

The Messenger



From the Pastor's Pen

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This letter comes to you at the opening of the Advent season. Advent is a special time to reflect on the coming of the Savior. Our Christmas holiday is focused on the first coming of Christ, as Jesus came into the world as one of us in Bethlehem's stable. Jesus is the one who the prophets wrote about and the one for whom Psalmists and angels sang.

In **Isaiah 9:6-7** we read, **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. ESV**

Can you hear the expectation in these words? Expectation is more than waiting for something, it is the joy of knowing that what you are waiting for is going to come to pass. This is the essence of the words of Isaiah. Isaiah said, “For unto us a child is born,” long before Jesus ever came into the world. It was an assurance of the hope of salvation: an assurance that what God has said He would do, He most certainly would do! It is the certainty that God is not slow in Keeping His promises, but even as God makes a promise, it is already a reality.

This is what we celebrate during Advent. We celebrate the joy of the first coming of Christ which brought salvation into the world, and the hope of the second coming – the second Advent – when Christ will finally trample all His enemies and bring the new Heaven and the New earth. This joyous hope is what sees us through the most difficult times of life and lifts us up from the valley of the shadow of death. This promise of God is what makes life worth living, and we with the children ask, “How much longer?” How much longer, O Lord until you bring Your Kingdom and finally all of creation will live at peace?

Yet God is not slow at keeping His promises. Instead, in His grace and His mercy, He gives more time so that the world might know that they have a Savior who is Christ the Lord. As we go through this Advent season and prepare for the coming celebration of the birth of Christ, there is much to do. We must decorate, we must buy gifts, we must make the treats that bring joy to the hearts of many. But we must not forget that the most important thing we can do is to share Christ, the hope of salvation, the joy of the whole earth, the reason for living, with a world that is lost and needing to find our heart's true home in Him. As Saint Augustine said, "My heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Many times, we adults are apt to be no more than Scrooge at this time of year. We don't see any reason to do all these things. We think that it's not worth the trouble. But Christ left His throne in Heaven to wrap Himself in human flesh and be born in a stable, to die on a cross. We were worth the trouble, or at least He thought so.

So, let us with eager anticipation, with expectancy, with hope, and joy, prepare for the celebration of Christmas and so help to prepare many hearts for their true home in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Expectantly waiting the coming of our King, your brother in Christ,

Pastor Bill

Dear Marshall First UMC Members:

On November 8, I was to have left for China to go through my things and ship onward to my new placement in Vientiane, Laos. Unfortunately, my China tourist visa was denied, twice. Therefore, I will be flying directly to Laos on December 8. Once in country, I'll be in a hotel for 2 weeks while I find an apartment to rent and begin the work visa process for my position as Coordinator of the Sunbeam Languages and Vocational Center (SLVC). My recent newsletter is posted on the bulletin board and you can always read my posts at connieinchina.org

I am so grateful to have enjoyed this extra time with my mom and also the beginnings of our Advent season. Laos is 1.2% Christian so there will not be any such celebrations there for Christmas. I'm certain our Global Ministries missionaries in Laos, Angie Broncano and Rev. Daniel Yang, will help me settle in with joy and praise at having another colleague in their midst.

I want to especially thank our United Women in Faith who have given me several generous checks. The SLVC needs strong monetary support for its English language programs. As the future director, I will be using a majority of that money toward sustaining and building more outreach projects for the Laotian people.

How very blessed I am to have such an exciting start to my new placement: prayers, interest and a whole lot of Christian love.

Connie Wieck, Global Ministries Missionary to Southeast Asia

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Merry Christmas
from the Wiggs Family!

You are invited to join us for a
Christmas Open House

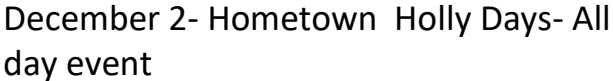
Friday, December 15, 2023 - from 3:00-8:00pm
at our home, 314 N. 8th Street in Marshall

Come and go as you have time that afternoon or evening, to enjoy finger foods, desserts, and fellowship as we celebrate the true Reason for the Season!





