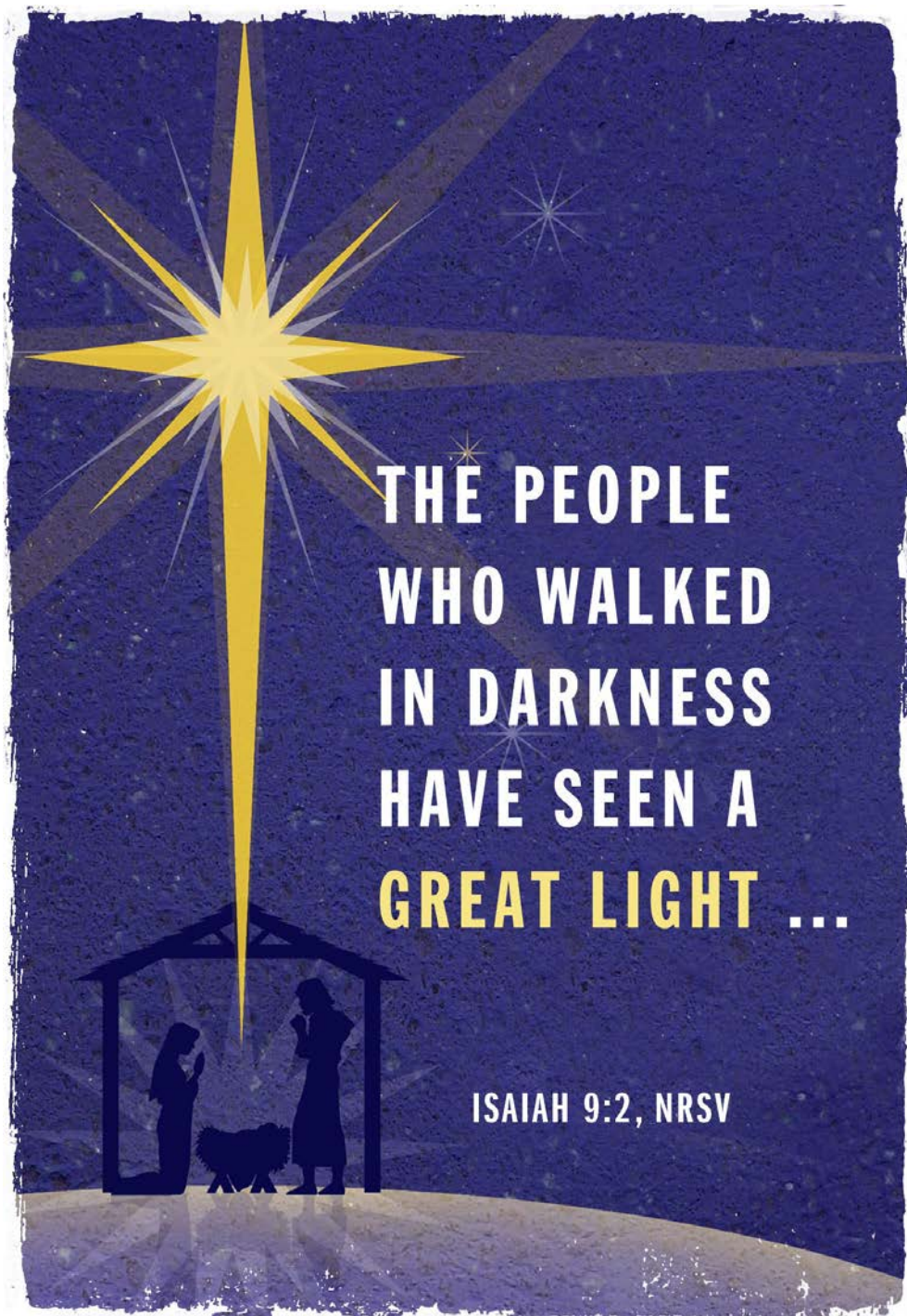


December 2021 Newsletter



First United Methodist Church

Pastor Mike McInnis

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Christmas Light

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. —Luke 2:20

Christmas is a reminder that there is light in spite of all this world's darkness. Better than that, as John 1:5 reads, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

We need that hope in these days. Maybe there is enough light on the path for you personally. But if not—if you feel overwhelmed by darkness—dark thoughts, dark circumstances, a dark season of life—remember that the light WILL overcome the darkness. That's Jesus' promise.

