

THE FAITHFUL TIMES

Faith United Methodist Church of Centerville
December 2017 Newsletter

MISSION STATEMENT OF FAITH UMC

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

VISION OF FAITH UMC

We are a church for people who desire meaningful relationships with Christ, with each other and with the community.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Service will be on Saturday, December 24 at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to this service of scripture, songs, communion, and candle light.

FAITH FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Faith United Methodist Church will have a new event this year. "Faith Family Christmas" will be on Saturday, December 9, 4:00-6:00 PM at the church. This is a "memory making" event that persons of all ages should attend together. There will be several stations including crafts, cookie decorating, singing, making Christmas cards for shut-ins, the Christmas story told by Pastor Christy and more. There will be food, fellowship and fun for everyone.

ADVENT DECORATING

We will decorate our church for the season of advent on **Saturday, December 2, 2017, 10:00 AM - Noon**. EVERYONE is invited to join us. There will be snacks and Christmas carols and fun for all! It would be great if several men who can climb the ladder to retrieve the decorations could be present. Come, let us prepare to welcome our Lord and Savior on Christmas Day!



MISSIONS SALE

The Mission Committee will sponsor a Christmas Cookie Walk, Bake Sale, and Craft Sale on Saturday, December 9, 9:00-11:30 AM. This sale will be open to the public. Please bring cookies and all sorts of goodies and crafts. Proceeds will go to mission projects including our missionary and a local project.



LOVE OFFERING

You still have time to share a "Love Offering" that will be used for staff holiday gifts in December. Envelopes can be found on the bulletin table or in the church office. This is a perfect way to let our staff know just how much we appreciate what they do for our church. You can share your gift through December 10.

CHANGE OUR HEARTS, O GOD

It seems in the last 4 or 5 years, I have noticed how the Christmas season has grown, but not in the way that God would want. The Christmas season has grown in the sense of marketing and commercialism. We have gone from Halloween to Christmas and usually don't hear much at all concerning the Thanksgiving holiday. (That is an issue for another day.) The last couple of years, we were advertising Christmas the first week of November! If the advertising of Christmas was to share the true meaning of the holiday, then I wouldn't mind. But in the world we live in, that's just not the way things are. It is so easy for us to get caught up in the way of the world when it comes to Christmas. Especially when we have children who are seeing all the latest toys, gadgets, computer games, etc. They get the wrong message sent to them earlier and earlier each year.

We, as adults, seem to allow the season to put added stress on us as well, by overbooking our calendars with activities, shopping, and trying to do what the secular world is telling us is right. We end up, sometimes, as frantic, stressed and crabby people. Is that really what Jesus would want for us during this season?

There are ways to help us to focus more on the reason for the season. These ways involve making some changes that might not be the most popular decisions with our children or loved ones. It means spending more time in prayer asking God to help you focus on what God is wanting from you this Christmas. It may mean focusing more on giving to the less fortunate, finding an outreach ministry in your

area, which means less for the family, or spreading out time spent with friends and families and not trying to see everyone in one day. There could possibly be more time spent in prayer, in reading scripture, and focusing on others needs and not our own. I have heard of having a birthday party for Jesus for those of us with little ones, to show them that Christmas isn't all about us. Our family began praying Christmas morning before we opened gifts. Those are just a few of the ideas that are out there for us to explore!

I would like to encourage everyone to try this year to eliminate the stress and anxiety of this holiday season. Let this be the year that we truly try to make JESUS be the reason for the season.

Change our hearts, O God
In His love, Pastor Christy



ADVENT WREATH

A special part of each worship service during Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath candles. Thank you to the following persons that will be lighting the Advent wreath.