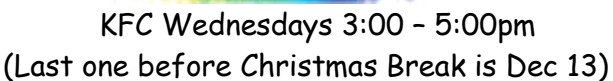
Advent and Christmas Events



December 15- Christmas Open House at the Parsonage from 3:00 – 8:00pm

December 24- Christmas Eve Services @
5PM & 9PM

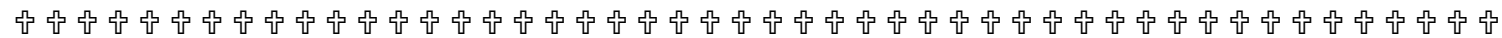
December 25- Community Christmas
Dinner @ 11:30 AM



Christmas is a busy time with lots of opportunities for youth and children at FUMC. Some dates to remember are:

Hometown Holly Days Angel Choir will meet at 3:45 inside Harlan Hall. Make sure to bring your Caroling folders!

Choir Practice is moving to a new time! For the winter months, we will meet at 4:00pm on Tuesdays in the Choir Room. If you've ever thought of singing with us, now would be a great time to join!



Connor Sanzenbacher	12/1		
Isaac Southworth	12/1	Lewis Goekler	12/13
Barb Reedy	12/2	Autumn Geltz	12/14
Briar William Bishop	12/4	Shannon Lee Snedecker	12/16
Holly Lake	12/4	Katie Mullins	12/17
Sheila Shotts	12/4	Regan Ella McConchie	12/18
William Schneider	12/5	Wyatt Evola	12/19
Liberty Cline	12/7	Mallory Simonton	12/20
Steven Eitel	12/7	Alane White	12/21
Steve Arney	12/7	Brent Huisinga	12/21
Blakely Ann Trudeau	12/8	Jenny Higginbotham	12/23
Tayden McConchie	12/8	Diane Moore	12/25
Eleanor Macke	12/8	Tori Heighton	12/26
Anna Ray Daily	12/9	Jen Smitley	12/27
David Miller	12/11	MaryAnn Stepp	12/30
Alex Bullock	12/12	Elizabeth	12/30
Kaylee Daugherty	12/12	Jason Wesley	12/30

December's Volunteers

December Ushers - Deb Miller & Harper
December Liturgist- Kathy Brown
December Counters- Jan Ridgway

December Nursery Volunteers	3 rd	Adrienne & Evangeline Hutson
	10 th	Erica & Caroline Crumrin
	17 th	Jody Green & Charlene Moore
	24 th	Amy Cannady & Nancy Crumrin
	31 st	Mary Ann Stepp & Sue Boyer



12/10 Amy Cannady



Mike Delp (Friend of John & Linda James), Maine Shooting Victims, Unspoken (Beth Macke) Unspoken, Tim Bronkie (Pastor’s friend), Karen Torbeck, Barney Calvert, Marianne Wrone, Gail Glick, Israel Diana Bailey, Tiffany Macke, Millie Swalls (Nora & Brad Swalls’ granddaughter), Kinley Nash (Lois & David Nash’s granddaughter), Molly Macke (Patty & John’s daughter-in-law), The Family of Larry Lindley, The Family of Judy McConchie, Rev. Ron Martz, Family of Bill Hutson, Bishop Frank Beard, D.S. Angie Lee, Chase Brady *[Joyce Gwyn’s great-grandson]*, Peg Hintz *[Tom Hintz’s mother]*, Julie Krietemeier *[Beth Macke’s sister]*, Angie Broncano *[Missionary in Laos]*, Unspoken Request, All Long-term Healthcare Facilities in Clark County, Natural Disaster Victims, Our Missionaries

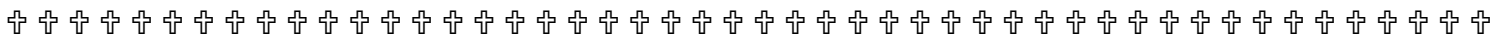
Our Military Personnel:

Chris Bradford	John Flowers	Daniel Gard	Jake Hoalt	Michael
		Holmes		
Peyton Allen	John Kuhn	Lewis & Shelby Sanborn	Chaplain Jonathon Maloney	
Our Nation, Our Nation’s Leaders, and Armed Forces				

