

Tidings

“Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World”

Dear church family,

There will be two distinct Christmas celebrations this year, as there have been for many decades. The first one is aimed at children and youth—but we adults love it, too. This is the Christmas celebrations of many fun stories—“How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” National Lampoons “Christmas Vacation,” “The Christmas Story.” There will be events surrounding Santa Claus breakfasts, Christmas concerts; lighting of trees, and the tradition of gift giving around trees on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. (Families have differing traditions.) These are fun experiences and bring joy to all.

But they do not make up for the meaning of the season as it relates to the birth of our Savior. We at Union offer many different experiences from the commercialism of our world: Angel Breakfast, where the gospel story is told and sung, where symbols of our Christian faith are created; morning worship, where we light candles and re-learn the stories of Jesus’ birth; children and youth programs where we re-enact the story (not Broadway plays, but a time where the children learn the story); worship services highlighted by all our inspiring choirs and musicians, highlighting the glory of God, and then four Christmas Eve services where we embrace the greatest story ever told—the coming of the Son of God into our world to become the savior of us all.

I hope and pray that this year your Advent Season will be spent in worship as well as the other activities, that we take seriously our claim as Christians to celebrate the truth of the season and that we commit to keeping Christ in Christmas—an old worn out cliché to be sure, but it is true.

Check out the *Tidings* and our web site to see all the wonderful experiences offered by UUMC this year.

Blessings,
Pastor Ed



2-3

UMW • Greeters •
Crosswalk • UMM

4-5

Children • Youth •
Christmas Pageant

6-7

Miriam Circle • Sunday
Class • Journey

8

Christmas Tea • Music
Tidings

Third Wednesdays 5:30 pm
United Methodist Men
Krause Room

Every Thursday 9:00 am
Ruth Circle Quilters–Stitchers
Krause Room

Sat. Dec. 5, 8:30 am
Angel Breakfast, McKinley Hall

Sun. Dec. 6, 2:00 pm
Church Conference, Sanctuary

Wed. Dec. 9, 10:30 am
UMW in the Sanctuary

Sat. Dec. 12, 4:30 pm to 6:00
Journey's Miracle of Jesus
Journey UMC Church, Freeburg

Sun. Dec. 13, 3:00 pm
UMM Conference, Sparta UMC

Sun. Dec. 13, 5:00 pm
Children and Youth Traditional
Christmas Pageant and Music

Sun. Dec. 20 9:00 am worship
Sanctuary Choir accompanied by
Ramos Family Quintet present
Vivaldi's "Gloria"

TOYS FOR TOTS

UUMC is collecting Toys for Tots now -- a collection box is near the elevator in the Welcome Center, and the Krause Room.

Please bring new, unwrapped gifts for children of all ages, up to 18. The gifts will be distributed first in our area. The last Sunday to bring a toy is Dec. 13.



2015 CHRISTMAS OFFERING:

\$500 each to

^aMcKendree University
Mission Trip,

^aWesley Foundation SIUC,
Youth Mission Trip

^a\$1000 to New Hope UMC, Liberia

^aBalance to
Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Please bring your special offering December 20 or December 24.

Tidings

Volume 59 Issue 22
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The Tidings is published bi-monthly. The copy deadline is generally on the second and fourth Mondays, 10:00 am, with only one issue printed in November. Contributors may attach copy to email or place it in the editor's mailbox in the church office.

lanecclass@gmail.com

Zona Ludlum, Editor
Rev. Ed Weston, Senior Pastor

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WILL MEET DECEMBER 9 AT 10:30 IN THE SANCTUARY

UMW's December meeting will be held in the sanctuary for the business meeting and program and in McKinley Hall for lunch. Those with December birthdays will be recognized and will give a small monetary gift for missions. The annual Christmas program will be presented by the women of the Deborah Circle in a directed reading under the leadership of Zona Ludlum who adapted the script from scripture and is entitled "The Promise." Luncheon will be served by Thel Lemons assisted by the Executive Committee. Deborah Circle will go to Four Fountains on December 11.

