



The Tidings is published monthly by
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A Monthly Update for First United Methodist Church Burlington Iowa Volume 89 Issue 12

*As Christ's Light of Hope,
together we Become, Serve,
Celebrate and Share*

Tidings



Traditional Worship 9:00 am or Live Stream with link on Facebook

From Pastor Dan's Desk:

Good morning, saints. Before and after thanksgiving celebration, people start putting up their Christmas decorations. You can hear them saying, Christmas is just around the corner. A good and jolly spirit that we can't wait for the day to come. The month of December marks the Advent season in the Christian calendar. Advent reminds the people of God the promise of the coming of a blessed Savior. The first Advent fulfilled that promise through the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our present generation awaits the second coming (second Advent). The thing is we don't know when. But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father know (Mark13:32) CEB. Encouraging to be alert and patient as we wait for the second coming. We have a saying which is biblical, "patience is a virtue". Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. (James 5:7) CEB.

Putting this biblical perspective in our day-to-day life, makes us wonder on how we have experienced preparing ourselves, home, meals, etc. as we wait for our family, friends, and guest. A process that sometimes will get us to worry about the load, labor and even anticipating what will be the outcome in all this awaited moment. But when the time comes all the preparation and waiting will pay off. It brings us relief and most of all the spirit of joy and blessings surrounds us with peace and love.

This is my prayers for all of you and your loved ones as you prepare and patiently wait for the unexpected second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May you all be blessed with this wonderful spirit of Christmas. God bless us all.
In Christ Service, Rev. Dan G. Fernandez

Youth Education in December>>>

JUMP (Jesus, You, & Me Praying): meets every Sunday after the Children's Message for Bible lessons and crafts in the Church Lower Level!

Puppets of Praise: Practice for Living Windows is Sunday night from 5 to 6 PM on the third floor of the Loft. Please use the entrance from our parking lot behind the church.

Youth Library Books: Please check out the library books for youth (*toddler-pretteens*) displayed in the back of the sanctuary. You can borrow for just the service or take home!

PB&J (Prayers, Blessings, & Jesus): meets on Wednesday evenings for grades PreK-5th. It runs from 5:30-7:00 P.M. and includes a meal, Bible lesson, and games.

Youth Group: Youth Group will be for Grades 6th-12th this year. They will meet after church from 10:15 A.M. - 12:30 P.M once a month. Stay tuned for more!

Children's Christmas Concert: is Sunday, December 10th at the 9:00 A.M. service! The program is called "Signs of Christmas." Join our group of kids in search of street and window signs that tell the Christmas Story. All kids are welcome to participate! We practice Sunday mornings at JUMP, and Wednesday evenings at PB&J from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Young Adults: On Wednesday 12/6, there will be social time at VO's from 5:30-7:30pm Come connect with others from church! We will get together every 1st Wednesday of the month. On Sunday December 17th for the Community Christmas Card from 2-4pm, the Young Adults will be Carolers. Dress appropriately and come sing your favorite Christmas carols! Young Adults Bible Study with Pastor Dan starts Wednesday 1/10 from 6-7pm at the church. Bring your kids to PB&J and enjoy a Bible study on "The Lords Prayer" book by Adam Hamilton. Learn about the prayer Jesus taught us to pray!

For congregational prayer concerns plus weekly updates, please contact the church office to subscribe to the **Pew News**. Call 319-754-8421.



Contact us at 319-754-8421
www.umcburl.org
Facebook: fumcburlington

*Up to date news found
in Pew News >>>*

Celebrations >>>
Birthdays

- Dennis Wischmeier 12/04
- Jeff Schulz 12/05
- Deagan Pilger 12/07
- Mark Crooks 12/08
- Jim Priebe 12/08
- John V. Rockwell 12/08
- Cora Johnson 12/09
- Scott Zaiser 12/10
- Dana Readinger 12/11
- Scott Williams 12/11
- Cody Crooks 12/13
- Jerry Jochims 12/14
- Carl Brueck 12/17
- Lori Rockwell 12/17
- Josephine Toops 12/20
- Richard Eggenberger 12/21
- Vicki Koeller 12/22
- Amy Dodge 12/24
- Chester Dalrymple 12/25
- Tobin Gach 12/26
- Lucy Cockrell 12/27
- Cole Williams 12/27
- Brian Garst 12/28
- Kim Knight 12/31
- Roxy Riessen 12/31

Mission Corner >>>
(or how First UMC is helping in our corner of God's World)

Merry Christmas!

