

Thank You Notes

- Thank you to all the volunteers who assembled the November newsletter.
- Thanks to Lois Eggerth for the stamps for our *HomeTouch* mailings.
- A big “thank you” goes to Meribeth Adams and Jan Cook for helping assemble the stewardship mailing.
- Thank you to Al Henn and Stan DeRoo for taking care of the leaves at church.
- Thanks to Shelley Lenz for the sticky notes for the office.
- Thank you to the Adult Class for cleaning the chair cushions in Schuldts Dining Hall.
- Thank you to United Women in Faith who purchased the loom to make sleeping mats for the homeless.

St. Paul’s Family,

Thank you so much for keeping my family and myself in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the cards, memorial gifts, notes of sympathy, and the kind words of condolence expressed to our family. It is a blessing to have a caring church family.

Jerri Hunt and family

We would like to give a big "shout out" to Stan and Brenda DeRoo and to Bruce Dagel for pinch hitting for us for the Teen Time fellowship on Wednesday, November 8th. Stan and Brenda hosted the group of 14 teens, and Bruce provided fellowship. We were able to spend some much appreciated time with family in North Carolina and in Missouri. We appreciate you three for your willingness to serve. Thank you.

Craig and Monica Schmidt

Thank you for the food donation you made to our food pantry! With your help, we are able to bless many needy families with some simple food needs met.

Thank you and blessings,
Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry Committee

I would like to say I have been appreciative of all the letters sent to me and care packages. This first semester of grad school has been very fun and a great time! That being said, I will be happy I get a week off. I hope that the leaking is fixed in the church and that everything else is going well. I hope you all keep receiving nice weather for as long as possible! Thank you guys again for all the letters and care packages. They mean a lot to me.

Happy Thanksgiving,
JD Fiedler, Athletic Training Student (UNI)

The CAP Food Bank volunteers want to thank St. Paul’s United Methodist Church for the food collected and delivered to us. The food we received is helping keep our shelves stocked for the 85 clients who come each month.

Thank you,
CAP Volunteers

Learn Something New

The office is subscribed to various newsletters through the Iowa Conference and the greater United Methodist Church. To follow is a selection of recent articles that may be of interest. If you are interested in an article but don’t have internet access, please contact the church office, as Jennifer can print you a copy.

“Sabbath Rest Isn’t Just for Sundays”

- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/sabbath-rest-isnt-just-for-sundays>

Making Churches More Accessible

- <https://www.dakotasumc.org/news/two-guys-and-a-nudge-from-god-makes-st-pauls-umc-more-accessible>

“5 Key Principles for Fostering Generosity in Children”

- <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/5-key-principles-for-fostering-generosity-in-children/>

“Close Generation Gap, Deepen Relationships”

- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/close-generation-gaps-deepen-relationships>

“What is Advent About?”

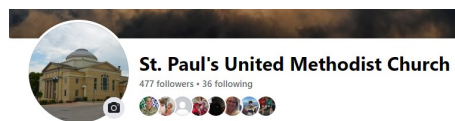
- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-advent-about>

United Women in Faith Buzz

UW Faith Executive Board
Monday, December 11, at 9:30 a.m.
Schuldt Dining Hall

Charity, Grace, and Joy Circles
No December meetings.

Stay in the Loop



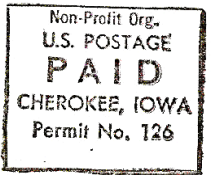
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

477 followers • 36 following

Our Facebook page has the most up-to-date information about happenings at St. Paul’s. We also share many additional photos and videos there. Search for “St. Paul’s United Methodist Church” on Facebook, or follow the link on our website. Our profile picture is included above to assist you in finding our page.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



ONE TIME ONLY!!!

DECEMBER 13, 2023
9:30 a.m. at

Memorial Presbyterian Church
127 East Willow Street, Cherokee

We will be collecting mittens, gloves, and hats for children in the Cherokee School District. A free will offering will also be taken and used to purchase more winter apparel for the children.

ALL (women, men, young, old, etc) are welcome at this time of worship, music and fellowship...PLEASE come and join us!!

