

The Messenger



Volume 16 No. 12

December 2016

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

*"Passionately united to feed all people — body, mind and spirit —
To the glory of God!"*

From the Pastor ...

ADVENT: EXPECTING GOD TO SHOW UP

The Advent season's themes — expectation, hope, anticipation — don't really resonate with our open 24 hours, you can get it now culture. We might well ask: What are we waiting for? What do we expect?

We are waiting for God to show up. Not as a vision or a pious emotion but as our own flesh and blood, in our own history, addressing all the realities of our world.

Being a Christian means proclaiming that God has indeed shown up in Jesus. For some, this is a fairy tale with no truth value. For others, Jesus takes a back seat to those activities that so many now call "the holidays" — parties, eating too much, buying too much stuff.

For us? We take our stand with those who witnessed Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We take our stand with all those who have put their faith in him and have been freed from sin and promised eternal life. We take our stand with those who have shared his death and resurrection in baptism and have remembered his sacrificial offering in Holy Communion.

In spite of so much evidence to the contrary, we keep Advent to remind us that God's Messiah has come, in the person and work of Jesus. We keep Advent to remind us that the Messiah comes, to comfort and inspire, to push us to live for his Kingdom. And we keep Advent to remind us that the Messiah is coming at the end of time to establish his justice and bring us to live with him forever. Let us keep a holy, joyful and expectant Advent, and prepare our hearts to celebrate his coming.

Jesus too often takes a back seat to those activities that so many now call "the holidays" — partying, eating too much, buying too much stuff.

There will be two opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve — 5 and 10 pm:

At 5:00 pm we'll have a service of carol singing and Scripture readings. Our readers will help us remember the promises of God that are fulfilled in Jesus. We'll sing carols to proclaim his birth. We'll light candles at the conclusion of worship to declare that he is the Light of the World.

At 10:00 pm we will celebrate Holy Communion, remembering that Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh, sent to share our humanity. Our choir will sing at the 10:00 pm service, and we'll join them with our own carols of praise. This service also concludes with candle lighting.

Christmas Day: Since it is a Sunday, we will worship at our regular hour of 10:00 am (no Sunday School that day). The choir will sing a special Christmas anthem and we will have a carol sing.

Expect our Lord to reveal great things to you — hope for his grace and power to make you your best self — be fulfilled as the partial and incomplete is made whole and strong through his coming. A blessed and joyful Christmas to all!

Steve Mindrup

Sunday Scriptures: December 2016

December 4: The Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 *The royal line of David will be restored in the coming of the Messiah.*

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 *"Blessed be the Lord, who alone does wondrous things."*

Romans 15:4-13 *Let all believers live in harmony and exercise hospitality.*

Matthew 3:1-12 *John the Baptizer urges his hearers to repent and to prepare for God's advent.*

December 11: The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 *The prophet gives a word-picture of the time of the Messiah.*

Song: Luke 1:46b-55 *Mary sings a song of praise for the child she will bear.*

James 5:7-10 *Be patient as you wait for God's Messiah to come.*

Matthew 11:2-11 *John the Baptizer asks for assurance: Is Jesus really the Messiah?*

December 18: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 *The prophet foresees the birth of a royal child who will be Emmanuel.*

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 *"Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine upon us."*

Romans 1:1-7 *The Messiah promised by the prophets has come.*

Matthew 1:18-25 *Joseph hears that Mary's son will become Emmanuel: God with us.*

December 24, 5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 *God declares to sinful Adam and Eve that they have lost paradise.*

Genesis 22:15-18 *God promises to bless all the earth through the descendants of Abraham.*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.*

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 *A king is coming who will bring a reign of justice and peace.*

Luke 1:26-35, 38 *The virgin Mary hears that she will give birth to God's promised Son.*

Luke 2:1-7 *Against a backdrop of politics and taxation, Jesus is born.*

Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds find the Savior of the world lying in a manger.*

John 1:1-14. *John proclaims the great mystery of the Incarnation: "The Word became flesh."*

December 24, 10:00 pm: Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Isaiah 9:2-7 *The prophet tells of a Messianic King who will bring God's peace and justice.*

Titus 2:11-14 *God's grace appearing in Christ saves us and brings us to holiness of life.*

Luke 2:1-20 *In a world indifferent to his presence, the Christ is born.*

December 25: Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10: *The coming of Messiah promises renewal and restoration.*

Psalms 98: *"All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God."*

Hebrews 1:1-4: *All of the essence of God is present in Jesus Christ.*

John 1:1-14: *John proclaims the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

**THANKS
GIVING**

November 6	\$3043.00
November 13	\$935.00
November 20	\$2270.00
November 27	\$1082.00
Total	\$7330.00

Our generous gifts glorify God!