As you celebrate this holy and joyous season when Jesus was born in a humble stable, please remember those who are leading materially impoverished lives today and bless them with your help.

Here are some easy ways that you can help the needy through the mission of our church—

1—**Be a Christmas Angel!** There are seven single people connected with our church who could use a package of some Christmas cheer. You can stop by the office from now until Dec. 18 to pick up a list of items that you can get for these individuals from Dane.

2—**Go to the grocery store!** Provide grocery items for Christmas Baskets, listed on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

3—**Ring a bell!** First UMC will ring the Salvation Army bell on Saturday, Dec. 2, in front of Hobby Lobby! Sign up in the sanctuary or let Ann Ure know (319-759-2990).

4—**Get underwear!** The Shared United Ministries are providing packages of underwear to the hundreds of kids who are signed up for the Toys for Tots program. Any size girl's or boy's underwear is welcome and needed by Dec. 6 for distribution on Sat., Dec. 9. Many more packages are needed!

5—**Donate!** Giving a mission designated monetary gift this month will help the Mission Committee fill in the any holes of the mission activities listed above.

Thank you to all who prepared and served the desserts and drinks and washed the dishes for the October 26 End of the Month meal at Grace UMC!

The Mission Committee served 85 people at the November 7th Building Bridges' first Tuesday of the month meal. Thank you to all who prepared food and served it!

The Tuesday, December 5, meal will be provided by the Balcony Dwellers. Please contact Cindy Seibert for information on how you can help with this holiday meal.

Offerings for the Quiet Ministry in November went to the Burlington Area Quiet Ministry. Thank you for your gift!

The December Quiet Ministry will be given to our church's Matthew 25:40 fund to help those who come into our church's office and need immediate help. Thank you for thinking of them and giving what you are able!

Fluid Movement

This class meets every Thursday morning at 10:00 A.M. on the second floor of the LOFT. The class addresses many things at different times. We focus on breathing exercises, stretching exercises, strengthening our bodies, balance, flexibility, forms of Tai Chi, Ai Chi, meditation, relaxation. A little martial arts thrown in for fun. Please attend in comfortable clothing and shoes. A basket for monetary money will be present. All the money goes to our church. You can remain seated or standing as your body requires and stop and rest as needed. It is your class, I just guide you. Please come and enjoy our hour of healthful suggestions.

Hope to see you on Thursday, and bring a friend. It is open to everyone.—Karen Kay Piper

United Women in Faith >>>

Events/Meetings for the month of December:

Executive Board: 12/11 at 3:00 P.M. LOFT 1st

Miriam Circle: 12/19 at 6:00 P.M. at the Cheryl Jones Home

Quilting Group: Meets at 9:00 A.M. every Wednesday on Loft 3rd

The UWFaith invites you to a First United Methodist Church's Community Christmas Card on Sunday, December 17th from 2-4pm. This is a wonderful family opportunity for families and members of the Burlington community to see our spaces, have light refreshments, get pictures with Santa, and listen to live music. Best of all, it's free!



United Women in Faith

Anniversaries

- John & Patty Jaeger 12/07
- Dane & Megan Feenstra 12/09
- Tracy Gach & Rachel Oliverio 12/12
- Jim & Pam Farr 12/20

Adult Education in November >>>

The Brunch Bunch is currently reading and discussing the book, "Who Stole My Church". They meet upstairs on the second floor after church.

The Life and Laughter class is currently studying the Gospels. This class meets in the Choir Room after church. All are welcome to join!

Walking Club: Meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 7:30 a.m.