December 3 – Jim & Connie Casteel
December 10 – Don & Jan Loofbourrow
December 17 – Glenn & Dana Moritz
Dec. 24am – Myles & Charlotte Novotny
December 24 pm –

ATTENDANCE TO DATE

	WORSHIP	SUN. SCHOOL
2011 Average	81	47
2012 Average	80	41
2013 Average	85	43
2014 Average	84	40
2015 Average	82	33
2016 Average	71	31
Oct. 29, 2017	90	37
Nov. 5, 2017	78	29
Nov. 12, 2017	80	38
Nov. 19, 2017	73	24
2017 Average	67	28

SILVER & GOLD PROJECT

Our church will be helping with the "Silver and Gold" program through SIEDA which gives a box of useful items to elderly folks in need in our community at Christmas time.

Please share some of the following items **before December 5** by putting them in the basket by the church office. Be sure to get the smallest size.

- Small cans of meat (ham, chicken, tuna, beef, etc.)
- Small cans of vegetables (corn, peas, beans, carrots, mixed veggies)
- Canned fruit, pudding, Jell-O
- Bread, snack bars, breakfast bars, cereal, etc.
- Small personal items (shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, lotions, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Socks, slippers (non-skid)
- Household items
- Paper towels, paper plates, cups
- Laundry Supplies (Laundry soap, fabric softener, dryer sheets)
- Small, soft, stuffed animals



CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

If you have someone on your Christmas list that already has what they need, the Mission Committee suggests that you give a gift in their name to a United Methodist Advance Special or a local project. There are many available close to home or far away. Janice has greeting cards to share that have space to list what project you are giving to and their name. Remember that when you give to a United Methodist Advance Special project a 100% goes to the project. See Janice for information about endless projects. Some include: United Methodist Committee on Relief Heifer Project International Red Bird in Kentucky Mobile United Methodist Missionaries (in southern Iowa) Bidwell Riverside in Des Moines Neighbor Helping Neighbor Local Literacy Project Weekend Backpack Meals Lord's Cupboard And many more!!!



PARTY INVITATION

Everyone is invited to Virgil Roemerman's 90th Birthday Open House on Saturday, December 19, 2:00-4:00 PM.

BLUE CHRISTMAS/ LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue". Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities.

This year we are creating a sacred space for all of you who are living through dark times. This service will be reflective, accepting where we really are, and will provide healing and hope. This service of worship is commonly held on the longest night of the year, which falls on or around December 21 and is referred to as the Winter Solstice.

You are invited to come and join us on ***Tuesday, December 19 at 7 p.m.*** This service will be open to all, so if you or someone you know is in need of healing and hope during the Christmas season, please share this with them and come join us. If you attended last year, please know that you are welcome again.

BACKPACK MEALS

Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin table to help pack backpack meals on the second Sundays of the month at 4:00 pm. You can sign up a group/club or as individuals.

B.I.G. KIDS

B.I.G. Kids meet on the Wednesdays that school gets out one hour early at **2:15-4:30 PM**. BIG Kids will NOT be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month or any day that there is not school. **Coming dates: November 29, December 6, 13, & 20.**

B.I.G. stands for "Believe in God." This group is for Kindergarten-Fifth graders. Activities will include snacks, singing, play time, Bible stories, learning activities and crafts with a theme of "Superheros". Transportation is arranged from the various schools. Contact the church office if you have children that age and you would like them to attend.

WINTER WEATHER NOTE: If school is not held or gets out early because of bad weather, there will be NO BIG Kids.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

There are Sunday School classes for all ages.

9:45 AM – Adult Classes

11:00 AM (after Children's Time) –

PreSchool—5th Grade Classes

With 6th—12th graders as helpers



YOUTH GROUP

Wed., Dec. 6, 6 PM. Grades 6-12.