It may take time; it will certainly take faith. But eventually—in God's perfect, redemptive time—the light will overcome the darkness, and that light, the light of Christ, will purify, sanctify, redeem, and cause righteousness to prevail. God will save, God will heal, God will make all things new, and God will reign in Christ, so that darkness can no longer touch you and me.

It may be hard to believe that—or patiently wait for that—when there is so much noise all around us—voices, headlines, tweets, posts—all magnifying the darkness and hopelessness.

We have to discipline ourselves to hear the still small voice; the voice of our Lord Jesus, the voice of Christmas. It is there. He is speaking. Jesus is calling, inviting us to hear and trust.

This anonymous story is a reminder that there is hope when we listen to the right voice:

Sometimes I just want to stop. Talk of Covid, protests, looting, brutality. I lose my way. I become convinced that this "new normal" is real life.

But then, I met an 87-year-old who talked of living through polio, diphtheria, Vietnam, protests, and yet, is still enchanted with life.

He seemed surprised when I said that 2021 must be especially challenging for him.

Looking me straight in the eyes, he said, "No. I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines. I see the world through the people who surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines."

"Husband loves wife today."

"Family drops everything to come to Grandma's bedside."

He patted my hand. "Old man makes new friend."

His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit.

My headline now reads:

"Woman overwhelmed by the spirit of kindness and the reminder that our capacity to love is never ending."

—Author unknown

May the light of Christmas give you hope, peace and daily renewal each day moving forward.

Pastor Mike





Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday

9:00am–Noon

1:00–4:00pm

Closed Holidays

Closed–Noon, December 24th

Closed December 27th and 31st

Church Family News

Nestor and Patti Palm have been blessed with a granddaughter! JD and Sandra Palm welcomed Clara Elizabeth Palm, born on October 26th. Big brother Simon, is very excited to have a little sister. Congratulations to the Palm family.

Congratulations to Ian and Tara Smith on the birth of their son, Atlas Graham Smith, born on November 18th. Atlas is welcomed home by big brother Cooper! Proud grandparents are Tom and Marlys Christensen and Larry and Barb Smith.

Church Family, please continue to pray for the families who have had to say goodbye to loved ones this past month:

The family of Nancy Jenkins

Weather Announcements

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](#)

When school is canceled due to weather,
the church office is also closed.

Church services and activities are automatically cancelled if there is a BLIZZARD WARNING or a WINDCHILL WARNING. Lesser weather conditions are decided on a case by case basis. Please check ahead before venturing out if you are unsure. The safety of our church family is our first priority.



Join us

Friday, December 24th

4:00pm

For a traditional Christmas Eve
Service of Candlelight and Carols

We will be taking an offering at our Christmas Eve service. This offering will go to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and the Windom Area Sharing Center.

Thank you for your continued generosity in helping those in need.



Answered Prayer Devotionals have been printed. They are located at the Welcome Center and inside the sanctuary doors. Please pick one up. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this devotional.



As we go to print, our church is not yet decorated for Christmas, but we say a big **Thank You** to all who always decorate our church so beautifully! We appreciate you!

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for a poinsettia plant. They are so beautiful and we appreciate their beauty in our sanctuary.

December 26th—
No in-person worship. Church building will be closed. Online service available.

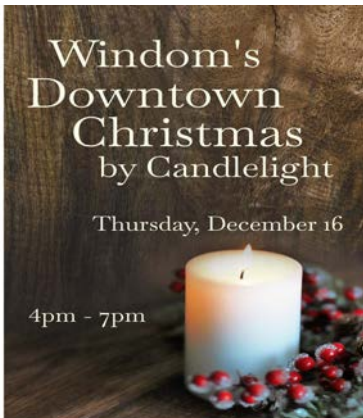


Festival of Trees

Our church family has a Christmas tree on display to represent our church at the Cottonwood County Historical Society.

Please visit and vote for our tree display December 1st—23rd.

Special thanks to Vay Rodman for making the wood cross ornaments for our tree and to Becki Wormstadt and Jody Derickson who decorated our tree!



Windom's Downtown Christmas by Candlelight will be Thursday, December 16th from 4pm—7pm in downtown Windom. Enjoy an evening of Christmas with the local businesses and organizations. Horse carriage rides, live reindeer, caroling, hot cocoa, and more.

