,

Rev. Jeff Dadisman

Celebrate Advent and Christmas at St. John's

Tuesday, November 28 at 12:30PM: Advent decorating at the church

(Contact the church office if you'd like to participate)

Friday, December 1 at 7PM: River Bend Bronze concert at St. John's

Saturday, December 2 at 2PM: River Bend Bronze concert at St. John's

Saturday, December 2, 9AM to Noon: Children's Christmas Bazaar in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 3: First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 10 at 4PM: Christmas Cantata

Thursday, December 14, 5-7:30PM: Family Caroling

Friday, December 15 at 7PM: Cool Yule

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17: Nativity Pieces will be given to children in all services. At the 9AM Sunday service, children will perform a Nativity musical narrative.

Sunday, December 17 at 4PM: Blue Christmas worship

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 7PM and 11PM



Be the change and pass it on!

St. John's Christian Education and Youth Programs

December 2023

Come Join Us!

2023-2024 Learning Hour (Sundays @ 10am) and Midweek programs for our Kids, Youth, and Families (4:30 Kids Club, 5:30 Dinner, 6:00 Youth) would love your presence. If you have wondered about ways to get involved or even how to be a part of all the fun that is happening, "wander" no more!

Winter Weather Policy

Please note we follow the Davenport Schools weather closure decisions.

If there is to be a program or meeting and the schools are closed due to weather, we also have to cancel.

We will send a text or phone call communication but if you see that the schools are closed, we most likely are too.

Feel free to call or text if you are unsure, and as always please use your own discretion if it is safe to travel... your safety comes first!

Wishing you many blessings and love this Christmas Season!

Megan Keller, Director of Christian Education and Youth Programs.
megank@stjohnsumcdav.org

save the date

December 2 - Children's Bazaar @ 9-12

December 7 - All Ages Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal @ 6:30pm

(Children's rehearsals will also take place during Sunday School on Dec. 3 & 10)

December 10- Christmas Cantata @ 4pm

December 13- Wednesday Kids & Youth Family Christmas Dinner @ 5:30pm

December 14- Family Caroling @ 5pm

December 16 & 17 - Nativity Pieces distributed @ all worship opportunities

December 17 - Kid's Christmas Program @ 9am Worship

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship @ 7pm (Family Service) & 11pm (Trad.)

December 20 & 27 - Christmas Break for Wednesday Kid's and Youth Programs

December 24...No Sunday School

December 31...No Sunday School





Bishop's Advent Study - Unrelenting Grace Chapter 1

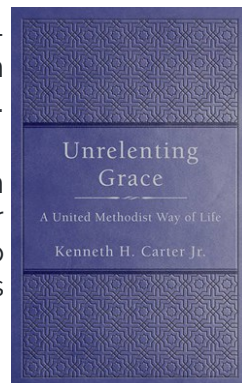
BEGINS: Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Central Standard Time
Tuesdays at 7 pm on Zoom: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, 2023

This Advent, explore God's Unrelenting Grace with the Iowa Annual Conference. Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai invites your congregation to join with others across the state as we continue to remember who we are. This is a conference-wide Zoom study.

In the first session, we will cover the introduction and chapter one, which will focus on grace and holiness as a United Methodist way of life. We will talk about racism and our struggles with equity for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. And, we will explore ways to live into the challenge that Bishop Carter puts before us, "of being an evangelical church that is welcoming to all."

Register today to join the Advent Study Zoom Meetings. Please visit this Conference web page to register: <https://www.iaumc.org/eventdetail/17527548>

To purchase a book, please visit Cokesbury (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Unrelenting-Grace-2>)
(Use discount code UNRELENT at checkout, valid until November 30)



Advent sermon series: "Songs of the Savior"

December 3

Joy to the World—Mary & Elizabeth

December 10

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus—Joseph

December 17

What Child is This?—the Wise Men

December 24

O Come All Ye Faithful—Shepherds



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 PM

Blue Christmas services offer a gentle respite from cultural and perhaps even religious expectations of a "Merry Christmas," comfort and hope, especially for those who have experienced significant loss dealing with difficult situations in their lives. If you or someone you know is struggling with the holidays this year, please consider coming. There will be communion as well as symbolic ways of remembering those we miss at this time. This night is open to anyone in our community that would like an alternative to the cheerful expectations that often accompany Christmas week.



The **St. John's Foundation** is accepting grant requests for the 2024 calendar year. We invite all St. John's Church and The Center committees and staff members to submit grant requests which meet the following criteria. Grant requests will be considered for building improvements, equipment purchases, one-time projects, or seed money to initiate new programs. Grant request forms are located in the church office and are available electronically from the church office. The submission deadline for grant request forms is **December 15**.



