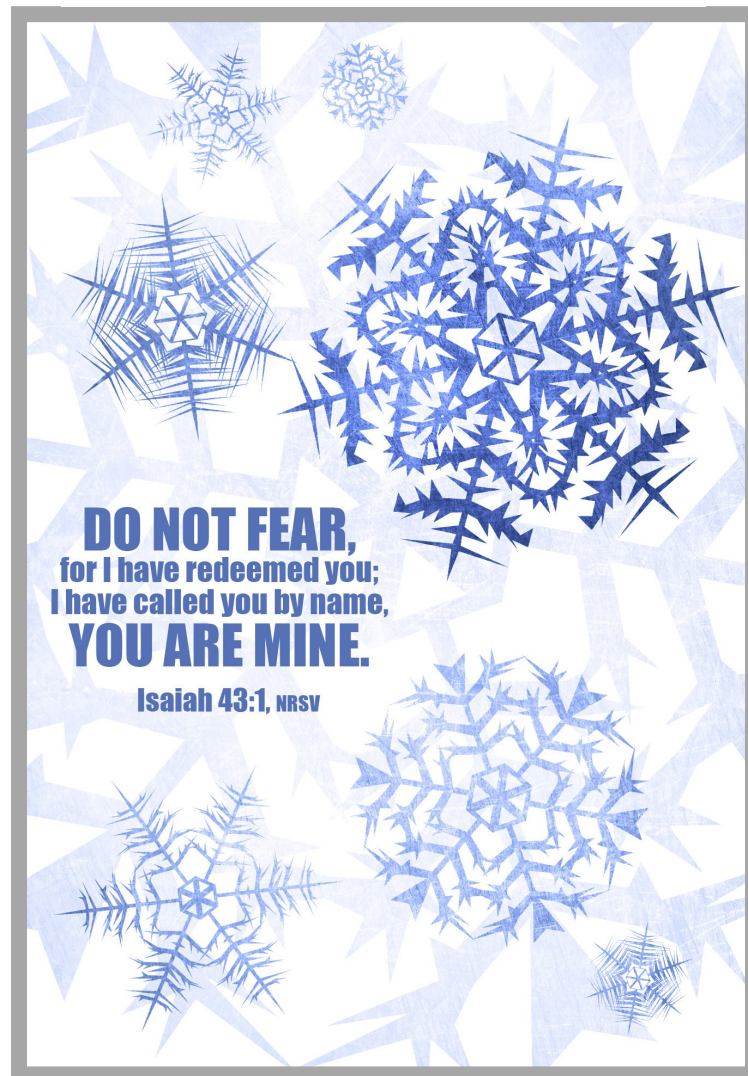


January 2021  
Newsletter



*First United Methodist Church*

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# A Merry Christmas! = A Happy New Year!

A Merry Christmas equals a Happy New Year? In other words, a Merry Christmas will lead to a Happy New Year! Pastor Mike, what do you mean?

Just this: If you do Christmas right, you WILL have a happy new year in 2021.

I'm saying that if Christmas—the power of Christmas; the deep message of Christmas—that God has sent his salvation to turn your life completely around and right side up—if that truth gets through to you, and you receive God's gift of Christmas, 2021 will be a happy new year for you!



Christmas is about a breakthrough—like the breakthroughs we pray for at church:  
“break through my hardened heart and cluttered mind;

The promise of Christmas was announced centuries earlier through prophets like Isaiah:

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;  
Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever,  
the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified.  
The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation;  
I am the Lord; in its time I will hasten it. —Isaiah 60:1-4, 21-22 (ESV)

Go back and read that again. And again—slowly. Let those promises sink in; they're as real for 2021 A.D. as they were for 573 B.C.! God hasn't changed; God's promises haven't changed. God hasn't forgotten; he doesn't have memory issues!

God wants YOU to experience the power of Christmas—but that power is meant for all year, not for a few weeks in the deep midwinter!

No matter what 2021 has in store for us—as individuals, as a church, as a nation—God's power is available to give us daily victories in living, loving, serving, and sharing the message of his hope and transforming grace!

Circumstances? They're just opportunities for God to show up and demonstrate that he's still *breaking through* in our world, just like he did that first Christmas in rural Bethlehem. God still sees, still notices, still acts, still saves!

So turn off CNN; turn off Fox. Open your Bible (and some other good books) this year, and hear the good news, the real news, instead of more fake news, manufactured to either manipulate you or make you fearful and hopeless! The angels told the shepherds, “Fear not!” God is still saying, “Fear not! I'm here; Emmanuel! I'm still speaking; I'm still healing, setting free, turning loose—breaking through!”