UMW THANK YOU

The United Methodist Women would like to thank all who donated school supplies and warm winter clothing. The warm clothing was delivered to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and the school supplies helped several of Dist. 118 schools. Both recipients were very thankful and grateful for our help. A "warm" thank you to all who helped make our projects successful.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The Elizabeth Circle will meet Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Karen Buehler. Karen will present the program. New faces are always welcome.

CHURCH CONFERENCE WILL BE IN THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 2:00 PM

The "Annual Meeting" of the congregation will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. **EVERY CHURCH MEMBER** is welcome to attend. The meeting will be conducted by our District Superintendent, Dr. Roger Grimmett. We will vote on a number of reports required by our Discipline. Administrative Council members should attend!

UNION UMC GREETERS SCHEDULE

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP IN MCKINLEY HALL.

Date	Narthex	Welcome Center	East Main
Dec. 6	Susan McVety	Thom and Jane Peters	Don and Mary Ann Steinkamp
Dec. 13	Colleen Krause	Jerry and Lisa Koerkenmeier	Bill and Joan Juergens
Dec. 20	Sandy Kuehn	Geoffrey and Pam Taylor	Bob and Dorothy Inman
Dec. 24 7:00p.m.	Greeters needed	Greeters needed	Greeters needed
11:00 p.m.	Bob Dintelmann	Charles and Sophia Treser	Mike Engel
Dec. 27	Grace Moon	Jerry Sauerwein Kathy Underwood	Dennis and Kay Watt

Mississippi River and Cache River Districts



**Men's Rally on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 3:00 pm
Sparta First United Methodist church
600 W. University, Sparta, IL**

United Methodist Men are facing many challenges in the years ahead. How can we get more men involved in the church? What do we need to do to make disciples for Jesus Christ? Mississippi River District and Cache River District UMM are invited to a joint session so Jeff Thornton, Illinois Great Rivers conference President of UMM, can provide insight into the conference, district and local units of UMM and how we can make a difference in our churches.

Come for fun, fellowship and learning.

**Reservations are not needed. Join us on December 13
as we learn more about making disciples and
what each men's group can do to make your unit
more effective for Christ.**

"But you, Bethlehem, only a small village in Judah, yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from a distant past ... And He will stand to lead His flock with the Lord's strength ... Then His people will live undisturbed, for He will be highly honored all around the world. And He will be the source of our peace." Micah 5:2, 4-5

Throughout history, the Israelites anticipated the coming of their Messiah. In the Old Testament, over four hundred scriptures and prophecies outline His birth, life, death, resurrection, and return.

"Prepare the way of the Lord" serves as a main theme of this season. As we get ready for Christmas, we should not neglect to prepare our lives for Jesus, who came as "the light of the world."

We light a second purple candle on the second Sunday of Advent to represent the hope of Christ coming to the world. Biblical hope is secured by God's faithfulness to His promises. For the Old Testament leaders, their hope was in the Messiah's arrival. For us, it is the hope of the Messiah's return.

God's plan for humanity unfolded in the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the Messiah, joyously fulfilling a long-awaited promise.

from *Advent: Making Christmas about Christ*
by Lisa Robertson

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped to support the UMW Quarter auction. The Lydia Circle took the lead on getting the auction organized, especially Jenny Johnson, but we really appreciate our friends who made donations along with the other circles, and bringing friends and attending the auction.

A special thank you to John Johnson, Bill Baysinger and Dick Frette for all of their additional help.

The money earned goes to help women, youth and children in the community.

In Christ's Service,

Jane Peters

UMW President



I would like to thank everyone in my church family for your kind words, prayers, and love. I would not have made it through this difficult time without you.

Love you all,

Torre



ON LINE GIVING UPDATES

If you changed your 2016 estimate of giving, please remember to go to our web site (www.unionumc.org)—click the on line giving button, and update your 2016 giving.

The office does not have access to your giving file! Thanks to all who use this efficient method of making their regular donations.