Help Operation Santa @ back part of True Value

IN THE HOSPITAL

The following persons have been ill or hospitalized. Please remember them in your prayers: Mike Torma (McInnes' grandson-in-law), Ella Teno (great niece of Mike & Jean Leach), Deb Christian, Ronald Barker, Myrtle Felkner, Don & Dorothy Haines, Ron, Jim & Randy Fox, Olivia Munoz, Jerry (Sharon Bettis' brother-in-law), Larry Bettis, Jerry Weiss, Carolyn Smith (Jon's sister-in-law), Joan Felkner, Betty Maples, Dan Little, Janice Felton, Anna Krull, Vikki Hunt, Grace Spurgeon, Jerry Felton, Allan Gibson

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ATTENTION SINGERS

Everyone is invited to join "BASIC Choir". They practice on most second Sundays of the month at 5:00 pm and sing on the third Sundays of the month.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 21st Brad & Paige Warren
- 28th Jim & Jan Thomas
- 31st Dave & Angela Shinn



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Katie Austin
- 4th Thomas Armstrong
- 5th Brady Sweet
- 8th Nicole Housh
- 10th Maddison Casteel
- 11th Jennifer Egley
- 12th Steve Hoch
- 14th Virgil Roemerman
- 14th Gary Ehrle
- 14th Alissa McAlister
- 15th Mark Purdum
- 15th Savannah Daugherty
- 16th Emily Steinbach
- 16th Graydon Schmidt
- 17th Sherry Murphy
- 18th Alicia Loman
- 19th Kyle Felkner
- 19th Weston Bige
- 21st Keaton Loman
- 21st Hank Kauzlarich
- 26th Nick Howe
- 29th Luke Neher
- 31st Jordan McCoy



CHRISTMAS SHARING

Please help our church share Christmas with those in need. Please bring socks, mittens, gloves, and hats and place them in the Christmas box. Items brought by December 3 worship will be given to the Operation Santa project in our community. Items brought after this date will be given to schools in Centerville to share with needy children.

If you would like to prepare an entire Operation Santa gift package, please take a paper mitten off the tree at church. Then bring the gifts back by December 3 worship.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Church Address:

Faith United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 804, Centerville, IA 52544

Church Office Phone Number:

641-856-3862 (answering machine checked often)

Church E-Mail Address:

faithumc@iowatelecom.net

Church Facebook:

Faith United Methodist Church of Centerville

Iowa Bishop: Rev. Laurie Haller

District Superintendent:

Rev. Paul Smith

Field Outreach Minister:

Rev. Dr. Jaye Johnson

Contacting the Pastor or Secretary:

Pastor: Christy Ehrle

office-856-3862, cell-641-856-7898

Secretary: Janice Bolger

office-856-3862, cell-641-436-1801

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Christy will be in the office on most Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. You may also call her at the number above.

Janice will be in the office most weekdays from 4:00 – 6:00 pm and other times as needed. **Watch the Sunday bulletin and the door for the weekly planned schedule.** Other times can be scheduled as needed. Feel free to send emails and leave messages on the church answering machine or on Janice's cell phone at any time. They will be checked often. Texting is also great, but please do not send long detailed information unless you do not have email available. Please be aware that some tasks may need to be completed when more time is available.

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

The Worship Committee is looking for Prayer Warriors to pray with people during communion services. If interested in volunteering, contact Sherry Murphy (895-0717).

LITURGISTS & SONG LEADERS

Please help out by signing up to be a liturgist or song leader for worship. You can sign up on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office.

DO YOU WANT TO BE VISITED?

If you would like the pastor to visit you, please call the pastor, 641-856-7898 or church office, 856-3862. Also if you know of someone that is sick or has lost a loved one, please call the church office or the pastor.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

"The Faithful Times" is passed out at worship on the last Sunday of each month. Please be sure you pick up your newsletter and those of your relatives and neighbors who were unable to attend that day. The rest will be sent by first class mail the following day.

Please have articles and information to the church office by the 20th of each month. An easy way to do that is by e-mailing articles and/or information to faithumc@iowatelecom.net.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Faith UMC's website is now www.centervillefaith.com. To learn more about the United Methodist Church in Iowa and all around the world go to the web site --- www.iaumc.org.