

First United Methodist News

*First United Methodist Church
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Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield

District Superintendent:

Dr. Robert C. Bell

Rev. David P. Orr, Senior Minister

Rev. Janice Sudbrink

Rev. Stephen Dickinson

Rev. Claire Hoffman

Rev. William Cheyne

Rev. Herschel McClurkin

November 26, 2008

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

The day and spirit of Thanksgiving deserves to be continued. As you read this you are likely basking in the fresh memories of good food shared with family and/or good friends. You are rejoicing with the church in the remarkable experience of Thanksgiving Lunch served in the Family Life Center. You are thanking God for graces and goods which have come from the abundance of God. Thanksgiving gets to be a way of life - for every day is to be cherished, every experience is full of opportunity, every step in the Kingdom of God is a blessing.

Advent is the beginning of the new year on the Christian liturgical calendar. We begin telling the story of Christ and the Kingdom of God in Advent (arrival/coming). Advent is observed the four Sunday's preceding Christmas Day. Sunday, November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent.

Down Home Singing is conducted on the last Sunday of each month. The Singing will happen in the Sanctuary on November 30th, 4:30 p.m. with an emphasis on the signs of the season we call the "Hanging of the Greens". There will be great music and there will be helpful insights given to the meaning and purpose of all the decorations of the season. Everyone is welcome!

A new ministry team, the Decorating Ministry, has formed. The church is prepared for Advent, and everything looks fantastic! Every Member in Ministry is blessing First Church once again with more members in a meaningful ministry that enriches our witness.

Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, December 7, 3:00 p.m. We are in a cluster with Heritage UMC, Grace Community UMC and Goddard UMC as we were last year. Goddard is the host church this year. I encourage every member of the Administrative Board to attend, as well as anyone interested is welcomed to attend.

December 7th, 6:00 the Children's Christmas program @ FUMC will be presented in the Family Life Center. The Chancel Choir's Lessons and Carols service is December 21st. Christmas Eve worship is noon in Roebuck Chapel, 5:30 in the Sanctuary, and 11:00 in the Roebuck Chapel. First Church is the place to be from the first to the final day of Advent!

See you Sunday,
David Orr



-FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT AND STUDENT SUNDAY AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. Claire Hoffman will preach at the 8:30 Chapel and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary services. Her sermon is entitled, "Hope Despite the Unknown" and her scripture text will be Mark 13:24-37. Rev. Janice Sudbrink will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Her sermon is entitled, "Expectant Hope" and her scripture text will be Mark 13: 26-27; 32-37. Rev. David Orr and Rev. Stephen Dickinson will be Liturgists. Acolytes will be Caitlin Bradley and Lindsay Vickery. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Brian Gaines, 11:00, Bruce Trahan. Lighting the First Advent Candle will be: 8:30, John & Jane Stauffer and Jim & Wanda Foster, 11:00 Sanctuary service, Tom and Nancy Ashwood, 11:00 Connexion service, Russell, Hui, and Vivian Apple.

Kate Truitt and Brynn Trahan will be the soloists at the 8:30 service. The Chancel Choir's anthems will be "Shout for Joy, O Daughter of Zion" by Joseph Martin and "Fling Wide the Door" arranged by John Yarrington.



As of Monday, November 24, 2008 the following members were listed in the hospitals:

Sparks:

Suzanne Stephens,
Katie Keating

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$31,230
Rec'd to date.....\$1,338,787
Budgeted to date.....\$1,566,933

Please pray for the following who are serving in our U. S. Military: Ben Hurst, Patrick Hayes, Walt Scales, Jeff Nester, Chuck Bowen, Richard McKinnie, Cody Kennon, Brad Bost, Heath Peters, Brandon Hattabaugh, Clint Wilson, Michael Parker, Christina Bargiel, Ellen Driggers, Rick Whittaker, Christopher Herrmann, Timothy Gean, Dwalyn Clayborn, V. J. Devine, Darson Emery.

**Destination Station's
Bible Verse for November
Matthew 8:26**

"Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he ordered the wind and the waves to calm down.

Foundation Information

Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship – saying thanks to God, expressing your love and concern for family and showing charity toward others.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch, Dec. 4 - Scott Price teaching from Luke 1

Friday Morning Breakfast, Dec. 5 - Rev. Aaron Barling teaching from Daniel 10:1-21.

Open Dates for Altar Flowers December 14 & 28. Call the church office if you would like to put flowers on the altar, 782-5068.

The Homeless Ministry

which provides muffins to the Next Step Day Room, has some immediate needs. The following donations would be greatly appreciated!

Coffee, Sugar, Fresh Fruit, Men and Women's Coats (used is fine), Scarves, Warm Hats and White Cotton Socks.

These items can be dropped off in Janice's office or the church office.

Job Opening

The Children's Day Out program will have a job opening for a temporary teacher in our younger toddler classroom from January to May. Please contact Tiffany Null 783-0310 or 462-2771.