UMW annual Christmas Potluck will be held Thursday December 8th at 12:00 pm. The Sandwich High School Madrigal Singers and their director will be the program entertainment and our guests. We will also have the pleasure of having guests from three other churches. Please bring a generous dish to pass and your own table service.

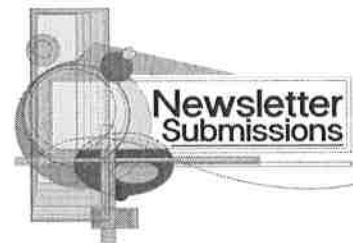
Mission of the Month

Angel Tree



Once again the names on the Angel Tree will be from the local school district. Please take a name from the tree, and go out to enjoy a fun shopping trip for the requested item. Please remember to wrap the gift and return the gift by December 11th. Attach the tags to the packages so they won't fall off.

Thank You,
Mission Committee



January newsletter deadline is 10:00 am Monday, December 12th.

December Worship Assistants

Greeters

12/4/16 Reid & Deb Heinekamp
 12/11/16 Ione Martin
 12/18/16 Updike Family
 12/24/16 (5 pm) Al & Phylis Whitehead
 (10 pm) Jenna Henrich
 12/25/16 Doug Reiners

Ushers

12/4/16 Bernice Nicholas & Bec Lowe
 12/11/16 Jim & Bonnie Bernhardt
 12/18/16 Updike Family
 12/24/16 (5 pm) Ed & Jane Heyer
 (10 pm) Ron & Kim Henrich
 12/25/16 Monty & Betty Reiners

Liturgists

12/4/16 Carole Wampler
 12/11/16 Pam Nehring
 12/18/16 Les Banks
 12/24/16 (5 pm) Reanna Panlilio
 (10 pm) Bonnie Miller
 12/25/16 Kelly Mindrup

Flowers

12/4/16 AL & Myrtie Warren
 12/11/16 Carole VonBehren & Cindy Thon
 12/18/16 OPEN
 12/25/16 OPEN

Communion Bread

12/4/16 OPEN
 12/18/16 OPEN
 12/24/16 (10 pm) Carole Strock

November Communion Ministers

Carole Wampler, Pam Nehring, Jim Bernhardt

Pastoral care

Phone 815-786-9243 or Pastor Steve's cell 815-988-4992 if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a care facility, or homebound. Don't rely on the "grapevine"... please contact us directly. Persons may be added to the prayer chain if so desired by contacting the office.



This Month's Birthdays

12/1 Briggs & Harper Mager
 12/2 Jennifer Hallaron
 12/3 Hannah Schlapp, Amanda Reimer
 12/4 Barbara French
 12/8 Taylor Ann Anderson, Deb Heinekamp, Vance Schmidt
 12/9 Diane Salisbury, Evan Wilson
 12/13 MaryAnn Olson
 12/14 David Schlapp
 12/15 Gary French, Jacob Johns, Chloe Heiman
 12/18 Jeanne McNish
 12/19 Todd Hallaron, Michael Buckingham, Greg Nehring
 12/21 Bonnie Young
 12/22 Brandon Pence
 12/23 Joe Spoonmore, Erin Anthenat
 12/25 Carol Erickson
 12/26 Connie Mitchell
 12/27 Tami Wig, Lindsay Young, Nicholas Schlapp
 12/28 Conway Mitchell, Aaron Hargrave
 12/29 James Merkel, Jevin Reynolds
 12/30 Thomas Merkel, Sue Olson, Jill Severson

Anniversaries This Month



12/2 Al & Myrtie Warren
 12/18 Douglas & Tina Oldeen
 12/26 Les & Jean Banks

Sandwich/Somonauk
Ministerial Alliance
**4TH TUESDAY COMMUNITY
FREE FELLOWSHIP FEAST**

4:30 — 6:00 pm
Tuesday, January 24, 2016
St. Paul's Catholic Church
340 W. Arnold St.
Sandwich, IL 60548
815-786-9266

- Looking for fellowship? Join us!
- Having trouble making ends meet? Join us!
- Love community dinners? Join us!