If your 2021 needs a breakthrough, celebrate Christmas in 2020! How?

*“Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!”*

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! —Pastor Mike



Dear Church Family,

Many thanks for your generous gift to us this Christmas! We love being a part of the family here in Windom. Your beautiful cards, cookies, and kindness encourage us both.

We look forward with you to serving Jesus together in 2021. May it draw us all closer to the Living Christ!

Warmly in Christ,

*Pastor Mike & Kathy Jo*

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. *Jude 1:24-25*



### *Time to Redecorate!*

Please join us to redecorate the church on Monday, January 4th at 9:00am. Men and women are needed and appreciated!

**Thank You** to everyone who provided poinsettias to beautify the church. If you would like to take them home, please pick them up by Monday, January 4th. Any remaining at the church on Tuesday, January 5th can be taken by anyone who would like them. All the poinsettias need to be picked up by 4pm on Thursday January 7th.



A **Celebration of Life** service for Ken Paulson was held at Bethany Lutheran Church on December 3rd.

A **Celebration of Life** service for Dick Jeffrey was held at First UMC on December 9th.

Blessed be the memories of Ken and Dick.

**Happy Birthday** to Pastor Mike on Monday, January 4th!

**Congratulations** to the Wormstadt family for winning second place in the Windom Christmas Lighting Contest! The display was amazing!

**Congratulations** to Kaylan Donchez for being chosen as Windom High School's Student of the Week earlier in December! Kaylan's teacher said she was chosen because "she is one of the hardest workers I know, is kind and helpful, and presents a positive attitude in class every day".

**Thank You** to everyone who contributed to Windom's Christmas Cheer Box, which served over 80 families in Cottonwood County to provide gifts to over 200 children.

**Congratulations** to Alex Altman, who was named to the 'All-Sub-District' for the second straight season as a Windom Eagles football player.

**Congratulations** to Wayne Wormstadt for earning an AASA certification, which is a National Superintendent Certification Program.



### **Contact Info**

Does the church office have your current address, phone numbers and email address? If you have a change, or if you aren't sure if we have your current contact information, please provide your info to the office. It can be emailed, phoned in, or written on a yellow pew card and put in the offering box. Cell numbers are appreciated! See the newsletter cover page for the church's contact information. Thanks very much!



On Sunday, January 11th we will celebrate Holy Communion in person and from our homes online through our service on Facebook or by listening to our First Things ministry on KDOM radio AM 1580.

Sealed Communion elements will be available at the church's Welcome Center for you to pick up the week of January 4th through 8th. Or, if you prefer, you can provide your own juice or wine and bread for home use.



## *Just in case!*

### **Weather Announcements**

When threatening winter weather comes, please check these media resources to stay informed about services.

Please note that the church and office may be closed during winter weather events.

Please check with the following media for weather-related church announcements:

**Jackson KKOJ radio 1190AM**

**Windom KDOM radio 1580AM**

**Windom TV cable channel 3**

**[Facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom)**



## **You can make a difference!**

### **Windom Community Blood Drive**



*Wednesday, January 6*

*1:30–6:30pm*

Windom Community Center

To schedule an appointment: call 1-800-733-2767  
or signup online: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

Thank you,  
*Windom Women of Today*



Ruby's Pantry, America's Rural Foodbank, will have a food distribution Monday, January 18th from 5:30—7:00pm, at the Regional Worship Center, Sherburn MN. There are no income qualifications.

They will be doing a drive-thru again. They ask that you have your trunks ready to go, as the food will be placed directly in your trunk by their great volunteers. Come and be blessed with an abundance of food for just \$20 **(cash only)**.



## Coming in January! A new Women's Bible Study!



Do you believe you can actually change?

Life change happens at the moment you begin a relationship with Jesus. You have been rescued. But what happens when daily temptations and distractions from following Jesus leave you feeling overwhelmed and stuck in the same discouraging patterns? This **six-week study** with Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, and Oneka McClellan will help you understand the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and the process of sanctification. There is no checklist to follow, but there is a daily act of surrender to a God that will continue to mold and shape you. The more you know God, the more you can live like him.