Pastor Ed



**MOPS/MOMSnext
(MOTHERS OF INFANTS
THROUGH FOURTH GRADE,
MOTHERS OF
PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN)**

We will meet on Wednesday, December 16 from 5:15 pm until 7:45. Dinner with your children in McKinley Hall will be from 5:15 pm until 5:45. Dinner will be pizza and is \$5.00 per mom. Mom time will start at 5:45 pm until 7:45. The topic for December is Celebrate Lavishly - Favorite Product/Game Night/Advent Devotional. We hope you can join us!

Please contact Geri Mueth at unionumcmops@gmail.com or Donna Shock at donna@unionumc.org for more information.



KIDS-ON-THE-GO
(Kids from First through Fourth grades)

On Saturday, December 12, Journey Church in Freeburg will present the *Miracle of Jesus* from 4:30 - 6:00. This is a wonderful event to attend with your family. There are stations you will visit while learning about the birth of Jesus that includes a petting zoo of animals. I am planning to go and would love to meet you there and enjoy family time together.

Miss Donna



**Tabs for Ronald
McDonald House Update**

Approximately 2400 tabs were donated in November for the Ronald McDonald House. Thanks to everyone for your continued support by collecting and donating tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Tabs help raise money and provide a "home-away-from-home" for families so they can stay close to their hospitalized child at little or no cost. The collection jar is located on the counter of the Welcome Center and will be picked up on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Smith at 539-5377. Thanks again for your support and donations!

DECEMBER 6 AND 13 GIFT CARD ORDERS

There will be two SCRIP gift card order dates in December for all of your holiday needs! All orders will be returned by the following Sunday. Please don't forget that we have special \$5 and \$10 cards only available in December! These include \$10 Amazon, \$10 CVS, \$5 Panera, \$5 Starbucks, \$10 Target, \$10 Walmart, plus several more.

All orders are collected between 10-11:00 at the Welcome Desk, at the 10:15 worship service box, or by dropping off or mailing your order to the church office during the week.

Union MOPS/MOMSnext



Dear Friends, I am in need of volunteers to acolyte on Sunday morning. If you or your children would be willing to acolyte on any Sunday, please let me know. Now is a good time to teach them how to serve their Lord and contribute to the worship of their church. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at gjone7329@att.net or call 698.4845 With Christian Love,

Ginger Jones
Junior Youth Group Leader

JUNIOR YOUTH SCHEDULE

All youth entering the fifth grade are invited to join us at 6:00 pm in McKinley Hall. Schedule subject to change.



December 2015

- 12.06.15 Discussion and Team building games
 *** 12.13.15 Christmas Pageant
 12.20.15 Christmas Cookie Night; we will bake cookies and make Christmas cards to be donated.
 12.27.15 No Youth Group Christmas Weekend
 ** Junior Youth will participate in the Christmas Pageant December 13, 2015**

January 2016

- 01.03.16 Games and Discussion; New Year's Resolutions
 01.10.16 Movie Night
 01.17.16 Discussion and Charades
 01.24.16 Games and Discussion
 01.31.16 Discussion and Dodge Ball

February 2016

- 02.07.16 Games and Discussion
 02.14.16 Valentine's Day Party; snacks will be provided.
 2.21.16 Discussion and Dodge Ball
 02.28.16 Kickball and Discussion

ANNUAL TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS

**PAGEANT WILL BE PRESENTED BY
 CHILDREN AND YOUTH ON DECEMBER 13 AT 5:00 PM**

Rehearsals for the children's traditional Christmas pageant will be on **Saturday, December 5, and December 12 at 10:00 am to 11:30** in the sanctuary. **December 12 will be the final rehearsal** with no scripts and all music.



We invite all children and youth to participate. Please come even if you missed our first rehearsal. We are making memories for children and youth as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and worship Him through our pageant and music. Please encourage your children to be a part of this Christmas tradition and bring them to our rehearsals and pageant.

