

First United Methodist News

*First United Methodist Church
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Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield

District Superintendent:

Rev. Mike Morey

Rev. David P. Orr, Senior Minister

Rev. Janice Sudbrink

Rev. Stephen Dickinson

Rev. Claire Caldwell

Rev. William Cheyne

Rev. Herschel McClurkin

December 23, 2009

ACROSS DAVID'S DESK

Merry Christmas, First United Methodist Church. You are blessed with the full presence of Christ Jesus. You are filled with the Joy of the Holy Child. Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

You are blessed to be a blessing, indeed. This season you provided Christmas gifts to fifty children who are in the care of Arkansas DHS through our church's Angel Tree. You gave beautiful gifts, warm clothing, and wagon loads of love! You have given to those in the care of the United Methodist Children's Home of Arkansas. Donations made at Christmas provide care all year. You have given to the needs of local families through your Sunday School classes and the church's Good Samaritan Fund. You have supported the Bridge (our ministry to and with the students of UAFS) through their holiday chocolate sales. You provided 100 poinsettias for the worship centers of our congregation to honor and memorialize many you love. Thank you for each gift and generosity.

Your many cards and calls and kind good wishes and gifts and prayers for your pastors and staff this season are deeply appreciated. We cannot say thank you enough for the blessing we know in serving this remarkable congregation. God Bless you, each and every one.

I remind you we will have our customary Sunday schedule for Sunday School and worship this Sunday, December 27th. Also, the Chapel Class-sponsored "Last Sunday of the Month Breakfast" will be served up hot and delicious for one and all in the FLC. Join us in the afterglow of Christmas' miracle. Donations for the breakfast support the Clearing House's Backpack for Kids program.

In completing the church's financial year, remember that December 31st is coming rapidly. Please review your giving for the year and make sure you are completing your plan for giving to the ministry of First Church through your tithes and offerings. Every gift is a blessing and makes a difference in the strength of our church. Thank you, in advance, for doing your faithful part in supporting the ministry budget of First United Methodist Church.

Merry Christmas; and, See You Sunday!
David Orr

-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009, AT FIRST CHURCH-

Rev. Janice Sudbrink will preach at the 8:30 Roebuck Chapel and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service. Her sermon is entitled, "The Name of Jesus" and her scripture text is Luke 2:21-40. Rev. Claire Caldwell will preach at the 11:00 a.m. Connexion service. Her sermon is entitled, "Shrouded in Prophecy" and her scripture text will be Luke 2:25-38. Rev. David Orr will be the Liturgist. Acolytes will be Joey Winters and Kelsey Vickery. Lay Readers are: 8:30, Cheryl Powell, 11:00, John Stauffer.

Hannah Bradt will be the soloist at 8:30 and 11:00. The Chancel Choir's anthem will be "This Christmastide" by Donald Fraser. Gaye McClure and Kent Blochberger will sing "Were You There on that Christmas Night?" at the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service.



As of Monday, December 20, 2009, the following members were known to be in the hospital.

Sparks:

Bernard Brockman
Reba Cheyne
Sherron Shuffield

St. Edward:

Anna Marie LaChance

BY YOUR GIFTS . . .

Rec'd this week.....\$16,016
Rec'd to date.....\$1,339,662
Budgeted to date.....\$1,678,790

Please pray for the following who are serving in our U. S. Military:
Richard Johnson, Doug Wilderman.

Foundation Information

Year's-end giving to the church through the budget or in the form of a special gift to the First United Methodist Church Foundation (a perpetual gift) can bless many lives and bring satisfaction for you. Tax deductions are an added bonus.

Methodist Men's Clubs

Thursday, Noon Lunch/Bible Study will not meet on December 31. See you again on January 7, 2010.

Friday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study, will not meet on January 1. See you again on January 8, 2010

Destination Station Bible Verse for December - Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall name him Immanuel.



Altar Flower Openings

We have the following openings for altar flowers:

January 3, 17, 24, and 31 . If you would like to put flowers on the altar call 782-5068.



Beginning Ballroom Dancing

Join us on Tuesdays, beginning January 12, and ending February 9, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

We will include more advanced study for those with experience. Learn the Triple time swing and basic dance. Cost: \$50.00 per couple. Contact Patrick Jacobs (479) 719-5385 or pjacobs@carcotrans.com to sign up or more information.



From Cancer Support Group:

If you ordered FUMC logo shirts and/or denim shirts, they are in and can be picked up at the church office during the week or Sunday mornings in the Narthex.



Rio Bravo, Mexico Mission Trip

is planned for April 12-18, 2010. We will need 36-40 people to work on construction and medical teams. No experience necessary except a servant heart! Those interested in participating contact Rev. Janice at the church or email jsudbrink@fsfumc.org



Join us for breakfast

this Sunday, December 27, in the Family Life Center from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The breakfast is free, but any donations will be given to the "Backpack for Kids" program at the Clearinghouse.

Come enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and more.

Coming Soon!!!!

