



First United Methodist Church
202 West Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158-5893
Phone (641) 752-3668

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MARSHALLTOWN, IA
PERMIT #30



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2020

Loving God, Growing Together, Sharing Christ

Joy in Adversity

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice”
Philippians 4:4*

It is not surprising to hear Paul speak these words through the pages of Scripture. There is, after all, much Joy to be found in a life with Christ. He sees Joy in his relationship with the believers at Philippi. He finds Joy in seeing the Gospel spread through their efforts together. Their continuing growth in the faith is also an ongoing source of Joy.

It is a little surprising, however, that Paul would have written these words from prison, suffering for the very faith that had brought him so much Joy. His work in proclaiming the Gospel had resulted in persecution and suffering. Every great movement of God is met with opposition and adversity in the world.

But there is no trace of discouragement in Paul’s work – just a celebration of what God was accomplishing in the world and among the Philippians. He urges them to press on in the work that God has for them, that by their example others might come to see the light of Christ shining through.

We too, experience adversity in our lives and in our journey of faith. We too, need a reminder to see God’s work all around us and to rejoice in all circumstances. Join us in worship this month as we explore the Joy in the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Below you will find the weekly readings to add to your own devotional times.

January 5th	Philippians 1:1-11
January 12th	Philippians 1:12-30
January 19th	Philippians 2
January 26th	Philippians 3
February 2nd	Philippians 4:1-9
February 9th	Philippians 4:10-23



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 am—Sunday School (all ages)
9:30am—Coffee time
10:00 am—Worship*
*Nursery available

www.fumc-mtown.org
fumc@fumc-mtown.org

Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 am - Noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Closed on Monday

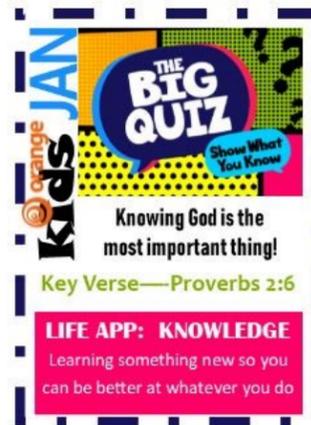
FUMC Staff

Senior Pastor: Jeff Kodis x1002
Organist/Bell Director: Jan Randall
Worship Arts Director: Jenn Pedersen x 1016
Education Director: Jenn Pedersen x 1010
Administrative Assistant: Jo Ruff x1000
Business Manager: Kay Coutts x 1007
Custodians: Steve Cherveney x1001
Becky Goodell

Please send articles for the February newsletter to Jo Ruff
at fumc@fumc-mtown.org by January 24.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Jenn Pedersen

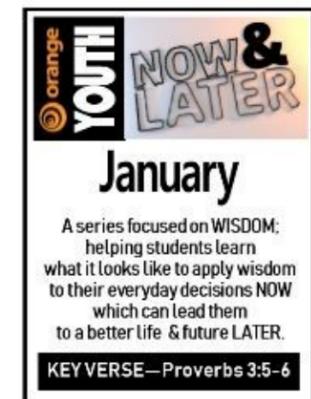
After a 2 week Christmas break, children and youth Sunday school resumes on January 4th.



Our January Children & Youth Sunday School Studies:
For PK-5 -*The Big Quiz: Show What You Know*- In January we will be learning about knowledge. God is the author of knowledge. Everything we know to be true about the world is because of God. Knowing God is the most important Person to know. And while we may never know all there is to know about God, God gives us lots of ways we can know about Him.

Proverbs 2:6

6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;



For 6-12 - *Now & Later* - This series focuses on wisdom; the secret behind good decision-making. Through the wisdom found in Proverbs, students will learn what it looks like to apply wisdom in their lives. They will consider that we are all making decisions now that can affect our laters - our futures - whether we like it or not and whether we realize it or not.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

Happy New Year!



Grant Fitz
Derek Johnson
Garrett Larson
Rob Larson
Scott Tasler
Scott Vial

This Month's Usher / Greeter Teams

Karen Duden
Leslie Groth
Paige Legg
Julia Ohrt

Tim Duden
Stan Groth
Rick Legg
Elva Weaver



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY by Kathy Braga

We have all been busy making hats and scarves and giving them away to those in need. We have been helped by Marlys Malcom and her friend who made and donated 3 bags full of hats and scarves. We have taken some to Salvation Army twice and some to the public library.

We enjoy making the prayer shawls, hats, and scarves so we may help and bless others using our talents. Happy New Year to you all!

¹⁵ Let us, then, always offer praise to God as our sacrifice through Jesus, which is the offering presented by lips that confess him as Lord.
Hebrews 13:15

FINANCE by Kevin Miller

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." We hear a lot of people use this verse and that is for good reason. This is the foundation of the Christian Religion. This is a good time to remember this verse as we Celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift we will ever receive. This is also a good time to think about our gifts to the Church to help support our goal of helping God to help others.

I want to thank everyone who has put in your commitment card for 2020 you were all very generous with so many people increasing their donations for 2020 and some new donors making it look like we will be able to fulfill our whole budget for 2020. If you have not given us a commitment card for 2020 you can still put it in the offering plate any Sunday or drop it off at the Church Office.

I want to thank all of you for what you are doing. It is a pleasure to serve such a giving congregation.

