

Election Day Luncheon

Thank you for supporting the Election Day Luncheon and Bake Sale on November 2nd. Approximately 235 meals were served, including dine-in, take-out, and delivery options. The bake sale showed a profit of \$643.00, and the meal showed a profit of \$2,560.54. Thank you to the UMW Executive Board, circle members, and all other volunteers who helped make this day a success. A special "thank you" goes to Dan Kratz for canning the chicken, to Rod Bainbridge for managing the ovens and casseroles, and to all who assembled 30 casseroles, set 14 tables, made 33 pies and 23 salads, and provided items for the bake sale table.

November 1st

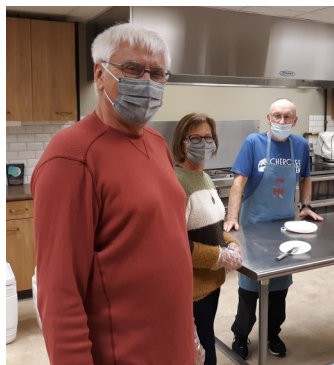
Volunteers set tables and assembled casseroles.



November 2nd

Bake Sale (left)

Carry-out Volunteers (right)



Kitchen Volunteers

A huge "thank you" to our St. Paul's family for all your help making our Election Day Luncheon a great success. We raised \$3,013 before expenses. We could not have done it without you. Thank you so much.

~UMW Executive Board

Dec. 2021 UMW Buzz



UMW Christmas Brunch

Wednesday, December 8th, at 9:30 a.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, December 13th, at 9:30 a.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall

Advent Tryst

Wednesday, December 15th, at 9:30 a.m.
Memorial Presbyterian Church
(127 East Willow Street, Cherokee)

Cookie trays for our shut-ins will be assembled after the service.

Joy Circle

No circle meeting in December.

Charity Circle

No circle meeting in December.



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Office email: cherokeespumc@gmail.com
Office Telephone: (712) 225-3955

Find us on Facebook and your favorite podcast app.

Jennifer's Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Pastor Mike's Contact Information

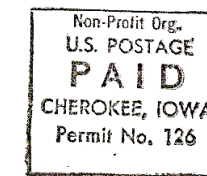
Email: michael.agnew@iaumc.net
Cell Phone: (563) 506-7412

St. Paul's Ministry Staff

Pastor: Mike Agnew
Financial Secretary: Sarah Cook
Campus Supervisor: Randy Kane
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Agnew
Organists: Betty Point, Meribeth Adams, & Sherry Held
Chancel Choir Director: Becky Lickiss
Bell Choir Director: Dusty Wright



December 2021



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Services

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, Iowa
cherokeemethodist.com

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 19th, at 10:10 a.m.

Blue Christmas Service
Tuesday, December 21st, at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services
Friday, December 24th, at 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 21st, at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, Iowa

Everyone is welcome to attend this short service acknowledging that the Christmas season isn't always merry.

2021 ADVENT TRYST

Wednesday, December 15th, at 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Presbyterian Church
127 East Willow Street, Cherokee



THE DOME

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

December 2021

10:10 a.m. Worship

A Moment with Mike

As we enter into the Advent and Christmas season, I am struck by how busy this time of year can be for many. Advent is meant to be a time of reflection, similar to Lent, but with holiday preparations, gift buying, work holiday gatherings, and extra events at school, in the community, and in the church, it may be hard to spend much time in reflection. Like it or not, this is a time of extra events and hurrying here and there. It's not that we don't like these special events, but things can get a little hectic, and not everything always goes according to plan.

Even though the first Christmas so long ago was nothing like our Christmas season today, it was anything but peaceful, reflective, or according to plan. The story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of their first son, Jesus, is anything but according to plan! I do not know if they had their lives all planned out, but they certainly would have had assumptions about how life would go and the order in which things would happen. They certainly would not have foreseen that she would become pregnant before marriage, that they would both have to travel a great distance in her third trimester of pregnancy for tax purposes, or that the baby would be ready to come at one of the most inconvenient times conceivable. Indeed, the Christmas story is filled with surprises, and not always the good kind from a human perspective! I invite you to join us for worship during the Advent season as we look at the Christmas story for all of the surprises it contains. Just as God surprised Mary and Joseph in a big way, God can also surprise us, if we are open to it.