Christian Education through Religious Drama presented by: Hollywood Players

Watch your Newsletter for performance dates!



Cookie Time

It is time for some lovin' from the oven! We will deliver cookies to the Fort Smith Fire Stations. We have ten stations and will need lots of cookies.

Please bring your homemade cookies this Sunday, December 27, and place them in the Kitchen on the 2nd floor next to the Parlor. Your time and cookies are truly appreciated.

Please call and let me know if you will be able to help deliver these cookies. **Merry Christmas!** Gail Oakes 782-5068 or 459-0479

Getting New Cell Phones?

Bring your old ones to church with the charger and we will donate them to the Women's Crisis Center. Drop them in the baskets provided .



Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

12:00 noon - Communion in Roebuck Chapel, followed by lunch in the Family Life Center

5:30 p.m. - Candlelight Communion, Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion, Roebuck Chapel

HEALTHY

A Chronic Disease Self-Management Program
presented by West Central Center on Aging

Learn to manage conditions such as Heart Disease; High Blood Pressure; Arthritis; Kidney Disease; and other long-term illnesses

How: Participate in this FREE six-week program
Where: FUMC, Room M103 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
When: Beginning Thursday afternoons, January 7, 2010 and ending February 11.

Class size is limited to 20 participants. To register or for more information, call the West Central Center on Aging at 478-8819.



We welcome Dr. Linda Reid to our church family. Dr. Reid joined by transfer from another denomination at the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service on Sunday, December 20, 2009.

4^{first place} health

First Place 4 Health is a 12 week curriculum led by Janice Sudbrink that is centered around achieving balance in 4 essential areas of our lives: emotional (prayer), spiritual (Scripture reading and bible study), mental (daily food record), and physical (eating healthy and exercising). This Class time will include weigh in's (confidential), health, weight loss and/or maintaining weight nutrition and exercise information, bible study discussion, and prayer requests and prayer time.

Classes will meet Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. beginning **January 13, 2010**. Childcare will be available upon request. A commitment to the 12 week program is highly encouraged. Cost for materials: \$20 for bible study book. For more information contact Janice. Registration begins now through the church office or email Janice at jsudbrink@fsfumc.org

We received the following letter:

"Dear Rev. Orr:

On behalf of the Fort Smith Chorale Board of Directors and singers, I want to thank you, the staff, and congregation of First United Methodist Church for your support of the Chorale in allowing us to perform there on the evening of December 3rd. The beautifully decorated sanctuary created the perfect setting for our event.

Everyone on your staff worked very hard assisting us with so many details. We are deeply grateful for their cheerful attitude and expertise in helping us throughout the concert, the rehearsal, and the reception. Thank you again for the privilege of using such a wonderful facility.

Sincerely, Judi Stillwell, Executive Director"

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!
to all our
Members and Friends
from
Your Pastors and Staff**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
December 29, 2009**

Class	Attendance
Infants	5
Toddlers	
2 yr. olds	4
3 yr. olds	
4 yr. olds	10
Kindergarten	5
Grade 1	
Grade 2	13
Grade 3and	
Grade 4	20
Grade 5 and	
Grade 6	9
CHILDREN'S DIV.	66
Grade 7, 8, 9,	
Grade 10,11, & 12	
YOUTH DIV.	7
College	3
Aldersgate(Room M105)	18
Believers (Room M302)	4
Builders (RoomM209)	23
Chapel Class (Roebuck Chapel)	40
Cornerstones*(Room M311)	19
Disciples Room M312)	--
Discussion*(Room M301)	52
Encouragers (Room M303)	--
Friends (Room M103)	9
Gleaners (Room M201)	31
Good News (Room M202)	6
Le Menage*(Room M306)	7
Roundtable*(Room M213)	23
Seekers (Room M107)	9
Uplifters*(Room M205)	34
ADULT TOTALS	278
General Officers	4
*Made their quota	
TOTALS	355
Ethnos Youth Trip	29
Worship:	
8:30	91
11:00 FLC	210
11:00 Sanctuary	372
Communion	46
TOTALS	719

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, December 27

8:30 - Breakfast, Family Life
 8:30 - Worship, Roebuck Chapel
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship, Family Life Center
 11:00 - Worship, Sanctuary
 4:30 - Down Home Singin', Roebuck Chapel w/reception in Narthex

Wednesday, December 30

5:30 - Communion, Roebuck Chapel

Monday, December 28

Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday

Thursday, December 31

Tuesday, December 29

9:00 - Staff Meets, Conference Rm.

Friday, January 1

Offices closed for New Years Holiday. Happy New Year!

Our 10:00 a.m. Uplifters Class and our 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service are broadcast over KFPW 1230 AM.

Vision:

A complete church – always under construction.

Mission:

Fort Smith First United Methodist Church is here to follow the Shepherd, to seek the lost, to feed the sheep, all to the glory of God.

**Rev. Janice Sudbrink
 Emergency
 on call Minister for
 December 25-28
 Phone: 459-5060**