Cookies, Cider and Coffee will be served
after the program, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

(this event is co-hosted by St. Paul United Methodist Church)



Christmas Services

Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th, 2023, at 10:10 a.m.
Lunch to follow.

Christmas Eve Morning Service

Sunday, December 24th, 2023, at 10:10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.



THE DOME



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

December 2023

A Moment With Mike

This Sunday, December 3rd, will mark the first Sunday of Advent. With Advent comes all of our traditions for Christmas planning and celebrating the season with special events and activities. I would guess there are at least some of you who include watching Christmas movies as a holiday tradition. There have been countless movies made through the years, but some are more long-lasting than others. This Advent, we will begin a sermon series called "Christmas at the Movies." Each week, we will look at a different Christmas movie and see what it has to teach us about faith and life during the holiday season.

On December 3rd, we will look at the movie *Elf*. What is it that leads some to proclaim that this is the most wonderful time of the year? Is it the lights, the shopping, the cookies, the busyness? Or is it the feeling of goodwill—a revived sense of charity and generosity towards others? Just as Buddy had to help rekindle the joy of the season in his dad, it is good to remind ourselves that Christmas—in spite of its busyness and over commercialization—brings with it much to celebrate.

On December 10th, we will look at the movie *Grinch*. Do we have to be jolly at Christmas time? It sure seems that way. The culture leads us to feel guilty if we do not feel happy. The Grinch is usually seen as the bad guy in the story, and he is mean. Nonetheless, why does he hate Christmas so much? Is it Christmas itself he hates or the materialism and the overwhelming sense of fake happiness everyone seems to have during that time? If so, why isn't the Grinch happy? What should we do during the Christmas season when the jolly feeling has been stolen from us due to loss? Can we still have Christmas if we are sad and/or grieving?

On December 17th, we will look at the movie *Home Alone*. In this movie, Kevin is left home while his family goes on vacation. At first, this is fun, but soon Kevin finds himself in danger. However, he was never really alone. His scary neighbor turned out to be a hero, and his mother was working against all odds to get back to him. During the Christmas season, many feel alone and forgotten for various reasons. They are never truly alone, however. Although it may not always be evident, people do care, and God, like a mother determined to get home to her son, will always be with us. We are never truly alone.

On December 24th in the morning, we will look at the movie, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. In this movie, Jack Skellington experiences the world of Christmas and wants to share his vision with his friends in Halloween Town. The problem is, none of them fully understand the vision, including himself, and things go horribly wrong. Nonetheless, there is redemption, and Christmas is saved, even if it looks a little different than normal. Looking beyond Christmas, life itself rarely goes as planned. This was certainly true for Mary and Joseph. How can we accept when things don't go the way we planned?

At our Christmas Eve service, we will look at the movie *A Christmas Carol*. The Christmas story is certainly powerful enough to change anyone. In *A Christmas Carol*, a man focused on the wrong things in life has a reorientation of his own through a series of visits from different Christmas ghosts. How can Christmas change our perspective on life?

I hope you can join us this Advent season as we prepare to worship Jesus, the newborn king.



St. Paul's UMC

Worship:
10:10 a.m.


Sunday School:
9:00 a.m.

Address:
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

Office Telephone:
(712) 225-3955

Pastor Mike's Cell:
(563) 506-7412

Website:
www.cherokeemethodist.com

 Find us on Facebook
or your podcast app.

Pastor Mike's Email:
michael.agnew@iaumc.net

Jennifer's Email:
cherokeespumc@gmail.com

Jennifer's Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike's Day Off:
Friday

St. Paul's Staff

Pastor:
Mike Agnew

Financial Secretary:
Sarah Cook

Administrative Assistant:
Jennifer Agnew

Custodian:
Betty Harman

Organists/Pianists:
Betty Point
Meribeth Adams
Chris Andersen

Chancel Choir Director:
Becky Lickiss

Bell Choir Director:
Dusty Basten

Disaffiliations Update

Iowa Annual Conference Special Called Session

**Approves Disaffiliation of 59 United
Methodist Churches**

"Des Moines, IA — November 18, 2023 — The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church held its final special session to vote on proposed Disaffiliation Agreements between the Iowa Annual Conference and United Methodist local churches seeking to leave The United Methodist Church. The session was held on Zoom Webinar.