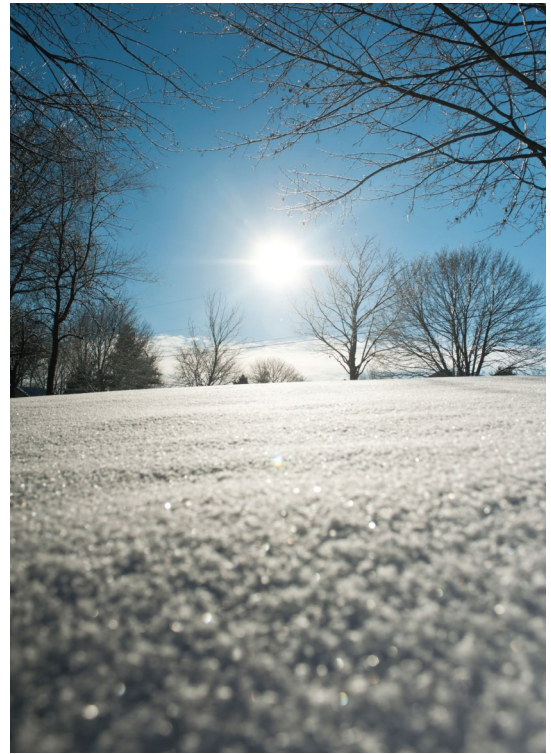
Change is possible, because the gospel changes everything. Let's discover what it looks like to work out our salvation. This is a 6-week study beginning Wednesday, January 13th at 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets available by the Welcome Center!

- Week 1 – Is Change Really Possible?
- Week 2 - Spend Time
- Week 3 - Confess Sin
- Week 4 - Build Community
- Week 5 - Choose Discipline
- Week 6 - Keep Going

I can't wait to study with you beginning in January. Let's start 2021 the right way - together!  
Kathy Jo McInnis, Facilitator



Epiphany is the 12th day after Christmas. We celebrate the visit of the three kings (or wise men) to the Christ Child, signifying the extension of salvation to the Gentiles. Epiphany falls on January 6th.



?? ?

## Bible Quiz

? ??

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)



Dear friends,

Happy New Year!

A heartfelt thank you to all of you for your generous support of the Dinner Table ministry over this past year. Like everything else, it didn't look anything like we expected it to!

In January and February of this past year, we served meals inside the Presbyterian Church, and averaged 75-120 each month. We began serving Drive-Thru meals in the Presbyterian Church alley in March (because of Covid) and continued every month, on the fourth Tuesday through the end of the year. At our first Drive-Thru meal, we handed out 75 coupons for a Hardee's meal. We ran out...quickly! We recalculated for April and ordered sub sandwiches from Subway. We served 200. We ran out...quickly! So for May, we ramped up and ordered meals for 300. We ran out, but had \$5.00 gift certificates from Hy-Vee when we ran out of meals.

Since then, we have served a consistent 315-350 meals every month, at a cost of approximately \$2200. And we couldn't do it. Not without you! So, thank you and God bless you.

We have a terrific volunteer team which changes almost every month, and we especially appreciate the youth serving alongside us. They will tell you that even through the masks we wear, we can smile and say "Have a good day" or "Happy Thanksgiving" or "Merry Christmas" as we hand a meal through the car window. ***A mask cannot stop a smile!***

So, as we look forward to the New Year, we trust God to lead us, guide us, and show us where we can best be His hands and feet in Windom. He is faithful, and He knows how He wants this Dinner Table to work! We just want to listen and obey!

Happy New Year dear church family. I love you so much and from the very bottom of my heart, "thank you." ♥

Kathy Jo  
Volunteer Coordinator, The Dinner Table

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

***- Matthew 25:40***

# MISSIONS

## *Human Relations Day*

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, Human Relations Day gives us an opportunity to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. During the challenges of the past year, we have seen how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to community resources, as a denomination, we can do so much more together than we could ever do on our own. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. As society begins to recover from this health and financial crisis, these programs are vital in strengthening communities that are most impacted. If you would like to contribute to this special offering, please make checks payable to First UMC with 'Human Relations Day' noted.



### **Church Office Hours**



Monday—Friday  
9:00am—Noon  
1:00—4:00pm  
Closed these holidays:  
January 1 and 15, 2021

## January Meeting Night

Committees are scheduled to meet Wednesday, January 13th. Teams are welcome to meet in person, or online.

Trustees  
Staff Parish  
Finance  
Ad Council

Please feel free to contact your Committee Chair if you have any questions about your upcoming meeting.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JANUARY 2021



Photo courtesy of Moesha Blodak 4th grade

## The BEST Night Ever!

Presented by our First United Methodist  
Church students

The Best Night Ever! The children shared the beautiful story of the events that led to the birth of our Savior. That beautiful night that Jesus was born. What a great job they did! A BIG thank you to our students, Emma Snyder, Rhonda Crowell, Claire Walinga, Kathy Jo McInnis, Deann & Lane Steele, Bob Mayden, Jerome Smith, and all our parents for all their work on this year's program.