Visit the Evangelical Free Church of Windom at 440 10th Street, where the Windom Ministerial Association is offering some prayer stations inside the church where you can stop and meditate, and also a warm spot to enjoy some hot chocolate and fellowship. (A few of our Windom pastors will be available if you would like to visit or have someone pray for you, or you can walk through on your own.)

LSS Meals—Bistro served at the Community Senior Center is OPEN! Meals are served at 11:30 AM. A ham Christmas dinner will be served Thursday, December 16th. The half price day menu is roast beef on Tuesday, December 21st. LSS Meals-Bistro will mark the end of the year on Thursday, December 30th with lasagna. The meal site will be closed on Friday, December 24th, Monday, December 27th and Friday, December 31st. Winter weather reminder—LSS meals of Windom usually follows the Windom Area School District regarding weather closures. Listen to KDOM radio 103.1 FM for weather related announcements throughout the winter season.





December
2021
Missions



Thank you to all who helped with and prayed for the Dinner Table last month. We have been blessed by your prayers. Thank you to the Windom Lions Club for donating money for us to purchase pumpkin pies for our meal.

Our next Dinner Table will be December 14th.

Serving begins at 5:30pm

Volunteers are needed, contact Kathy Jo McInnis or church office at 831-3284.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

First Things Radio Ministry airs Sundays at 11:30am on KDOM AM 1580. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, there are forms on the information wall in the church lobby, or contact the church office. The cost is \$34, payable to First UMC Memorials—First Things. You can also donate any amount of money to help support this ministry. Your donation would go into the account for a Sunday when we don't have a designated sponsor. It can be \$5, \$10, \$15....whatever you choose. If you choose to give in the form of a check, please write the check to First UMC Memorials with a memo—First Things.

As of our newsletter publishing date, there are sponsorship openings for this month on December 5th and January 2, 2022. Thank you to everyone who has made this radio ministry outreach to our community possible.



Christmas Cheer Box

For Infant to age 18 years old in Cottonwood County - Our church is collecting unwrapped NEW toys, clothes, mittens, hats, blankets, games, stuffed animals, etc. Cash donations can be made out to the church with Christmas Cheer Box in the memo. The collection deadline at the church is Tuesday, December 7th.

The 2021 Hope 4 Christmas Giving Guides are available in the church lobby, or by email on request. There are suggested prices in every range to bless others through this mission outreach.



Ruby's Pop-up Pantry is America's Rural Food Shelf. This is for anyone! The next distribution date is Monday, December 20th. Bring \$22 (**Note price change**) cash to the Regional Worship Center located at 2 Crossroads Drive in Sherburn MN from 5:30—7:00pm. Volunteers will place food in your trunk. Please make sure you have made room in your trunk for your food share. More information about Ruby's Pantry is available on their Facebook page at Ruby's Pantry-RWC-Sherburn.



December

31 Day Scripture Writing Plan

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

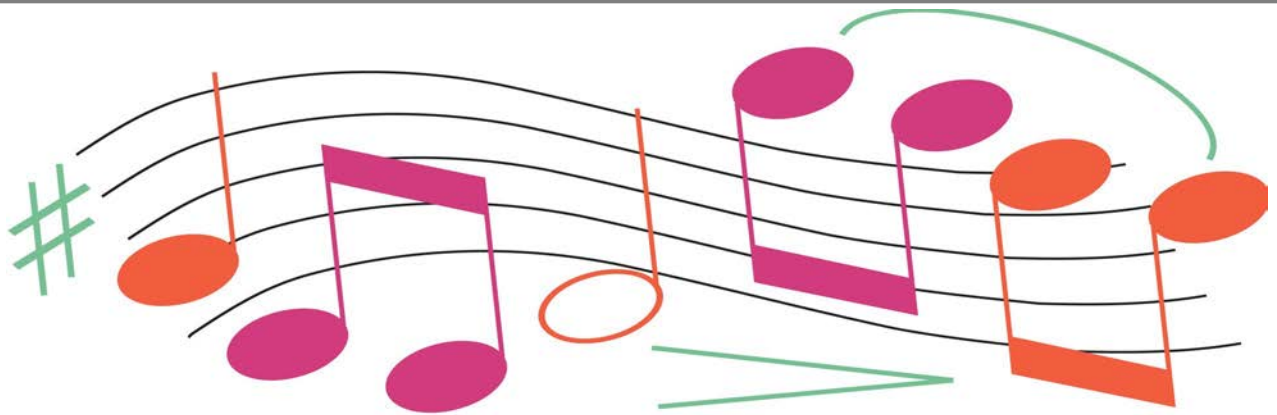
Day 1-Isaiah 7:14-17
Day 2-Isaiah 9:6-7
Day 3-Isaiah 11:1-5
Day 4-Isaiah 11:6-10
Day 5-Isaiah 40:1-5
Day 6-Isaiah 52:7-10
Day 7-Jeremiah 33:14-16
Day 8-Psalm 72:1-7
Day 9-Psalm 72:8-14
Day 10-Psalm 72:15-20