Attention: College Students

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend church this Sunday, November 30, as we celebrate Student Recognition Sunday at First Church.

First United Methodist has a WiFi network in three locations, (1) the Narthex area (2) Youth Loft and (3) Family Life Center. If you would like to use our WiFi network, it is named FUMC and the password is FUMC1919.

Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.
in our Sanctuary
The Fort Smith Choral
presents
"Carols by Candlelight"
Tickets are \$15 per person
(Full-time students admitted free)



United Methodist Women

will hold their annual Christmas Coffee on Tuesday, December 2nd at 9:30 a.m. in the Narthex. Everyone is welcome.



Down Home Singin'

on November 30, begins at 4:30 p.m., our new winter hours. Join us in the Sanctuary for the hanging of the greens. Linda Dickson will be our leader. After the singing, join us in the Narthex for Harvest Soup and Corn Bread.

Let's have breakfast

this Sunday in the Family Life Center, 8:30-9:30 a.m., cooked and served by the Chapel Class. The breakfast is free but all donations will be given to the "Backpack for Kids" program at the Clearinghouse.



**U.M.W.
Silent Auction**

Stop by the Narthex before and after Sunday School to view the beautiful cross and flame afghan, and two professionally framed prints of FUMC circa 1921. We will be taking silent bids the next three Sundays on each of these items. Each week you will have a chance to bid again to top the current high bid. Bidding ends December 14, and you will have a gorgeous gift for someone special. All proceeds will benefit local mission projects.

Eight Flu Shots Available

Contact Janice Sudbrink, 782-5068, if you need a flu shot. It's not too late.

FUMC Angel Tree

The Children's Ministry Department, along with the Missions Council, is sponsoring the FUMC Angel Tree. The response has been so tremendous that in our fifth year of providing gifts for area children in need, we have taken 50 DHS children this year. We know this is a large undertaking, but we know our church can make the difference for these children. There is a tree in the Narthex and on the second floor by the children's area. Please stop by and take an ornament.

After you purchase the gift on the ornament, bring the gift back to the church, **with the ornament tag and unwrapped**, to Sally Ware's office by **Dec. 12.**

Mark your calendars and join your Pastors for an Advent Study, "The Light Will Shine", November 30, December 7, 14, and 21, in Roebuck Chapel, during the Sunday School hour.

- November 30 - Rev. Stephen Dickinson**
- December 7 - Rev. Janice Sudbrink**
- December 14 - Rev. Claire Hoffman**
- December 21 - Rev. David Orr**

ADVENTure 2008



To kick off the Christmas season, the Children's Ministry Council invites you to join us for a family evening full of dinner, a special story, crafts, and singing. ADVENTure begins at 5:30 p.m. on December 3, with a chili supper and cookie station for dessert. At 6:00 p.m., there will be a story and craft time. The evening will end with a special candlelight sing along.

Dinner is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children, not to exceed \$15 per family. The craft fee is \$20.

Reservations are a must! The reservation deadline is **this Sunday, November 30.**

Join us for IMMENSIO AMORE

The Life & Resurrection of Christ
Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. at
Grace Community UMC, 4001 Brooken Hill
"Beautiful, inspiring, uplifting"....are all words that concert goers have used to describe the new sacred music and media concert **"Immensio Amore"**.

This program is sponsored by the Methodist Churches of the West District to raise funds to support the West District Habitat for Humanity 2009 house. Admission is free, however, we will be taking a love offering, which we hope will be generous.

The tax-free IRA Charitable Gift is back.

Congress has re-authorized legislation that allows donors to make gifts to charitable organization(s) from their IRA accounts during tax years 2008 and 2009 without incurring income tax on the withdrawal.

- For tax years 2008 and 2009, an individual may have up to \$100,000.00 per year of their IRA balance distributed to a charitable organization without recognizing income on the distribution.
- The exclusion from income only applies to a distribution that is otherwise includible in income and made directly to a charitable organization on or after the date the account owner reaches age 70 ½.
- The account owner is not allowed a deduction for the contribution on their annual return.
- Distributions from SEP (Simplified Employee Pension) or SIMPLE (Saving Incentive Match Plans for Employees) IRA accounts do not qualify.

Use to complete your pledge toward First United Methodist Church's annual operating budget.

Consider an endowment gift to the church for a cause dear to your heart. Scholarships, missions, youth ministries, maintenance of church building and grounds, or any other area of personal interest may be named as beneficiary of your gift to the First United Methodist Church. **Contact your Financial and/or Tax Advisor to initiate your IRA distribution gift.**



If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and mail it, along with your check, made out to the church for \$14.00 for each poinsettia, to Nancy Scott. (No phone calls, please)

How many poinsettias are you ordering? _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____

Phone: _____

Deadline for ordering, Monday, December 8th. . .