The Resolution for the Approval of Disaffiliation Under Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline sunsets at the end of 2023. The Book of Discipline outlines the polity of The United Methodist Church, including its organization and procedures. The vote passed by 96%. All the disaffiliation agreements can be viewed in the Resolution. It includes 59 Iowa churches that will no longer be a part of The United Methodist Church, effective November 30, 2023.

"Friends, it is time to bless those who have chosen to depart and to move on to a new day for The United Methodist Church in Iowa," said Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Episcopal Leader of the Iowa United Methodist Church. "I look forward to the ways in which we will reach out to all people in our communities with a message of hope and in a spirit of love."

The vote comes after wider discussions in The United Methodist Church related to whether churches and clergypersons believe that LGBTQIA+ members should be allowed to marry and be ordained as clergypersons within the denomination, including a Special Session of the General Conference in 2019.

"This process provided an opportunity for congregations to have conversations about who they wanted to be," said Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Katie Dawson. "As we bless and release these churches, we have a sense of loss of the relationships and communities that have been part of our story. We are entering a new day where we can spend less time talking about this process and more time focused on where Jesus is leading us and how we are in ministry with the people in our communities. There is a fresh energy and spirit in The United Methodist Church here in Iowa as [we] reclaim our purpose."

Earlier this year, the Iowa Annual Conference held the first Special Called Conference that approved 83 disaffiliation agreements."

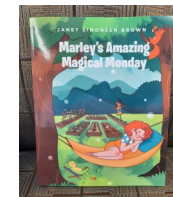
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**Summary: 142 United Methodist Churches in Iowa left our denomination in 2023. Conference staff reports this is approximately 19% of Iowa UM congregations.**

### Church Family News

Welcome, Little One!

Congratulations to Cody and Brooke Stowater on the birth of their son, Zeke Douglas. Zeke was born on October 24, 2023, at 4:50 p.m. and was 8 lbs. 14 oz. and 20" long. Zeke was welcomed home by siblings, Ruston and Tenley. Proud grandparents are Bill and Kim Luetkeman and Doug and Sandi Stowater.

### Congratulations to Author, Janet Brown



Congratulations to Janet Brown on the publication of her latest children's book, *Marley's Amazing Magical Monday*. Janet has donated a copy of her book to St. Paul's, and it can be found on the book display in the narthex.

### With Sympathy & Prayers

**Melva E. Miller**, 83, of Marcus, formerly of rural Paullina, passed away on November 5th at Unity Point Health-St. Luke's in Sioux City. Visitation and a funeral service were held on November 10th at Boothby Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Agnew officiating. Burial was in the Liberty Cemetery at rural Meriden.

**Robert W. "Bob" Bjork**, 88, of Cherokee passed away on November 11th at his residence. Visitation was held on November 15th at the Boothby Funeral Home, and a graveside memorial service was held on November 16th at the Remsen Cemetery. Bob is the father of Terri (Todd) Webb.

**Karen S. Scott**, age 65, of Holstein, passed away on November 21st at her home of Holstein. A visitation will be held on Friday, December 1st, from 5-7 p.m. at the Nicklas D. Jensen Funeral Home of Holstein, with a funeral service on Saturday, December 2nd, at 11 a.m. at the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Holstein. Burial will be at the Oak Hill Cemetery of Cherokee. Karen is the daughter-in-law of Ervina Scott.

**Rosemary E. Fessler**, 92, of Larrabee passed away on November 23rd at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee. Visitation and the funeral service were held on November 29th at Boothby Funeral Home. Burial was in the Cedar Cemetery at rural Larrabee.

**Dennis A.P. Fox**, spouse of Rev. Julie E.F. Poulsen, passed away on November 25th. A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 4th, at 1:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church (1001 Pleasant Street, Des Moines, IA 50309) with lunch following the service. Dennis is Marilyn Brubaker's son-in-law.