Sunday, December 13, the pageant will begin at 5:00 pm with the prelude provided by our children who are taking music lessons. If your child might be interested in playing a musical instrument for the prelude (please, no secular Christmas music), please contact Julie or Ginger. A cookies and punch reception will follow after the program.

Please contact Julie Petraborg at julie@petraborglaw.com or Ginger at gjones7329@att.net asap if you are willing to help in any way.

ANGEL BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Children aged three through twelve and a special adult are cordially invited to breakfast with the angels in McKinley Hall on Saturday, December 5, at 8:30 am. Activities include a craft, breakfast, singing, and story time.



Make reservations by Monday, November 30. Call 233-6375 or register at unionumc.org. If you have questions, call Jane Peters: 235-3804. The cost is \$5.00/child-\$15.00/family.

RECOGNITION OF BABIES

On Sunday, December 13, we will recognize babies born to UUMC members this year with a special ornament from their church family at the 9:00 and 11:15 services.

Please email Sheri Hill by December 1 at sheri@unionumc.org with the babies' full names, parent's names, birth dates and which service you will be attending.



(Editors note: Janet Rud called in a thank you message before the deadline of the November issue of the Tidings in which she expressed thanks to an anonymous donor of \$100 and Kay MacIntire who had given her a monetary gift for the medical care of her beloved retriever Mac. I inadvertently failed to publish it. I apologize to her for that mistake. Following is an update to that unpublished message. Janet's photo in the 2014 edition of our church directory pictures Janet with Mac.)

Fellow church friends,

I would like to thank all of you for donations that were made for the medical care of my golden retriever, Mac. It is with my heavy and sad heart that I tell you he passed away from lymphoma on Monday, November 23, 2015.

He was my blessing along with the mental and some physical help that he gave me. He was the love of my life. I thank you all. I am very lost without him.

Thank you all,
Janet and Mac

Tidings Deadlines 2016

Jan 11, 25
Feb. 8, 22
March 7, 21 (Easter, March 27)
April 11, 25
May 9, 23
June 13, 27
July 11, 25
Aug. 15, 29
Sept. 12, 26
October 10, 24
Nov 14 (one issue in November)
Dec. 5, 19

MIRIAM CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNED FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18



Members, you will be contacted shortly by the Telephone Committee to make your reservation for the party on Friday, December 18. Be sure to arrive at the home of Marvin Lee by 11:30 am in your most festive attire. The day promises to be filled with fellowship, laughter, and good food.

Are you thinking of joining a Circle? We would welcome you into our group of energetic, creative, faithful women.

Please call Sandy at 233-5336.

Sandy

THE FORUM CLASS WILL DISCUSS *RELIGION AND SCIENCE* IN JANUARY 2016 CLASS BEGINNING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 3.

The official Methodist position says in part: "We find that science's descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology." Yet many Christians struggle with seeming contradictions between what science says and what we learned in Sunday school.

Which is true? Some suggest that this struggle has resulted in the loss of young people in our congregations. I, Bill Morey, (who admittedly continues to struggle with the seemingly different approaches to truth) will lead a discussion that examines these issues. I will be assisted by Steve Patrick, who taught high school science for a number of years. All are welcomed to join us.

THE NEXT TIDINGS DEADLINES

DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT EDITIONS ARE
December 14, 2015 and January 11, 2016.



JOURNEY UMC CHURCH
PASTOR HOLLY WOOD
900 NORTH STATE STREET
FREEBURG, ILLINOIS 618-971-7382

Journey UMC
What's Happening in Freeburg

Congrats to Ken and Jeannette Walton on the birth of FOUR new great grandchildren – including a set of triplets!

Welcome to new members Angel (Cleland) Gee, who sings at our early service, and to Kevin Scronce and Christine Lippert. Angel's son is Christian, and Kevin and Christine's children are Patrick, Camden, and Amelia. We are excited to have you join us!

I was invited to sing at the Freeburg Community Thanksgiving Service at St Paul UCC last week. Pastors from three churches gave short meditations, we heard a Freeburg Food Pantry report, a combined choir sang, and a praise band did a couple of songs as well. It was a nice evening.