Missions Update

Mission Offerings for December 2023

Lit Lit Offering (December 2-3)

The first weekend of December, we have an opportunity to give to the Lit-Lit program, an educational program in Nigeria's rural areas. This is for adults who have never been able to attend school. The people learn to read and write in Hausa in an 8-week course of study. The teaching kit includes index cards, pencils, a chalkboard, and a Hausa Bible -- \$8.00 for the Bible and \$11.00 for the whole kit. It is a real help and opens a whole new world to the people in Nigeria. Pray about your gift. You may want to give a kit or help give 40 kits totaling \$440. Mark your check or envelope "Lit Lit Kits." Thank you very much!

Winter Kits: Don Buser and our Change the World Team will be collecting items for winter kits through mid-January. There is a box by the elevator for donations. Distribution will occur in February.

Winter kit Items: hand/foot warmers, cough drops, small hand lotions/cream, gallon-size Ziploc bags, hand sanitizer, masks, hats, ear muffs, gloves, scarves, socks, bus tokens, and lip balm.

Ingathering Update: Don and Michelle Buser delivered the Ingathering kits to Mt. Pleasant the first weekend of November. We had 105 school kits, 43 hygiene kits, 2 baby sweaters & 23 baby gowns. Our total in-kind donation was \$2,806. Thanks for your generous donations! We doubled it from last year.



Café on Vine is ongoing, preparing meals the second Sunday of each month. We need volunteers for January and February of 2024. If you are moved to serve, please get in touch with Jan Johnson (hawkeyejan@mchsi.com) or Pastor Jae.

Thanks to Annie, Riley, Matt, Mike, Scott, and Jan for cooking in November!

Friendly Thrift Center: Thank you very much for the support you have given to the Friendly Thrift Center. Currently needed are washcloths, bed sheets, bed blankets, cutlery, plateware, and men's coats.

Christmas Offering

Any donation in the Christmas Envelope this month will be divided between the following 2 mission projects. I hope you will find deep meaning in your Christmas giving this season.



Housing Assistance (Local)

The Center receives multiple requests for financial assistance each day. Families, couples, elderly folks, individuals; the requests come from people who are in their own home but experiencing financial stress. Your gifts will allow Pennie Kellenberger to help people stay in their present housing and thus avoid adding to the number of homeless in our city.



Clean Water - Kenya (Fishers of Men, Africa) Lack of clean drinking water is one of the greatest causes of poverty. In Kenya, women and children walk an average of four to six hours per day to collect water. This is precious time that could be spent on education or other pursuits. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee the water source is clean or free of cholera, dysentery, typhoid or parasites. Clean water changes everything; improving health, giving hope and empowering communities. Let's give to dig a new well next year!

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Children's Bazaar Setup 7:00pm Riverbend Bronze	2 COMMUNION LIT LIT SPECIAL OFFERING 9:00am Children's Bazaar 2:00pm Riverbend Bronze 5:30pm Jesus Country
3 COMMUNION LIT LIT SPECIAL OFFERING 9:00am Classic Worship 10:00am Learning Hour 11:00am Contemporary Worship	4 6:30pm Missions	5 1:00pm Club of 89 7:00pm Advent Study	6 9:30am Men's Bible Study 4:30pm Kids Club 5:30pm Youth Group 5:30pm Family Meal 6:30pm Praise Team rehearsal 6:30pm Jane Lange Bible Study	7 5:45pm Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel choir rehearsal	8	9 5:30pm Jesus Country
10 9:00am Classic Worship 10:00am Fall Fundraiser - UWF 10:00am Learning Hour 11:00am Contemporary Worship 4:00pm Christmas Cantata	11 7:00pm SPPRC	12 7:00pm Advent Study	13 9:30am Men's Bible Study 10:00am UWF Board 4:30pm Kids Club 5:30pm Youth Group 5:30pm Family Meal 6:30pm Praise Team rehearsal 6:30pm Jane Lange Bible Study	14 5:00pm Family Caroling	15 Tidings Deadline 7:00pm Cool Yule	16 5:30pm Jesus Country
17 Food Pantry Sunday 9:00am Classic Worship 10:00am Learning Hour 11:00am Contemporary Worship 4:00pm Blue Christmas	18 5:00pm Trustees 6:30pm Steering Committee 7:30pm Church Council	19 2:00pm Deborah Circle 5:30pm The Center Board 7:00pm Advent Study	20 12:00am Priscilla Circle 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Jane Lange Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Team rehearsal	21 8:30am Tidings Assembly 6:00pm Bell choir rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	22	23 5:30pm Jesus Country
24 9:00am Classic Worship 11:00am Contemporary Worship 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30 5:30pm Jesus Country
31 9:00am Classic Worship 11:00am Contemporary Worship						

Music Ministry

Every weekend in December offers special music opportunities at various times. As you make plans to keep us on your special "to do" list, note the times for each event.