Please keep **Miranda (Jason) Cook and the Timmerman/Stief families** in your prayers. Miranda's cousin recently passed away, and Roni's aunt in South Dakota recently passed away.

Missions News

Food and Funds Drive Update

Thank you to the Missions Committee and volunteers who organized and distributed the Food and Funds donations to our three local food pantries, and a big "thank you" to all of you who donated! \$680 was also given, which will be divided between Mid-Sioux Opportunity, CAP Food Bank, and Trinity Lutheran's food pantry.



Jeff Blum, Nancy Sears, Karla Wilkie, Roni Timmerman, Peggy Corrington, and Pastor Mike sorted the donations on November 14th.

UM Student Day Special Offering Update

On November 26th, our congregation took a special offering for United Methodist Student Sunday. \$212 was given. Thank you for your generosity!



Bell Ringers Needed

Salvation Army Bell Ringers are needed for December 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Please sign up in the narthex on Sundays, or call the church office or Mary Jo Carnine during the week.

Coordinator Needed for 2024 Bell Ringing

2023 will be Mary Jo Carnine's final year coordinating bell ringing for The Salvation Army. A volunteer is needed to assume this position, beginning in 2024. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please call Mary Jo Carnine at 229-8819. Thank you to Mary Jo for leading this ministry and to all of you who ring the bell.



Alternative Christmas Gift Guide Available Now

2023 Alternative Christmas Gift Guide

Four Gifts of Love



ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
431 W. Main Street, Jordan, Iowa 50352  
www.stpauls-umc.org  
Worship: Sunday 10:00 AM  
Worship: Youth 5:00 PM  
Worship: Family 7:00 PM  
Pastor Mike Small, Pastor Roni Timmerman  
Pastor Mike Small, Pastor Roni Timmerman

Our Missions Committee's Alternative Christmas Gift Guide is available in the narthex through Sunday, December 17th. This guide gives you the opportunity to support mission work while doing your Christmas shopping. Charities include Heifer International, Iowa United Methodist Church camps, Church World Service, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). To donate, please make your check payable to St. Paul's UMC, and write "Alternative Christmas Gift" on the memo. As of November 28th, \$50 has been donated to FCA.

| Organization                           | Gift                     | Price | Qty. | Total |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| Heifer International                   | Share of Fish            | \$30  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of a Heifer        | \$50  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of a Water Buffalo | \$25  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of a Llama         | \$20  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of an Alpaca       | \$20  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of a Goat          | \$10  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of a Sheep         | \$10  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of a Pig           | \$10  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Honey Bees               | \$30  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Flock of Chicks          | \$20  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Flock of Ducks           | \$20  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Share of Rabbits         | \$10  |      |       |
| Heifer International                   | Garden Seeds             | \$60  |      |       |
| UM Camps                               | Ministry Support         | Any   |      |       |
| Church World Service                   | Blanket for One Child    | \$10  |      |       |
| Church World Service                   | Books for Ten Students   | \$20  |      |       |
| Church World Service                   | Educational Toys         | \$25  |      |       |
| Church World Service                   | Water Filter             | \$30  |      |       |
| FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) | Ministry Support         | Any   |      |       |



TOTAL DONATED \$

Mitten Tree

Beginning December 3rd, we will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for those in need. You may place donations on the tree at the education entrance or the tree in the narthex. The elementary school also needs new or gently used (and washed) coats, snow pants, and boots.



Ingathering - November 4, 2023

The Ingathering was held on Saturday, November 4th, in our parking lot. This is when churches in northwest Iowa bring their kits to be loaded onto a truck for distribution to those in need. Our church made and donated 100 school kits and \$974.88. A great group of volunteers, including our District Superintendent, Michel Lundula, as well as our confirmation class, helped unload vehicles and load the truck. Thank you to everyone who helped and especially to Roni Timmerman for coordinating the event.