Day 11-Psalm 95:1-7
Day 12-Malachi 3:1-3
Day 13-Matthew 1:18-20
Day 14-Matthew 1:21-25
Day 15-Matthew 2:1-6
Day 16-Matthew 2:7-12
Day 17-Luke 1:26-29
Day 18-Luke 1:30-34
Day 19-Luke 1:35-38
Day 20-Luke 1:46-50

Day 21-Luke 1:51-56
Day 22-Luke 2:4-7
Day 23-Luke 2:8-12
Day 24-Luke 2:13-16
Day 25-Luke 2:17-20
Day 26-Galatians 4:4-7
Day 27-Philippians 2:5-8
Day 28-Philippians 2:9-11
Day 29-James 1:16-18
Day 30-Titus 3:3-7
Day 31-Choose your own verse



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



Small Group *Choir*

There has been interest in possibly starting a small group choir. The idea would be to sing about once a month during the church service. We are looking for a pianist, music director and individuals who would like to sing in the choir. If you are interested in possibly joining the choir, please sign up. Please show your interested by filling out this form and returning it to the Church Office.

Name:

Position:

Choir

Music Director

Pianist

(Circle all that apply)

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

DECEMBER 2021

Special Points of Interest:

- Dec 1st—KFC from after school-5:30. We will be caroling at the Nursing Home.
- Dec 1st—Christmas Program practice for grades 1-6 from 5:30-6:45. Supper will be served at 5pm for any student or teacher who chooses to eat at church.
- Dec 5th— Junior high youth group meets from 3-5pm Senior high meets from 5-7pm
- Dec 11th—Oklahoma fundraiser! Free-will donation for gift wrapping at the church from 2:00-4:00pm. Refreshments will be served.
- Dec 12th—*Sing a Song of Christmas* Children's Program at 10:30am.
- December 19th Youth group Christmas party. 4:00-6:00pm
- December 29th— Church wide sledding from 2-3pm. Hot chocolate following in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education

No Sunday School
December 26th and
January 2nd
Classes resume
January 9th.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

The Sunday School classes Prek—6th grade will be having their Christmas Program, *Sing a Song of Christmas*, for our church family on Sunday, December 12th at 10:30am.

Our Sunday school students will present a Christmas musical, a

musical that celebrates the birth of our Savior! Remembering that Christmas is a blessing to all of us.

The children and Sunday school volunteers are busy preparing for this special day.

Thank you to all who are sharing their time in helping to prepare for this program! Special thanks to Marcia Smith, Makenna McNamra, our Sunday School Teachers, and of course our Sunday School Students.



KFC (for 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders) meets Wednesday, December 1st after school until 5:30. Supper is provided.

We will be caroling for the Nursing Home residents. Please dress warm and bring a mask.

If you have any questions, please contact Robin.





The youth group will be wrapping Christmas gifts for a free-will donation from 2:00-4:00pm on Saturday, December 11th. This is a fund-raiser for our mission trip to Oklahoma in July. You can either drop off your gifts to be wrapped and stop by later to pick them up, or you can stay and have refreshments while you wait for your gifts to be wrapped.

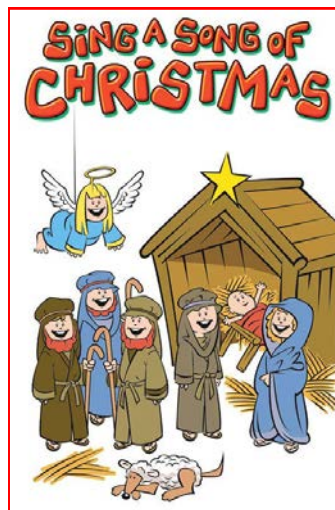
We thank you for your support with our trip!