In the Sanctuary:

Friday, December 1 at 7:00 is River Bend Bronze Handbell choir with our own Chancel Bells making an appearance.

Saturday, December 2 @ 2:00 is RiverBend Bronze Handbell choir + Chancel Bells

Sunday, December 10 @4:00 is "Advent Promises" presented by Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, St. John's Brass, Children and Youth singers and instrumentalists, plus several guest readers and even a guest string quintet.

In Fellowship Hall:

Friday, December 15 @ 7:00 will be Cool Yule, featuring Jay Campagna and fellow musicians.

Family Caroling Night will be **Thursday, December 14**. We will plan to meet at Ridgecrest Village @ 5:30. (I will have music for everyone.) Followed by a stop at The Fountains. EVERYONE is invited.

Weekly worship offers special music throughout the month. Choir, Bells, brass, and children, all work together to create a meaningful worship experience. Please come join us. We are here for YOU.

God Bless,

 *Mitzi Harris*

Drama Team volunteers for Advent

Would you like to be part of a drama for worship the four Sundays in December? We need 3-4 people to cover the parts in telling the stories of what God did leading up to the first Christmas.



United Women in Faith

The holidays are coming fast and we wish you all well. Some things to remember. On December 2nd we will have the Children's Bazaar. Even though we are not responsible anymore I hope you will volunteer some of your services. Also on December 9th and 10th. UWFaith will be holding a mini craft and food fair in Fellowship Hall. Hope all of you are working on something that you can contribute to the project. What is remaining will be left up there for after the Christmas Concert at 4:00 on Sunday afternoon. The proceeds will help us meet our mission project goals. The new 2024 program books will be available soon. Don't forget to read some of the books in the library that we ordered for this year. Some are heart warming and others are thought provoking.

Circles check your books for your meeting dates and places for December. Joanna is responsible for DVAP and Priscilla is responsible for Diapers. Hope you all have a great Thanksgiving.

We will be doing the canned goods tree for the Food Pantry again this year. It will be at the Perry Street door during the month of December. Bring a can good or two and put it by the tree (crates).

Food Pantry Update

ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY @ THE CENTER



by Sharon Imming



*Thank you for
supporting the
Food Pantry
and Happy
Holidays!*

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 E. 14th St. | Davenport, IA 52803

Church office hours:

9AM-2PM, M-F

Appointments are encouraged

After 2PM by appointment only

Church office phone:

(563) 324-5278

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Senior Pastor

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Rev. Jaeseong Lee

Associate Pastor

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YouTube: youtube.com/StJohnsUMCDav

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5:30PM Saturday Jesus Country in Fellowship Hall

9:00AM Sunday on WOC 1420 AM radio

(previous week's Classic Worship sermon)

9:00AM Sunday Classic Worship in the Sanctuary

(simulcast online on our YouTube channel)

11:00 AM Sunday Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary

(simulcast online on our YouTube channel)



Shopping with the Elves

Thanks to Everyone!

We hope you've marked your calendar for December 2 for your children and/or grandchildren to have a great time at the Children's Bazaar. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this annual activity possible for the 16 years! Without the members

of St. John's this activity would not be possible.

The Committee for the Children's Bazaar

Financial Update

by Karen Weimer, Treasurer

The current year-to-date cash receipts and disbursements compared to the budget were not available by the publishing deadline for the December Tidings; we will update again in January.

As of November 6, our 2024 estimate of giving campaign has received 104 pledge cards. Compared to 2023 that is about 80% of the total number of pledges received last year. As for the dollar amounts for the 2024 budget, we need about \$190,000 more to cover our 2024 estimated expenses. Not all amounts in the expense budget have been finalized as of this report since certain work areas have not yet determined the cost of all their anticipated expenses and projects for 2024. Updates will be provided as information is finalized.

We want to thank all of you who have already carefully considered your estimate of giving for next year and have turned in your pledge card. If you haven't submitted your pledge card yet, you can still do so. There are pledge cards in the church office if your card has been misplaced.

It is almost time for our annual Christmas offering. The money received this year will go to winter housing assistance for The Center and clean water for wells in Kenya (Fishers of Men). Be on the look out for the Christmas offering envelopes in the sanctuary or in the Tidings newsletter if it is mailed to you.