A Note From Roni Timmerman

We had 42 churches donate this year. Thank you to all who helped with the truck, including Mark Wilkie, Kyla Ducommun, District Superintendent Michel Lundula, Pastor Mike Agnew, Jeff Blum, Kim Wych, Dave Appleby, Sharon Bennink, Linda Rutter, Dixie Carper, Linda Christensen, and last, but not least, the confirmands. This church cannot function without volunteers. Thanks again, and God bless.



Above: Ally & Roni Timmerman

Left: The confirmation class loaded the truck.

Below: Linda Rutter and Sharon Bennink helped in Feller Lounge.



Confirmation Class

November Happenings

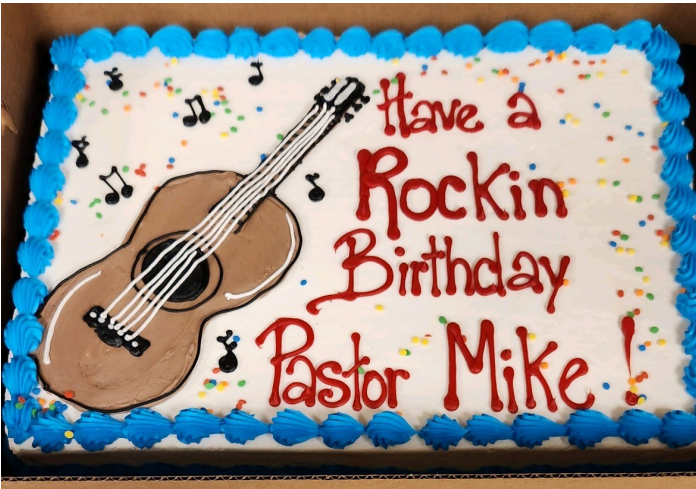
All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday was November 5th, and we remembered the members of our congregation who passed away in the past year. Pastor Mike read each name and lit a candle for each person, and Ervina Scott rang a bell in memory of each member. We also had a candle for all the other unspoken but still beloved family and friends who have passed away. Our list of members included Jenny Burroughs, Gerald Bruns, David Nelson, Shirley Sargent, Stanley Tinkham, Evan Knapp, Mary Tinkham, Geraldine Larson, Marlene Kelly, Tom Brader, Janet Smith, Joyce Peterson, Dan Hankens, and Bill Jentz. If you would like a copy of the bulletin and/or the insert in black and white or color, please contact Jennifer in the office.



Pastor Mike’s 43rd Birthday on 11/5/23

Thanks to the Adult Class for this great cake!



Election Day Luncheon & Bake Sale Preparations

Thanks to all the great volunteers who assembled casseroles and set the tables on November 6th in preparation for the Election Day Luncheon and Bake Sale. A special “thank you” goes to Barb and Dan Kratz who put in a lot of work in preparation for this.



Worship Notes

Greeters

- 12/3 Sue Parker (north door)
- 12/10 Linda Rutter (north door)
- 12/17 Micki Conley (north door)
- 12/24 a.m. Curt & Kristal Phillips (north door)
- 12/24 p.m. Roni Timmerman (north door)
- 12/31 Al & Barb Henn (north door)



Acolytes

- 12/3 Ally Timmerman and Brittany Kannegieter
- 12/10 Kennedy Steward and Madi Daum
- 12/17 Ava Agnew
- 12/24 a.m. Ava Agnew
- 12/24 p.m. Mason and Devin Daum
- 12/31 Connor Gordon and Grady Anderson



Liturgists

- 12/3 Don Blackstone
- 12/10 Linda Appleby
- 12/17 Chuck Tolzin
- 12/24 Pastor Mike
- 12/31 Roni Timmerman

Children’s Time

- 12/3 Jeanne Blackstone
- 12/10 Donna Lucas
- 12/17 N/A
- 12/24 a.m. Linda Burkhart
- 12/31 Madi Stief
- 12/24 p.m. N/A