Also we had a great group gather on Sunday evening to decorate the Journey worship area for Christmas, enjoy dinner together and a short children's movie. Many hands do make light work, and it was fun!

With two services, we are now averaging 110 each Sunday, and we continue to see new faces and new families. God is good!

Cathy O.

LOOKING AHEAD:

December 12: *Miracle of Jesus*, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

An interactive family experience of *The Miracle of Jesus*. Stepping back in time to Bethlehem, exploring Jesus' love in an interactive marketplace setting – complete with experiences you'll remember and keepsake crafts you'll treasure. This experience is open to the community and is an adventure for the whole family. It will help you discover more about Jesus in a way you'll never forget. And . . . it's free!

(We will set up on **December 11**. Talk to Julia Lee or Gail Lindauer about how you can help.)

December 20: Caroling and supper

December 24: There will be two worship services; the first one begins at 5:00 pm.

UNION UMC FIRST TIME VISITOR LIST FOR DECEMBER

Primary Team

December 6 Mike and Julie Callaghan

December 13 Don and Connie Stein

December 20 Jerry and Lisa Koerkenmeier

Alternate Team

John and Linda Gray

Dick Frette

Kent and Susan McVety



Every Sunday:
8:45 am
 Worship;
 Gospel Project for Children

9:30 am;
Fellowship Time
in the Garden of Eatin';

10:00 am
 Worship;
 Gospel Project for Children;

6:30 pm
 Junior and Senior High Youth
 Groups (meeting separately)
7:30 pm



**THE SECOND MONDAY BREAKFAST
 GROUP WILL FELLOWSHIP ON
 DECEMBER 14**

We will meet December 14 at the Olympika Restaurant, 127 North Belt East, Swansea at 8:30 am and will order off the menu.

We invite anyone interested in joining our group. We have a devotion lead by Pastor Jay.

If you are planning to attend, give the church or Pastor Jay a call so that we can make reservations.

This is a new group that we are hoping to start and are looking for everyone that might be interested in joining the group.

Looking forward to seeing you all on December 14.

(Disregard any dates you might see printed other than December 14.)

MaryAnn Steinkamp



Union United Methodist Church
721 East Main
Belleville, Illinois 62220
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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HOST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

The UMW will host the Christmas tea on Sunday, December 20, 2015 in McKinley Fellowship Hall following the 9:00 am, worship service. Three dozen home made cookies would be appreciated from any one wishing to donate. Please bring your cookies to the church kitchen by 8:30 on December 20. Cookies not used at the tea will be taken to our shut-ins

Church families are asked to bring packaged cookies and powdered drink mix to the church that morning for donation to the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis.



MUSIC TIDINGS

"And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God and, behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and he will be called the son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of his father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.'" Luke 1:30-33

9:00 am Sunday, December 6

Sanctuary Choir Anthem, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - Goodwin
Rev. Weston's sermon: "Finishing the Job" Philippians 1:3-11
10:15 am Pastor Jay Krumeich in the Chapel; Natalie Gravois, music
11:15 am Crosswalk in the Sanctuary

9:00 am Sunday, December 13

Sanctuary Choir Anthem: "Mary Had a Baby," spiritual/Dawson
Soloist: Natalie Gravois
King's Kids, Joyful Noise and Youth Choir will sing.
Rev. Weston's sermon: "Children and Snakes" Luke 3:7-18
10:15 am Rev. Krumeich in the Chapel; Natalie Gravois, music
11:15 am Crosswalk in the Sanctuary

5:00 pm Sunday, December 13

Children and Youth will present a Traditional Musical Christmas Pageant, followed by a reception! Christmas caroling for all following the Traditional Musical Pageant and the reception.
All are invited to participate!



9:00 am Sunday, December 20

The Sanctuary Choir will present the Vivaldi, "Gloria," accompanied by the Ramos family string quintet.
The UMW Christmas Tea will follow the worship service.