# FAITH MATTERS

Faith Matters December, 2023

# A Note from The Pastor

### The Season of Advent and Christmas

As we celebrate this time of year on our church calendar, the season called Advent, I pray to commit to being both a praying church and a committed worshipping community.

Advent is the season of waiting. The word "Advent" means "coming" in Latin. We have an anticipation of Christmas as the celebration of our Savior's arrival. This is also the anticipation for Christ's second coming.

We will journey through Advent season in worship each week beginning the weekend of Dec. 2-3.

December 2-3: "His Amazing Ancestry"

December 9: Blue Christmas Service at 6 PM

December 9-10: "Living Happily Ever After"

No service on Saturday, December 16.

December 17: "Repentance" Musical Celebration Sunday at 10 AM.

No service on Saturday, December 23.

December 24: "When Mary Said Amen" at 10 AM & 7 PM.

Christmas Eve Services: Family at 4 PM and Traditional at 7 PM.

There will be no Candlelight Service at 11 PM.

No service on Saturday, December 30.

December 31: Joint service at 10 AM on Sunday.





The church office will be closed on Friday, 12/22, Monday, 12/25 & Tuesday, 12/26 in honor of Christmas. Also, the office will be closed on Monday, January 1st for the New Year holiday.



# **INSIDE**

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# Family Ministries

# Faith Matters December 2023

I am a firm believer in the Season of Advent. I like the idea of holding off on Christmas celebrating until Christmas comes in part because anticipation is

fundamental to the human experience. This will be the first time that I am pregnant during an advent season, and I have to say it feels appropriate. Advent is all about waiting on the birth of a savior, but even more fundamentally, a child. In ancient times, the birth of a child was precarious. It was a joyful, but dangerous time. Childbirth was dangerous for women to go through, and the babies born were vulnerable, many not surviving through their first year. The situation Mary found herself in made her even more vulnerable, pregnant yet unmarried engaged to a man who may yet reject her. The birth of a child teetered on the edge of joy and pain, promise and sorrow. And so, people would wait without ultrasounds, without fetal heartbeat monitoring, without genetic testing, just wait in the knowledge that life was precious and precarious. Our lives are still filled with unknowns, children are born, people die, jobs are lost, and promotions are given. We constantly find ourselves in situations of unknown, of crossroads where we don't know what the next step will be. Celebrating Advent reminds us that God is with us in the waiting, and teaches us to be patient no matter the circumstance. This year I encourage you to spend time, especially on the Sundays in Advent, to remember the season, meditate on the waiting periods of your life and hold off just a little bit on the Joy of Christmas to remember that God is with you before the great good things in your life, and after the fear and pain.

### **Information for Faith Families**

The last Sunday School of the year will happen on December 10<sup>th</sup>, and will resume next year on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Families are invited to join us for a special Cantata service on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. This service will happen in lieu of a normal service and will include lots of music and a puppet show. I will make sure to have our worship folders in the back of the sanctuary and books will also be available in the Sanctubrary.

Christmas Eve there will be 3 services, the fourth Sunday of Advent service in the morning at 10 am, a family-oriented service at 4 pm, and a traditional service at 7 pm. The 4 pm service will include an interactive story and lots of carol singing. Expect this service to be shorter and very open to wiggly children.



Family Christmas Eve Service







# Christmas & New Years Services

Here's the worship schedule for Christmas & New Years.

On **Sunday, December 24**, we'll have a joint service at 10 AM & 2 Christmas Eve services at **4 & 7**. The **4 PM** service is the Family Service. The **7 PM** service is more traditional in design and will feature music by members of the Faith Rising Band and Chancel Choir. The **4 & 7 PM** services will include carols, communion, and candles.

On **Sunday, December 31**, we'll gather at **10 AM** for a joint worship service. There are **no Saturday services** on 12/16, 12/23 & 12/30.



# **Disciple Bible Study**

Disciple Bible Study course is a Methodist Bible study for those who want to learn more about the Old and New Testaments. Cokesbury publishers say, "The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. Disciple draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible." Church members who have done the Disciple class have said it took their faith to a higher level.





We will be collecting Christmas gifts for the children of Together We Cope families. Tags were available in the lobby November 19 & 26 & December 3rd. Deadline to return unwrapped gifts is Sunday, **December 10.** Help make the holidays brighter for area families.



Thank you to all who donated to our Operation/Migrant/Youth Collection. Donations will be delivered soon. A lot of people who came here from warmer climates will be nice & warm because of your thoughtfulness.



A huge thank you to Peggy Gillespie for doing the shopping for the Micro Pantry for September, October & November. Also, thanks to Steve & Terry Velten for helping us supply lots of cereal the last few months! Please remember that the Micro Pantry needs your Collection help keeping those bins filled through the winter months. We are not accepting any cans, plastic bottles or anything liquid until March due to freezing, inclement weather.

Thank you, Kim Clifton for heading up Operation Christmas Child again this year! The Missions Committee would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas & a blessed New Year! If you have any questions about Missions Genie Lang, Mission Chair at 708-638-8461.

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

A very big thank you to all who provided gifts for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for children in need throughout the world. This year we donated 226 boxes & \$2260 for shipping. There will be 226 children who will be blessed by your generosity.



SHOP RaiseRight THIS CHRISTMAS! Don't forget to Cards check out our one-stop shopping for gift cards through our RaiseRight program. A check made out to the church or cash must be turned in with your order form. Gift cards make great gifts (there are cards for \$5 & \$10 available for Christmas) for teachers, your mail carrier, trash collector, stocking stuffers and anyone you like to give a little something to for Christmas! Deadline to order to guarantee delivery by

Christmas is 12/10. Profits from the sale of the

cards goes toward missions trips.