Ushers

- 12/3 Marla Conley & Scott Osborn, Doug & Sandi Stowater, and Sue Parker
- 12/10 Jim & Peggy Corrington, Dr. Wes & Sue Parker
- 12/17 Mark & Becky Scherbring and Curt & Kristal Phillips
- 12/24 a.m. Dave & Donne Lucas, Austin, Meg, and Aubrey Lucas
- 12/24 p.m. Dave & Donne Lucas, Austin, Meg, and Aubrey Lucas, and Tim & Jen Gaydo
- 12/31 Dave & Donne Lucas, Aubrey Lucas, and Jim & Peggy Corrington

Altar Flowers

- 12/3 Loren & Darlene Woltman
- 12/10 Bonni Conley
- 12/17 Bonni Conley
- 12/24 poinsettias and the Jones family
- 12/31 open



The 2024 altar flower sign-up will be on the table in the narthex soon, or you can call Jennifer during the week. If the date you prefer has been taken, it is okay to have more than one arrangement per Sunday.

Advent Readers

- 12/3 Tasha and Ally Timmerman
- 12/10 Kent, Beth, and Reggie Simonsen
- 12/17 Jake, Steph, Meredith, and Oliver Rochleau
- 12/24 a.m. Amy & Madi Stief
- 12/24 p.m. Rod & Liza Parker, Skyler Robinson, Rowen, Anna, and Raylen Parker



Nursery Attendants

- 12/3 Jen Gaydo
- 12/10 Nicole Hoskinson
- 12/17 Heidi Gerstandt
- 12/24 a.m. Nicole Hoskinson
- 12/24 p.m. No staffed nursery on Christmas Eve.
- 12/31 needed



Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service! If you prefer, we also have a staffed nursery during the school year for infants through 2nd graders that is located on the second floor of the education wing in the first classroom closest to the sanctuary.

Attendance

| Date  | Worship | Sunday School | Wed.  | Confirmation | Teen Time |
|-------|---------|---------------|-------|--------------|-----------|
| 10/29 | 112     | 39            | 11/1  | N/A          | N/A       |
| 11/5  | 107     | 34            | 11/8  | N/A          | 15        |
| 11/12 | 114     | 36            | 11/15 | 13           | FCA       |
| 11/19 | 113     | 35            | 11/22 | N/A          | N/A       |
| 11/26 | 110     | 28            |       |              |           |

Advent Calendars Coming Soon!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 3rd, as Jeanne Blackstone will be giving the children’s message, which includes the beloved chocolate Advent calendars!

Podcast and Online Services Available

Sermons are available on 92.1 FM KCHE on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and are also available via podcast. You can find a link to a podcast app on our website (green icon in the upper right). Our full service is available live on our YouTube channel and as a recording after the fact both on our YouTube page and on our Facebook page. A link for our YouTube page can be found on our website (red and white icon in upper right), and a link for our Facebook page can also be found on our website (blue and white icon in upper right). If you need assistance, please stop by the office.

# Announcements & Updates

## Heating Assistance Program



Need help with a utility bill? Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. will be taking applications for the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) until April 30th. Please see the flyer on the bulletin boards at the north and west entrances, or call (712) 225-3322 for assistance.

## Volunteers Needed for Bell Choir

The Bell Choir is looking for at least one full time member and subs to fill in when others are out of town. If you are interested, practices are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, contact the office, and we can connect you to the director, Dusty Basten.



## Scholarship Opportunities



If you are a high school senior or college student, the United Methodist Church has a variety of scholarships that will be available soon. Bookmark these sites, and check back soon.

- <https://iumf.org/scholarships/> (opens Dec. 1)
- <https://umhef.org/scholarships/apply/> (opens Jan. 1)

## Live Nativity at Aurelia UMC

The Aurelia United Methodist Church (31 Valor Road) invites you to a drive-thru live nativity on Saturday, December 9th, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. A meal of spaghetti, garlic bread, and homemade cookies will also be served inside the church for a freewill donation.



## Christmas Eve Offering

Our Christmas Eve offering will be going to the Rotary Backpack Program this year. Every Friday at 7:00 a.m., Rotarians pack food in approximately 130 backpacks that go home with students over the weekend.

## Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

|                                                |                        |                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon. & Wed.                                    | 8:00 p.m.              | Alcoholics Anonymous<br>(NE door and downstairs)                                             |
| Wednesdays*                                    | 6:00 p.m.<br>6:30 p.m. | Bell Choir (sanctuary)<br>Chancel Choir (choir room)<br>*See page 7 for December variations. |
| Tues., 12/5                                    | 9:30 a.m.              | Visitation Team (library)                                                                    |
| Wed., 12/6                                     | 10:30 a.m.             | The Gardens study                                                                            |
| No communion at Viola's or Accura in December. |                        |                                                                                              |

# Christian Education News

## Sunday School and Children's Choir Update

Sunday School for PK-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and adults continues on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

## Children's Christmas Program and Rehearsal

Kids in PK-8th grade will be putting on a Christmas program on Sunday, December 17th, during the 10:10 a.m. worship service. Everyone is invited to stay afterwards for a soup lunch. Each child will also receive a bag of treats from the Connections & Outreach Team! **All kids are also asked to attend a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 13th, at 5:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.**



## Noisy Offering



Since the kids will be singing on December 17th, we will also be collecting a noisy offering (spare change) during the worship service to benefit children's ministries here at St. Paul's.

## December Confirmation Schedule

|                                                       |           |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Wed., 12/13                                           | 5:30 p.m. | Confirmation class* |
| *Those in the Christmas program can attend rehearsal. |           |                     |
| Wed., 12/20                                           | 5:30 p.m. | Confirmation class  |

## Confirmation Class on October 28th

On October 28th, the confirmation class attended mass at Immaculate Conception. Pictured below are Clayton Scherbring, Parker Wych, Mya Benson, Ally Timmerman, Brittany Kannegieter, Madi Daum, Kennedy Steward, Connor Gordon, Ava Agnew, and co-leader, Linda Christensen.



## December Teen Time Schedule

|                                               |             |                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Wed., 12/6                                    | 6:30-8 p.m. | FCA at Memorial Presbyterian |
| Wed., 12/13                                   | 6:30 p.m.   | Teen Time at Schmidts'       |
| Wed., 12/20                                   | 6:30 p.m.   | Teen Time at Schmidts'       |
| No Teen Time on December 27th or January 3rd. |             |                              |

# November Happenings

## Election Day Luncheon & Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Election Day Luncheon & Bake Sale on November 7th! 143 people dined-in, and 96 meals were carry-out or delivery, for a total of 239 served. \$2,870 was raised on the meal, \$788 was raised on the bake sale, and \$135 was given for extra casseroles. The net total was \$3,338.01.



## Veterans Sunday Recognition

Veterans in our congregation stood to be recognized during worship on November 12th.



## Dome Repair

The outer dome has been leaking, so water has ended up trickling through the lower dome and onto the pews. On November 15th, two workers from The Stained Glass Store, LLC in Grimes sealed the outer doom in around four hours.



## Loom Update

Following Charity Circle on November 15th, Ervina Scott gave a demonstration on the loom that United Women in Faith recently purchased. This loom will assist in making sleeping mats for homeless people out of plastic grocery bags. Stay tuned after the first of the year for more information about this project. (Please don't bring in plastic bags yet.)



November Happenings

Thanksgiving Dinner Update

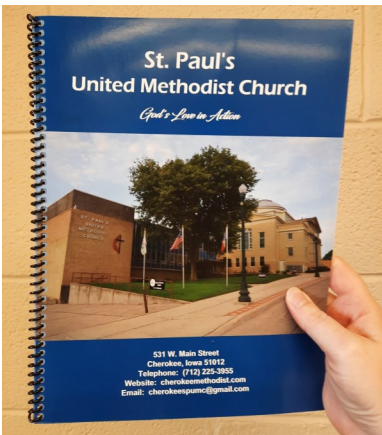
A big “thank you” to the Adult Class and all their assistants for the delicious Thanksgiving dinner on November 19th. Around 75-80 people were served, and the Adult Class will be donating around \$800 to the general budget. Special thanks go to Rod and Liza Parker for donating the turkey, Bob and Peg Parker for donating the corn, and Peggy Rasch for donating DQ ice cream sundaes.