Our Homebound & Health Care Facility

Residents

Violet Cook	JoAnn Donehue	Polly Logan
Mary E. Koutsoumpas	Phyllis Boatright	Ray King
Dan Flowers	Fremont Schoeck	Sharon Miller
Mitch Wineland	Ron Hicks	Ray King



Seniors

Help us celebrate Lewis Goekler’s 90th birthday!!! An open house will be held Wednesday, December 13 from 10:30-12:30 at the Gypsy Queen Coffee Shop. Cards are appreciated and can also be mailed to 110 Brosman Dr, Apt 15 Marshall, IL 62441

Thank you,
Susan, Amy, & Sarah



Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday. All are welcome to join!
First Tuesday of each month: 9:00am breakfast at Marshall Family Restaurant.
Second Tuesday: 2:00pm at the Villas of Holly Brook
Third Tuesday: 9:00am at the Gypsy Queen
Fourth Tuesday: 11:00am Lunch – each month at a different place!
THIS month, join us at Rooster’s Farm Market, 212 N. Michigan Ave.



Prayer Focus for the month: **Peace**

Gifts for Chaddock need to be dropped off at the church by Sun., Dec. 3. Copies of their Wish List are on the box in the hallway outside the office.

To support the children, youth and families at Cunningham Children’s Home this Christmas you may go to Cunninghamhome.org for the Wish List or go to Amazon and have items sent directly to Cunningham. If you wish to support an individual you may email @ bbuzard@cunninghamhome.org.

UWF Missions and Ministries UWF board met in November. We donated money to the following organizations and people: Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Midwest Mission, Marshall Ministerial Alliance, Cunningham Home, Marshall Food & Clothing, Baby Fold, BRIDGE, Chaddock, Connie Wieck, & gifts cards for staff & college students. The support from our church community helps make these donations possible. We raised \$3,785 on Chili Day. THANK YOU, everyone, for your continued support! A big THANK YOU! to Dianne Rardin for being in charge of Chili Day!

UWF are collecting plastic bags from Walmart, Dollar Store, etc., to begin the process of making sleeping mats on the loom that was purchased from Midwest Mission Distribution Center. If you would like to be involved in this project, please talk to Adrienne Hutson or Karen Heighton. There is a container by the Plum Street doors to drop off bags.

Laundry Ministry – Sisters In Faith has had a positive response to our new ministry. At our meetings each month our members each take a bag, which includes laundry pods, dryer sheets, a roll of quarters, & a Bible verse, and gives it to a family at our local laundromat. We have also given an envelope with money to the attendant to give when there is a need. We thank you for assisting us in this ministry. We are continuing to collect quarters, laundry pods, and dryer sheets.

Mission News

Suggestions for December:
Marshall Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (Burnsides) will have 60 residents spending Christmas Day at the facility. Also, throughout the year there are additional residents who do not have any family support. The facility sent the following suggestions for Christmas and year round giving.: Shampoo/conditioner,body wash and lotion or body cream, slipper socks with grips, deodorant , shaving cream,electric razors,men's and women's body spray, large print puzzle books, individually wrapped candies and treats, with sugar and sugar free At present there is no need for lap blankets or afghans . Ministerial Clothing Shop: hygiene items of all types , new cosmetic items, sanitary items for adults as well as the usual good used or new clothing, childrens and adult. Food Pantry: canned goods, money for equipment in the new building and also contributions for purchasing foods for distribution. You can take your contributions directly to either facility or write a check to FUMC and we will see it goes to your designated place.

UWF Circle Schedule

- Faith – Thurs., Dec. 14, 12:30 pm, at Chaves Mexican Restaurant
- Sisters In Faith – Tues., Dec. 12, 6:00 pm at the Silo
- Susannah – Mon., Dec. 18, 6:00 pm
- Esther - Thurs., Dec. 14, 7:00 pm at Adrienne’s
- Susannah Wesley Circle Cookie Sale – Sun., Dec. 17