JANUARY

Monthly Meetings:

Church Council: Tuesday, January 21, at 5:30 pm

Trustees: 6:00 pm, Staff Room

SPRC: 6:00 pm, Lower Tower

Finance: No Meeting

Stewardship: No Meeting

Vision: No Meeting

Endowment: No Meeting

TLC: No Meeting

Hand in Hand: Tuesday, January 14, at 5:30 pm

Missions: Tuesday, January 21, at 11:30 am



In Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

Clyde & Charlotte Coulthard in the loss of Charlotte's brother, Lloyd.



**Communion
January 5**



January Collection:

Toilet Paper



**January
Change for Change:
The Caring Center**

**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**

Join us!



9:30 am Sundays



Temple Builders

Exercise Class

8:15 - 9:00 am

Tuesday & Thursday

Fellowship Hall

**All you need is an
exercise ball & mat.**

**Insurance Requirement
Please do not sit in the
front row of the balconies.**

WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY by Jenn Pedersen



“The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the Lord in Zion; He is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name - He is holy.

The King is mighty, He loves justice. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; He is holy.” Psalm 99:1-5

Thank you to all our wonderful musicians who committed extra time during the holiday season. We had a wonderful celebration of the season through music throughout the month of December with the Messiah, the Alleluia Ringers, the “Sing Joy” cantata shared by the Sanctuary Singers along with many opportunities to sing the carols of the advent and Christmas season.

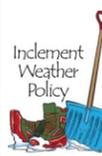
Alleluia Ringers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 8th. The Sanctuary Singers will resume rehearsals a week later on Wednesday, January 15th.



Hand in Hand
by Gina Ruddock

**Blessing Boxes Spread Joy
at Christmas**

Many thanks to all who joined in the Blessing Box project. Our best guess is that at least 34 boxes were created! Some were sent to area charities including local schools and nursing homes, CAPS, Emergency Food Box, ACCESS, Triumph and more. And several people chose to bless individuals in our church family and in the community. Special thanks for Barb Matya for her work in keeping the project organized and completed. Our hope was that this project gave us all a way to focus daily on serving and blessing others. Thanks to all of the individuals, families, grow groups, and Sunday School classes for your enthusiastic participation!



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

This is a reminder that for inclement weather closings the church office follows the Marshalltown Public School System, and closes when schools are not in session due to the weather.



Prayer Shawl Ministry
**Thursdays at 10:00 am in the
Staff Room.**
Anyone is welcome to join in.

UMW by Bev Sloppy

UMW has had a busy year! We've hosted, baked, decorated, celebrated, etc. But the best of it all is that we could not have accomplished this without the help of all the congregation. And we want you to know how much your input in all of this is appreciated. The UMW board members have agreed to stay on another year; however that doesn't mean we've signed up for years and years to come. Join us in February and sit in on a meeting and see how much fun it can be! The board members are: Donna Cerka, Betty Gray, Edie Hodges, Ruth Jackson, Mary Long, JoAnn Noack, Sharon Owen, and Beverly Sloppy. We do not meet until February and the Church Women United don't meet until March.

The Holiday Stroll (Cookies and Angels) was a great success. We had so many yummy cookies for shoppers to choose from and we received \$856. The angel display was enjoyed by all and we received \$103 from that. Also many people who came also enjoyed the harps and took time to sit and listen and sip cider.

Our December meetings are always challenging. There are many local agencies we support because that is what UMW is all about. This year we had to make some difficult decisions. So we have a year ahead of us that still includes hosting, baking, decorating and celebrating. However, we know that we can always count on the help of our fellow congregation to help get us to another year.

Don't forget about our great reading program. Take a few minutes and browse all the books in our own little corner in fellowship hall. You can even check them out yourself (you don't need a pin number like the library), just your name. Also we might even have a box of cards you would like to purchase. You can check with the office and see if you could fill in a space for our altar flowers. We have between 20-25 members living in care facilities who appreciate the flowers and the visitor with a friendly face.

Happy New Year!

“⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES by Reva Roland

We will start a new 6 weeks study called “One in a Million” by Priscilla Shirer on January 7th. Classes are held in the Oasis Room at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Women and men of the community are welcome to attend. If you have questions please contact Reva Roland at 641-691-1335 or email her at rolandrjr2003.com.

Parking Request

On Sundays, if you are able, please park in the lot across the street to the east or on the north side of the building so people who have difficulty walking can park in our lot. Thanks for being considerate of others.

Weather Cancellations

To find out if church activities are cancelled, check
Email
KCCI TV Channel 8
Facebook

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS by Barb Matya

Thank you for your help with the Angel Tree project this year. Contacting, purchasing and delivering is not always an easy task, but you helped make it happen. Thirty one children will hopefully have a brighter Christmas because of your generosity.

In January we will collect toilet paper for the Supply Closet and Change for Change will directed to The Caring Center.

We continue to help tornado affected families with their unmet needs. Ad Council gave us another \$5,000 to help with this project. There are still many families needing assistance 18 months after the storm. Some of the things we are helping with are furniture, bedding, clothing and appliances. Houses may not look too bad from the outside, but the living conditions are less than desirable. People are sleeping on air mattresses, using a stove that has been tagged ‘not to be used’, glass in furniture, bedding and clothing. I am thankful our church is able to help.

“Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress.”
Psalms 107:28 NIV