Commitment Sunday Update

Thank you to everyone who turned in pledge cards in support of our 2024 budget. It isn't too late to pledge. Cards and stewardship packets are still available in the church office.

Pictorial Directory Update



Our new pictorial directories should arrive in mid-December. Watch the bulletins and Facebook page for an announcement when they do. Each household that had their picture taken or submitted a picture will receive a copy, and we will also have a limited number of copies for those who weren't able to participate. When they do arrive, please take just one per household. A huge “thank you” goes to Meribeth Adams for her help throughout the process and to her and Pastor Mike for doing the final proof-reading.

Announcements & Updates

Advent Studies Have Begun

Our two Advent studies have begun and are going over *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist* by Adam Hamilton. The Sunday group's remaining dates are December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Feller Lounge, and the Thursday group meets on November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21 at 10 a.m. in Feller Lounge. An online option (Zoom) is also available for either group. As of newsletter printing, we still have a few books available. The cost of the study book is \$16, but financial assistance is available, if needed.

Free Devotionals Available



Free Advent devotionals, courtesy of the Society of St. Andrew, are available in the narthex and on the table outside the church office. We also have December *The Upper Room* devotionals available as well.

Christmas Decorating and Undecorating

All ages are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Thursday, November 30th, beginning at 5 p.m. You are welcome to come and go as your availability allows. Pizza will be provided for supper. Save the date of January 4th at 5 p.m. to assist with undecorating.



Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 27th, at 8:30 a.m. All men are welcome, so invite a friend or neighbor to join us for a light breakfast and short devotion.

Ladies Invited to Christmas Tea in Peterson

The United Women in Faith of Peterson United Methodist Church invites the ladies of our congregation to their Christmas Tea, which will be held on Saturday, December 2nd. The program begins at 2 p.m. Come early to view the beautifully decorated tables. Bring a friend—or two or three or more! The Christmas Tea is their gift. Please gift them with your presence.



Christmas Concert at Quimby UMC

You're invited to a Christmas concert at Quimby United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 3rd, at 3 p.m. The performance will be given by Joyous Harmony.

Announcements & Updates

Surviving the Holidays Seminar at 1st UMC, Aurelia



Grieving a loss? Know someone who is? Join us at GriefShare Surviving the Holidays for encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the challenges of the season. This two-hour seminar takes place at 1st United Methodist Church in Aurelia (31 Valor Drive) on Monday, December 4th, from 7-9 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Linda Morris at 712-434-5994 or linda.morris@iaumc.net, or visit [griefshare.org/holidays](http://griefshare.org/holidays).

Blue Christmas Worship at Quimby UMC

The Quimby United Methodist Church invites you to attend their Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 17th, at 4 p.m.

A Night of Caroling at Immaculate Conception

Immaculate Conception Church (709 W. Cedar St.) invites you to A Night of Caroling on Wednesday, December 20th, at 6:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken.

Holiday Office Closures



The church office will be closed December 25, 26, and 27 and January 1st, so Pastor Mike and Jennifer can spend time with Ava and visit their extended family.

Weather Cancellations

As winter weather approaches, please stay tuned to our Facebook page, KCHE radio, KTIV TV, and KCAU TV for worship cancellations.



Bell Choir & Chancel Choir's December Schedule



Bell Choir won't meet on December 20th or 27th. Chancel Choir won't meet November 29th through December 20th. The next scheduled practice is December 27th.

Boxed Envelope Sets Available

Boxed envelope sets for 2024 are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. These sets contain an offering envelope for each Sunday of the year.

# Christmas Cookie Exchange

**Date Change!** → **Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Suggested \$5/plate donation to receive a baker's dozen (13)**

**To Donate Cookies:**  
Please bring donated cookies to the church kitchen from 12 - 6 p.m. on Sat., December 9th. If you need pick-up service instead, please contact the office.

**To Purchase Cookies:**  
Cookie plates will be assembled during the Sunday School hour on December 10th and will then be available for purchase in the narthex before and after our 10:10 a.m. worship service.

**Proceeds support the ministries of the Adult Class and St. Paul's UMC.**

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**  
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