### Special Points of Interest:

*Watch*

*For*

*Announcements!*

We are starting our Operation Christmas Child collection for 2021. This month we will be collecting socks! We will need girl's and boy's socks for ages 2 –14. You can put them in the OCC collection box in the lobby. The Sunday School students thank you for your help with this project.





# January



## 31 Day Scripture Writing Plan

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to write out.  
Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice  
as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Isaiah 43:16-19  
Day 2- Lamentations 3:22-26  
Day 3- Ecclesiastes 3:11-15  
Day 4- Psalm 98:1-9  
Day 5- Psalm 90:12-17  
Day 6- Jeremiah 29:11-14  
Day 7- Philippians 3:7-14  
Day 8- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Day 9- 1 Peter 1:3-9  
Day 10- Mark 12:28-33

Day 11- Ezekiel 36:24-28  
Day 12- 1 Chronicles 16:8-14  
Day 13- Colossians 3:12-17  
Day 14- Hebrews 12:7-13  
Day 15- Isaiah 40:28-31  
Day 16- Philippians 4:4-9  
Day 17- Luke 14:28-35  
Day 18- Romans 12:1-8  
Day 19- Romans 12:9-16  
Day 20- Romans 12:17-21

Day 21- Psalm 37:1-6  
Day 22- Psalm 37:7-11  
Day 23- Psalm 37:18-19, 23-24, 27-28  
Day 24- 2 Peter 1:1-4  
Day 25- 2 Peter 1:5-11  
Day 26- Romans 8:18-25  
Day 27- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10  
Day 28- Psalm 27:1-4  
Day 29- Psalm 27:5-8  
Day 30- Psalm 27:9-14  
Day 31- Choose your own verse



Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.  
Psalm 119:18

©www.swtblessings.com

# First United Methodist Church ~January 2021

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday                           | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>3</b><br>10:30 Online Worship<br>11:30 First Things | <b>4</b><br><b>Pastor Mike's Birthday</b><br>9:00a Redecorate Church | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>6:30a Men's Breakfast  | <b>1 Happy New Year!</b><br>Church closed<br><hr/> <b>8</b> | <b>2</b><br><hr/> <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b><br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30 First Things       | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b><br>9:00a Bible Study<br>6:30p Bible Study<br>7:00 Trustees<br>7:00 Finance Team<br>7:30 Staff Parish<br>8:00 Ad Council | <b>14</b><br>6:30a Men's Breakfast | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>   |
| <b>17</b><br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30 First Things       | <b>18</b><br>Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Holiday - Church closed  | <b>19</b><br>1:00p Missions Team                                 | <b>20</b><br>9:00a Bible Study<br>6:30p Bible Study   | <b>21</b><br>6:30a Men's Breakfast | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>24</b><br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30 First Things       | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br>5:30p The Dinner Table Served @ Presbyterian Church | <b>27</b><br>9:00a Bible Study<br>6:30p Bible Study   | <b>28</b><br>6:30a Men's Breakfast | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>   |
| <b>31</b><br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30 First Things       |  |  | We will communicate calendar changes to you if they occur.  |                                    | Additions or corrections? Please let the office know        |  |



# First UMC Birthdays & Anniversaries ~January 2020

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
|  | Black: Birthday<br>Blue: Anniversary                             | Please let the office know if we are missing anyone. |   |   | 1  | 2  |
| 3   | 4<br>Rhonda Crowell<br>Ron Flatgard<br>Tim Ingram<br>Pastor Mike | 5  | 6<br>Mick Christians  | 7<br>Claire Fast<br>Sam Fast                          | 8<br><br>Darris & Sharon Snelling              | 9  |
| 10<br>Emmett Piotter<br><br>Mike & Marge Eichner                                  | 11<br>Terri Jones  | 12<br>Brian Hedman<br>Barb Hunter                    | 13  | 14<br>Brittany Espenson<br>Sarah King                 | 15<br>Nathan Luitjens<br>John Roll             | 16<br>Rachel Derickson<br>Lakota King<br>Lynel Stevens |
| 17  | 18   | 19   | 20<br>Jerome Smith  | 21<br>Aubrey Schowalter<br><br>Todd & Darla Deutchman | 22<br>Katie Schlomann<br><br>Donn & Sue Nelson | 23<br>Shelby Mattson                                   |
| 24<br><br><hr/> 31  | 25   | 26   | 27<br>Steve Fresk<br>Hyatt Hansen<br>Wayne Jeffrey<br>Sharon Snelling | 28<br>Ava Caviness<br>Keith Schroeder                 | 29<br>Jody Vanderwerf                          | 30   |