In addition to our regular Advent activities, I want to make sure you know about a special service we will have on December 21st, called a Blue Christmas service. Blue Christmas services have become more widespread in America in recent years. This service is meant to acknowledge that, for many people, this season is difficult. For you, Christmas may be difficult for a number of reasons. You may have lost a loved one, you may have broken family relationships, or you may have lost a job, and so you do not feel you can celebrate the same way you used to be able to do. Perhaps there isn't a big reason that you can pinpoint, but you just don't feel jolly.

Whatever the reason may be, you feel the pressure from the outside world and even the church that this is a time in which you should be happy. What if you aren't?

Our Blue Christmas service is meant to acknowledge that the holidays are not always merry for everyone. During the service, we will sing some of the more reflective Christmas hymns, we will read responsive readings that acknowledge the struggle, and I will share a message about how to approach the holidays when you are struggling. We will end by singing "Silent Night" by candlelight, just like at our Christmas Eve service. Hopefully, you will feel a sense of peace and hope in the midst of your struggles.

However you approach the holiday season—whether you love it or struggle with it—may God bless us as we go through this season together.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Mike Agnew

Current Sermon Series

Nov. 28th "Surprise! Your Prayers are Answered!"
Dec. 5th "Surprise! You're Going to be Parents!"
Dec. 12th "Surprise! It's Tax Time!"
Dec. 19th Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 24th "Surprise! The Baby's Coming!"



Sermons are broadcast on KCHE 92.1 on Sundays around 8:45 a.m. and are also available via your favorite podcast app. Our full worship services are available live via a link from our website and via YouTube. Once YouTube has published the service (usually Sunday evening or Monday), we also post them on our Facebook page.



Music Ministry

Bell Choir and Chancel Choir



The Bell Choir has changed their practice time to 6:00 -6:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary. Chancel Choir practices on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New members are always welcome in either group!



11/14/21 Bell Choir (left to right): Ava Agnew, Leah Dagel, Chris Andersen, Amy Stief, Dusty Wright (director), Meribeth Adams, Kristal Phillips, Kyle Basten, and Linda Appleby

Christian Education

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir includes PK-5th graders and practices during the Sunday School hour. They sang and played bells during the November 21st worship service.



Children's Christmas Program and Soup & Sandwich Meal

The children's Christmas program will take place during the 10:10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 19th. The adult Sunday School class will host a soup and sandwich meal to follow the program. All are welcome to attend this freewill offering meal.



Christian Education

Sunday School Holiday Schedule

With the upcoming holidays, we will **not** have children's Sunday School on November 28th, December 26th, or January 2nd.

Confirmation Christmas Schedule

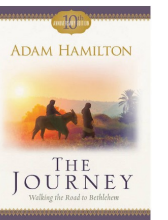
With the Christmas holiday, we will **not** have Confirmation on December 22nd or 29th.

Teen Time Holiday Schedule

With the holidays, we will **not** have Teen Time on December 22nd, 29th, or January 5th.

Advent Study Update

We have four-week Advent Bible studies starting on Sunday, November 28th, at 6:30 p.m. and on Thursday, December 2nd, at 10:00 a.m. Both groups meet in Feller Lounge. We have eleven people signed up to attend the Sunday night group and eight people signed up to attend the Thursday group. We did order two extra books (*The Journey* by Adam Hamilton), if anyone else would like to join us. Feel free to move between the two groups if the time you signed up for doesn't work for you that particular week.



Scholarships Available



The Iowa United Methodist Foundation offers over 100 scholarships and has over \$250,000 to award this year. If you are a student and would like more information, there are posters on the bulletin boards and flyers on the table in the narthex.

Smart Televisions in Children's Classrooms

We recently purchased four smart televisions for the PK-2nd, 3rd-6th, 7th/8th, and children's music classrooms in our education wing. This allows our Sunday School teachers to connect to the internet to access music and videos for their lessons. We hope to reestablish a nursery during the worship service soon, and a smart TV will also allow the nursery worker to watch the worship service.



Announcements & Updates

Gospel Concert

The Meriden Evangelical Free Church is hosting the following gospel concert.



From the Finance Committee



St. Paul’s UMC continues to show a strong recovery this past month. Monthly giving for July, August, and September averaged a little over \$18,000. October’s pledge giving was \$20,063. Outstanding! As our church continues to strengthen, so does the economy. Unfortunately, that includes inflation, and the shortages of many day-to-day needs. That is raising the concern that our earlier estimate of closing 2021 about \$5,500 in the red may be a little on the light side. The updated estimate shows a \$7,000 red figure.

As our church continues to strengthen, we pray our church family will share their blessings with St. Paul’s UMC. For that, we say, “THANK YOU” and hope all of you will have a joyous Thanksgiving.