Months of December-March:

Alternating between Aspen Grove/Crapo Park

Undie Sunday

We've had a great response to the collecting of children's underwear for Toys for Tots, but we still have a long way to go to meet the needs of the participating families. We're still short about 50 packages of both boys and girls sizes 2T-3T and size 4-T in addition to packages for all other sizes. There sure are a bunch of toddlers out there. Let's show them our love!

Christmas Program

The 27th Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Program at Old Stone Church/Cemetery will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 2 p.m. Pastor Bruce Smith will be the guest speaker. Refreshments and fellowship will follow afterward. Old Stone Church/Cemetery is located 1 1/2 miles west of the Sinclair Tractor Company off Highway 61. Donations will be accepted. Everyone is welcome!



UMM will continue meeting Wednesdays at 8 AM at the All-Star Diner in West Burlington.

Our Financial Health >>>

Financial Information as of November 20, 2023

Budgeted Income	\$ 286,405.71
Actual Income	\$ 292,701.76
Event Income	\$ 21,003.97

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 283,274.12
Actual Expenses	\$ 273,424.42



—LOFT Market News—

When you are looking for unique gifts for the special people in your life, think of the mission of Fair Trade!

When you buy a fair trade gift, it gives three ways—

First, to your recipient who receives that unique gift.

Second, to the artisan living in a developing country who is better able to support her family and live a self sustaining life.

And third, to yourself for knowing that you gave the kind of gift that demonstrates your love for those in God's World who are in need.

Thank you for supporting the Loving Opportunities Fair Trade Market, a ministry of First United Methodist Church! May you be blessed by your loving spirit!

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Reverend Dan G. Fernandez
pastor-first@umcburl.org

Office & Event Manager/Choir Director
Dane Feenstra 319-754-8421
admin@umcburl.org

Director of Christian Education
Sue Dichraff 319-759-4884
education@umcburl.org

Organist & Handbell Director:
Roxy Riessen

Custodians/Event Help:
Betty Banks
Bruce Dichraff

Childcare Providers:
Racheal Fenton
Shelby Trafton

Live Stream and Tech
Shawn Johnson

A Merry Christmas Greeting from your FUMC Finance Committee!

My name is Cheryl Anne Jones and I am one of four people on the finance committee. I was "volunteered" to bring you some information regarding stewardship. Most all of you received a letter in the mail with your statement of giving so far this year. If you did not receive a letter let us know and one will be provided to you. Along with the letter there was a pledge card that you need to get to the office if and when you can.

We have several groups in our church that provide services so we can support all kinds of missions. For example, we are blessed with many talented musicians in our congregation, and our music ministry provides opportunities for you to share your talents. Roxy Riessen, our Organist and Handbell Choir Director, is always on the lookout for those wanting to try their hand at ringing. In addition, Dane Feenstra will welcome you into the Chancel Choir, as well as provide chances for solos by voice or musical instrument.

If music isn't where your talents lie, there are two adult Sunday school classes, United Methodist Men's Group, United Women in Faith, Quilters, Fluid Movement Class, softball and small groups that provide opportunities for adult interaction. We cannot forget to mention our Fair Trade store, whose profits not only benefit the artisans in developing countries, but also provide assistance to the many community groups in our city. Other opportunities can be found in preparing meals for the Shared United ministries end-of-the-month meal served at Grace UMC, meals for Burlington Bridges, our Snake Alley Lemonade stand, Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army and brand new activities for young adults and families. We are also excited for our newest all-church Christmas Card Event to be held on December 17th.

This is a story I found that proves my point. A boy and his father were walking along the road when they came to a large stone. The boy said to his father, do you think if I use all my strength, I can move this rock? His father answered, if you use all your strength, I am sure you can do it. The boy began to push the rock, exerting himself as much as he could. He pushed and pushed but the rock did not move. Discouraged, he said to his father, you were wrong father. I cannot do it. His father placed his arm around the boy's shoulder and said, no son, you did not use all your strength, you did not ask me to help. Just like the young boy, he needed his father's help to move the rock; our church needs your help to accomplish all these ministries. WE NEED YOU! You can make all this happen by your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. It is the time of the year when your church leaders ask that you prayerfully consider how YOU can support your church by sharing your gifts and talents.