ALL ARE WELCOME!
Invite your friends and family to come as well!

**Men's
Breakfast**

United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be held Sunday December 4th at 7:30 am.

Shopping on line? Help your church through UMCMarket.org

Here is an easy way to support UCS. Before you make an on line purchase, go to UMCMarket.org. Once you establish an account at UMCMarket.org, over 3,000 businesses will donate a portion of your purchase to United Church. Automatically.

It's easy to register. Just go to UMCMarket.org and set up an account. It takes less than five minutes. It will take you through the steps to get your donation directed to UCS. Then when you are shopping on line you can look on the UMCMarket site for what you want.

Each purchase you make will earn UCS a percentage of the total (in some cases as much as 5%). If a lot of us take advantage of this (especially on big ticket items like TVs or other appliances), the donations will add up.




**60th Anniversary Celebration
for Al and Myrtie Warren,
Sunday December 4**

After church on December 4 we will join Al and Myrtie Warren's family as they celebrate Al and Myrtie's 60th anniversary.

December 2016



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 7:30 am United Methodist Men's breakfast 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	5	6	7 6:00pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	8 12:00 pm UMW annual Christmas Potluck with Sandwich HS Madrigal Singers 2:45-3:45 pm Tutoring @ Woodbury 4:00 pm Mission Committee meeting	9	10
11 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Final day for gifts under Angel Tree	12 Newsletter article deadline	13	14 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	15 : 2:45-3:45 pm Tutoring @ Woodbury	16	17
18 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship With Holy Communion	19	20	21 6:00 pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	22	23	24 5:00 pm Candle-light worship 10:00 pm Candle-light Worship with Communion
25 10:00 am Worship  CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29 9:00 am Newsletter assembly	30	31

Christmas Worship Schedule

5:00 pm Dec. 24 — Family Service of Lessons and Carols



This service is earlier in the evening to better serve families and those who prefer not to venture out late at night.

The Scripture lessons we will read tell us of the promise that God would send his Son to be our Savior.

Several of our members and friends will offer music of praise, and we will sing many familiar carols.

The service concludes with candle lighting to welcome Christ the Light of the World.

If you would like to offer some music for this service, or if you would like to serve as a reader, please contact Pastor Steve (815.786.9243

or 815.988-4992).

7:00 pm Dec. 24 — Service of Holy Communion

The later service will be a festive service of Holy Communion. The choir will sing, we will enjoy many favorite Christmas carols, and gather at the Lord's table to worship Christ the Bread of Life.

We will conclude with the traditional candle lighting liturgy as we remember how the light of Christ has overcome the darkness.

10:00 am Christmas Day

Every few years, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We will worship at 10:00 am as usual (but no Sunday School that day). We will have a carol sing and enjoy the ministry of music of our choir.



**The United Church
of Sandwich**

512 East Lions Road
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE MESSENGER — DECEMBER 2016



The United Church of Sandwich

512 East Lions Road, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: (815) 786-9243

Email: ucssandwich@frontier.com

website: www.unitedchurchsandwich.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School 8:45 am

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Rev. Steven Mindrup

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
or by appointment

Email: pastormindrup@gmail.com

Mobile: 815.988.4992

Kelley Mindrup's mobile: 815-988-7075

Church Staff

Secretary: Andrea Knasel

(Tuesday-Friday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Choir and Chimes Director: Kevin Duy

Organist/Pianist: Carol Larson

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

We are passionately united to feed all people –
body, mind and spirit – to the glory of God!

Leadership Team 2017

Church Council Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Treasurer	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Ken Young
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Sarah Stevens
Lay Leader	Brenda Moland
Trustees Chair	Matt Olson
Annual Conf Delegate	David Seymour
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Ed & Jane Heyer
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Nancy Brown
United Methodist Women	Myrtie Warren
United Methodist Men	