Thank You Notes

I want to thank the adult Sunday School class and other church friends who remembered me on the death of my sister, Roberta Rapp. It meant so much.

Joan Lucas

We would like to say a big “thank you” to Stan and Brenda DeRoo and to Pastor Mike for providing Teen Time for our senior high youth on October 27th and November 3rd as we enjoyed time away in North Carolina.

Stan and Brenda willingly provided their home and food fellowship while Pastor Mike shared his Biblical wisdom from scriptures and youth participation.

We are so grateful!

Craig & Monica Schmidt

The CAP Foodbank volunteers would like to thank you for all the donations that we received from St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. We know the families that will receive your donated food will be very grateful.

Thanks again,
CAP Volunteers

We would like to sincerely thank you for your generous donation to our food pantry. With your help, we are able to touch many families who need a helping hand. We are gearing up for our holiday food basket deliveries, which your donation will help make extra special.

Blessings to you all,
Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry Committee

Thank you to the pie ladies for the new chair and chair mat for my office.

Pastor Mike Agnew

Thank you to Jeanne Blackstone for ordering and distributing the Advent calendars to our children on November 21st. The kids love this tradition!

Thank you to Sherry Held, the adult Sunday School class, and everyone else who helped with the Thanksgiving dinner we enjoyed on November 21st.

Worship Notes

Attendance

Sun.	Worship	Sunday School	Wed.	Confirmation	Teen Time
10/31	142	36	11/3	11	14
11/7	129	46	11/10	9	12
11/14	132	44	11/17	10	7
11/21	134	38	11/24	N/A	N/A

Greeters

Dec. 5th	Jeannette Grant & Linda Rutter Lowell & Sharon Bennink
Dec. 12th	Roni Timmerman & Steve Goodburn Darrel & Sue Paulsen
Dec. 19th	Wes & Sue Parker Curt & Kristal Phillips
Dec. 24th	5:30 p.m. Chuck & Julie Tolzin 5:30 p.m. Brian, Laura, McKenna, & Mya Benson
Dec. 24th	5:30 p.m. Don & Jeanne Blackstone 7:30 p.m. Dave & Linda Appleby 7:30 p.m. Bruce & Leah Dagle
Dec. 26th	Al & Barb Henn Roni Timmerman & Micki Conley

Acolytes

Dec. 5th	Brooklyn Stubbe & Bryce Robinson
Dec. 12th	Roman Thill & Logan Robinson
Dec. 19th	Kyle Waldner & Brody Cowan
Dec. 24th	Greeters
Dec. 26th	Chuck Tolzin

Liturgists

Dec. 5th	Kristal Phillips
Dec. 12th	Jason or Miranda Cook
Dec. 19th	Children’s Christmas Program
Dec. 24th	Pastor Mike Agnew
Dec. 26th	Chuck Tolzin

Advent Readers

Nov. 28th	The Jason & Miranda Cook family
Dec. 5th	The Schlenger family
Dec. 12th	The Scherbring family
Dec. 19th	The Hoskinson family
Dec. 24th	5:30 p.m. The Benson family
Dec. 24th	7:30 p.m. Bruce & Leah Dagle



Children’s Time

Dec. 5th	Kristal Phillips
Dec. 12th	Jason or Miranda Cook
Dec. 19th	Children’s Christmas Program
Dec. 24th	No children’s time
Dec. 26th	Chuck Tolzin

Flowers

Dec. 5th	Darlene Woltman
Dec. 12th	Jodi & Neil Phipps
Dec. 19th	Don & Jeanne Blackstone
Dec. 26th	The Jones family



Altar Flower Sign-Up



If you would like to donate altar flowers in 2022, the sign-up is on the table in the narthex.

Missional Priorities for 2022

Pastor Mike shared St. Paul’s missional priorities for 2022 on Commitment Sunday.

- 1) Increase the level of pastoral care and connection with church members.
 - Maintain pastoral care with emergency visits as needed.
 - Increase the number of people on our visitation team.
 - Restart the Helping Hands Team.
- 2) Be more present and visible in the community.
 - Pastor involvement in the community through Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and community events, as able.
 - Church visible in community events, such as having a booth, parade float, etc.
 - Maintain a presence on the radio and the Internet.
- 3) Build connections with young families and youth.
 - Sunday School, Teen Time, and confirmation ministries have been relaunched.
 - Formation of a Connections and Outreach Team to plan bridge events.
- 4) Improve the financial health of the church.
 - Do the work God has called us to do, change people’s lives for the better, and tell the story.
- 5) Develop a discipleship pathway.
 - Review the work we have done in the past.
 - Formulate a new discipleship pathway for the present time.