If any of these are something you might be interested in, notify Pastor Dan or Dane.

May this special season fill your hearts with joy, and may the calming and reassuring presence of the Lord be with you and your families during this most happy season, and in all the seasons to come!

A Community Christmas Card Sunday

December 17, 2023

2:00 to 4:00 PM

**Enjoy a "walk at your own pace"
through the following family
Christmas traditions for FREE**

Santa

(Take your own free photos of your kids with Santa)

Christmas Carolers

Christmas Tree Walk

Nativity Set Display

Live Christmas Music

Live Nativity

***Christmas Cookies, Candy and
Hot Chocolate***

**Your walk will start at the Loft Community Bldg.,
416 Jefferson St., Burlington, and finish at the
First United Methodist Church**

Merry Christmas!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <p>Hanging of the Greens 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LMK Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Puppets of Praise</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 6:30pm - OS-Prayer Group 7pm - Bel Canto 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Maljong 5:30pm - Building Bridges 5:30pm - Trable Cief</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove 8am - United Methodist Men Breakfast 9am - Quilters 9pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - Fluid Movement 5pm - Shooquon Children's Choir 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 6pm - Ad Council 7pm - Bel Canto 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Lessons & Carols Dress 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - Lessons & Carols 9am - Children's Christmas Program</p>
<p>3</p> <p>7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 2pm - Lessons & Carols 5pm - LMK Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Puppets of Praise 6pm - PB-Elmore</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 2pm - National Alliance on Mental Illness 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 6:30pm - National Alliance on Mental 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Heritage Baptist 9am - Maljong 5pm - Trable Cief 5:30pm - Building Bridges</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 8am - United Methodist Men Breakfast 9am - Quilters 9:45am - Hope Haven 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6pm - Children's Christmas Program</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11am - Fluid Movement 5pm - Living Windows 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 9am - L2-Flint Cliffs</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Children's Christmas Program</p>
<p>10</p> <p>7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Children's Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 12pm - Trable Cief Christmas 5pm - LMK Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Puppets of Praise 6pm - PB-Elmore</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 3pm - United Women in Faith-Executive 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 6:30pm - OB-Prayer Group 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Maljong 5:30pm - Building Bridges 6pm - Missions 7pm - Education</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 8am - United Methodist Men Breakfast 9am - Quilters 12pm - Staff Meeting 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10am - Fluid Movement 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or</p>	<p>16</p> <p>MISSION CHRISTMAS BASKETS</p>
<p>17</p> <p>7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Music Worship Service 10am - Bell Christmas Party 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 2pm - Community Christmas Card 5pm - LMK Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Puppets of Praise</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 2pm - National Alliance on Mental Illness 3:30pm - LML 2-Four Oaks Christmas 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 6:30pm - National Alliance on Mental 7pm - United Women in Faith-Hillfram 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Maljong 5:30pm - Building Bridges</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 8am - United Methodist Men Breakfast 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 10am - L1/LMKHRS Retreat 12:15pm - Burlington Luncheon 3pm - Silver Singers</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am - Fluid Movement 3:30pm - Fair Trade 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 6pm - Ad Council 6pm - Bel Canto Board 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Maljong 5:30pm - Building Bridges</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 8am - United Methodist Men Breakfast 9am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10am - Fluid Movement 1:30pm - L1-Area on Aging Party 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>29</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DECORATING</p>	<p>30</p> <p>CHRISTMAS RECEPTION</p>
<p>31</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE</p>	<p>1</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Heritage Baptist 9am - Maljong 5:30pm - Building Bridges 7:30pm - Trable Cief</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or 8am - United Methodist Men Breakfast 9am - Quilters 9:45am - Hope Haven 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - Fluid Movement 5:30pm - Pickleball-Gibson 7:30pm - Basketball-Brown</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen Grove or</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12pm - L2/Trouman Reception</p>