Check out Praying Pelican Missions website at prayingpelicanmission.org



Adult Advent Study being led by David Derickson!
Sunday mornings at 9:00am
In the Fireside Room.

Who exactly is Jesus? What kind of God would come to earth as a human? Join David in this Advent study as we reflect on our Savior, His purpose, the God-man who defied expectations, who humbled himself to serve and die, the friend of sinners.



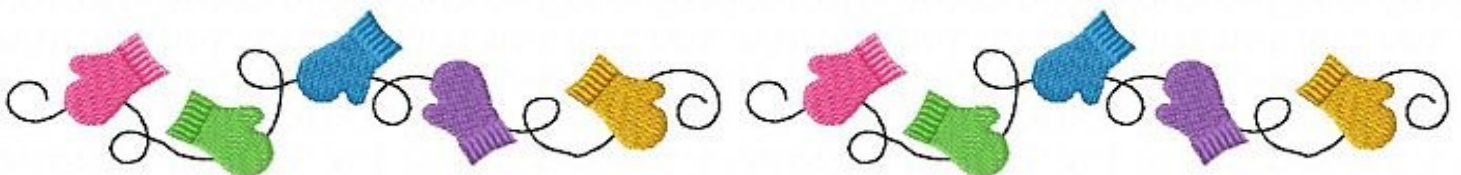
Sing a Song of Christmas special practice on Wednesday, December 1st from 5:30-6:45. This is for students in grades 1-6. Supper will be served at 5pm for any student or teacher who chooses to eat at church.



Church-wide Sledding!
Wednesday, December 29th at 2pm.

Meet at Abby Hill!

Hot Chocolate Following Sledding, at 3pm, in the Fellowship Hall.



NOVEMBER

MEMORIES



KFC



Operation
Christmas
Child



Youth Bake Sale



Sunday
School
lesson
fun



First United Methodist Church ~December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30p KFC 5:00p Meal – KFC/Christmas Program Practice 5:30p Christmas Program Practice 6:30p Confirmation	2 6:30a Men's Breakfast	3 6:30a McPrayer	4
5 9:00a Sun School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a First Things Radio 3:00p Jr High Youth 5:00p Sr High Youth	6	7 9:30a UMW Executive Meeting Last day for Christmas Cheer Box	8 3:30p Lois Circle 6:30p Confirmation 7:00p Trustee Mtg 7:30p Finance Mtg 7:30p Staff Parish	9 6:30a Men's Breakfast	10 6:30a McPrayer	11 Youth Group Fundraiser Gift wrapping 2:00p-4:00p
12 9:00a Sun School 10:30a Worship Service With Children's Christmas Program 11:30a First Things Radio	13	14 5:30 The Dinner Table at Presbyterian Ch	15 6:30p Confirmation	16 6:30a Men's Breakfast 4:00p – 7:00p Christmas by Candlelight	17 6:30a McPrayer	18
19 9:00a Sun School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a First Things Radio 4:00p Youth Group Christmas Party	20 5:30p Ruby's Pantry Distribution	21 1:00p Missions Team	22	23 6:30a Men's Breakfast 6:30a McPrayer	24 Church Office closing at Noon 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day
26 Church Closed No In-Person Service Online Service 11:30a First Things Radio	27 Christmas Holiday observed, Church closed	28	29 Church Sledding 2:00p – 3:00p	30 6:30a Men's Breakfast	31 Church Office Closed	Historical Society Tree Display Dec 1-23 Vote for our First UMC Tree! 

First UMC Birthdays & Anniversaries ~December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dorothy Deutchman Parker Nelson	2 Jerry & Barb Torkelson	3	4 Danielle Ambrose Jan Dehmlow Lynn Mohlencamp Jerry Torkelson
5 Karina Buresch Mavis Thompson	6	7	8	9 Sharron Tibodeau Jason & Sarah King	10	11 Jim Glidden
12 Jan Falk Becky Stevens	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Moesha Blodek Wayne Wormstadt Dave & Juane Elston	21 Betty Haack	22 Harold Johnson	23 Eric Pfeffer	24 Tom Christensen	25 Roger Ambrose
26 Jerry Moon	27 Rebecca Marker	28 Marjorie Eichner	29 Dana Krumrey Josh & Miranda Schunk	30	31 Margaret Grunig	Green = Birthdays Red = Anniversaries Updates and additions are welcome! Please let the church office know.