Missions Announcements & Updates

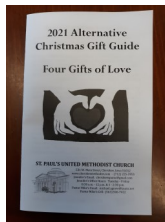
Mitten Tree



We are collecting new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for those in need. To donate items, please place them on the tree in the narthex or on the tree just inside the education entrance.

Alternative Christmas Gift Guide

The Missions Committee will be offering the Alternative Christmas Gift Guide again this year. This gives you the opportunity to support missions by donating in honor of loved ones. With a tax-deductible donation, you can purchase a share of animals, a food basket, missionary support, blankets, books, toys, birthing kits, or support F.C.A. The Alternative Christmas Gift Guides will be available for pick-up in the narthex on Sunday, December 5th.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing



We have a sign-up in the narthex if you would like to volunteer for Salvation Army bell ringing. Locations include the entry of Hy-Vee, Fareway, and Bomgaars. The dates available include November 26th and 27th and December 4th, 11th, and 18th. You may also call Mary Jo Carnine at (712) 229-8819. 90% of the money raised in Cherokee County stays in Cherokee County.

Missions Committee Meeting

The Missions Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 11th, in Schuldt Dining Hall.

Fall "Food or Funds" Drive Update

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's "Food or Funds" drive. A generous amount of food was collected along with \$610 (as of 11/17/21). Another big "thank you" goes to the Mission Committee and other volunteers who helped box up the food and delivered it to our local food pantries.



Jeff Blum, Jack & Mary Jo Poggenklass, Jan Cook, Norma Fox, Sue Parker, Karla Wilkie, and Roni Timmerman

World Communion Sunday Offering Update

Thank you to everyone who donated to the special offering for World Communion Sunday on October 3rd. \$210 was collected. Your gifts will help provide scholarships for racial and ethnic minority students, removing the financial obstacles for young men and women for whom education is difficult to access.

Ingathering Update

Thank you to everyone who helped with or donated money for the 2021 Ingathering! We raised more money this year—\$1,104—than in any other year in Roni's 36 years of helping! A big "thank you" goes to you all, especially Roni Timmerman, Jeanne Blackstone, and Barb Kratz.



Our confirmation class helped load the truck.

Announcements & Updates

Charge Conference

Charge Conference packets are available on the table in the narthex. These packets include our 2022 committee lists, budget information, and other church business.

Visitation Team

The Visitation Team will meet on Tuesday, December 7th, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

Advent Decorating

All are invited to participate in the decorating of our sanctuary for the Advent season on Monday, November 29th. This will consist of assembly of the two large trees to be on each side of the chancel area, the decorating of the trees, and the stringing of the greenery along the front of both balconies. Decorating will begin about 5:30 p.m. and will hopefully take no longer than 60-90 minutes. We will have pizza on hand near the end of the process for all who are interested. We start with heavier lifting and end with lighter work (hanging ornaments), so there will be something for everyone to do. We missed this fun last year; let's enjoy it now!



Christmas Cookie Exchange



Attention United Methodist Bakers! Our traditional Christmas cookie exchange will happen on Sunday, December 12th. All of our United Methodist bakers who create these wonderful cookies are asked to have their cookies to the church kitchen on Saturday, December 11th. Assembly of the cookie plates will occur during the Sunday School hour on December 12th. Those plates will be available for a suggested \$5/plate for a dozen and a half cookies. All cookies brighten spirits throughout the Christmas season, and all proceeds support the ministries of the adult class and St. Paul's UMC.



"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7

Poinsettia Pick-Up



Thank you for your poinsettia orders to help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. The plants will be delivered on December 18th and will grace our sanctuary during the Children's Christmas program on the 19th as well as the two Christmas Eve services on the 24th. If you ordered a plant, feel free to take it home following the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Homebound Mailing

We will be subscribing to Home Touch, a ministry for our homebound members and friends. This will include a mailing with articles and activities. If you would like to receive this new mailing, please contact the church office.



Discontinued Shoe and Clothing Collection



We are no longer collecting shoes or clothing but encourage you to donate your gently used items to other ministries.

Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program



The Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) may be able to help you pay for your winter heating bill. The Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications through April 30, 2022. Please see the flyer on the bulletin boards for more information, or call (712) 225-3322 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at our church on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. Their room can be found by entering through the northeast door (dance studio entrance) and going down the stairs.

Commitment Sunday and Thanksgiving Dinner

Thank you for the ways you have given to the ministries of the church!



Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21st.