### **Christmas Cantata**

Join us on Sunday, December 17th at 10 AM for the Christmas Cantata "Peace" presented by our Chancel Choir, the RISE Band & Singers, Bell Choir and Puppets. You don't want to miss this memorable cantata. This is the only service this weekend.







Veterans Voices: Join a group of veterans of the armed forces of the United States. We support each other & the greater community of veterans in the

area and the U.S.A. Check out the Veterans Voices Website: <a href="www.veterans-voices.org">www.veterans-voices.org</a> . May we never forget their service to our country.

**General Membership Meeting:** Our next meeting will be Thursday, 12/7, 7 p.m., at the Orland Park Veterans Building, 15045 S. West Ave. Appropriately, the topic for this meeting will be the attack on Pearl Harbor

Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast: A huge "Thank You!" to all who supported this event. \$1080.00 was donated and will be provided to Kruse's Krew to pay postage for Christmas packages going to our troops deployed overseas. Also, thank you to all of those who helped in the kitchen, in the serving line, on the Color Guard, during the setup, and during the cleanup. This was a great example of teamwork!

Veteran Voices is now a 501c3 charitable organization. All contributions will be tax deductible. 100% of all contributions will go to veterans in need, veterans' support organizations, and veterans' activities.

Questions? Contact Gary Lang @ 708-638-5213.

# **Stephan Ministry**

Look to the Christmas Star for the gift of Hope.



Hope for Christ's light to shine in you beyond Christmas and remain throughout the year.

Hope for prejudice to dissolve and peace prevail.

Hope for compassionate love in action.

Hope for giving not getting.

Hope that hand in hand we can iron out the wrinkles of a weary world.

Hope for pure joy.

Call Pastor Conroy or Bruce Person, Stephen Ministry coordinator, if you need help.

"May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans15:13

May you be wrapped in Christmas Hope.

Nancy Duracka



# Men of Faith United Methodist Men Activities for December, 2023 and beyond!



Lake South District UMM Wednesday Night Bible Study: The Bible Study group has just started to study 1 Kings. We will be using the study guide, "1 and 2 Kings" published by LifeChange. Ouestions? Contact Dale Carver.

**Santa's Jamboree Pancake Breakfast:** Saturday, 12/2. Men interested in preparing, serving, and cleaning up a pancake breakfast are encouraged and welcome to join in and, "Git 'er done!" Help is needed from 8 a.m. to noon. The breakfast will be served from 9-11 a.m. Contact Dale Carver.

Lake South District UMM Monthly Breakfast: Saturday, 12/9, 8:30 a.m., at New Lenox UMC, 339 W. Haven, New Lenox.

**Men of Faith Sunrise Breakfast:** 12/10, 7:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Breakfast will be served, there will be an update on coming events, and a short devotional presented by Dale Carver.

**Promise Keepers Breakfast:** Wednesday, 12/20, 8:30 a.m. at Stacks Restaurant. Stacks is located at the corner of Harlem Avenue and 183rd Street. Jim Simmons will lead the meeting.

**Save the Date:** Men of Faith will be hosting the Lake South District UMM monthly breakfast and meeting in our fellowship hall on Saturday, 1/13/24 at 8:30 a.m.. Please plan to attend to meet our brothers from across the district and to help prepare breakfast for everyone.

Questions? Contact Dale Carver @ 762-218-7657 or aonemanshow@comcast.net

# Offering Envelopes

# **New Offering Envelopes**

2024 offering envelopes will be available for pick up on Sunday, 12/17/23. Please note: If you give online, you will not receive envelopes.



12/1	Jon Bitzer	12/10 Laura Cardinal	1 1000,000 108
12/2	Christine Ernst	12/12 Doreen Wardell	Jecember BIRTHDAYS
12/3	Abby Bachman	12/13 John Parker	BIRTHDÁYS
12/4	Karen Struck	12/19 Dominic Damrow	
12/5	Brekke Bounds	Lynn Stewart	12/23 Theodore Beechler
	Randy Chapple	12/20 Gerald Farmer	12/25 Jesus
	Kim Clifton	12/21 Bill Radtke	12/26 Quinn Sejud
12/7	Zach Bradach	Liz Whitcher	12/27 Christopher Pochinskas
12/8	Robert Jurinek	12/22 Ryan Hopper	12/28 JoEllen Simmons
12/9	Lynnea Ngorima	Bruce Person	12/31 Robert Fuller
	Patricia Parker	12/23 Matt Beechler	Nathan Matchen





Pastoral
Emergency Fund
Objective: Provide
monetary assistance
to our neighbors in
need.

**Background**: Faith currently has a designated fund that provides bill

assistance and gift cards to our neighbors who express need. By donating to the Pastoral Emergency Fund, your resources will be used by Faith's pastor to assist with bill payments and gift card assistance.

How to help: You can donate to the Pastoral Emergency Fund by mailing a check to Faith United Methodist Church, 15101 S. 80<sup>th</sup> Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462. Please make checks payable to Faith United Methodist Church. In the memo line of the check write Pastoral Emergency Fund for your donation to be used towards bill assistance. Or, in the memo line of the check write Pastoral Emergency Fund - Gift Cards if you would like for your donation to be used to purchase gift cards for assistance.

You will be credited on your giving statements for donations to the Pastor Emergency Fund.



# Invitation to Blue Christmas

# A Service of Quiet Contemplation

Faith UMC will host a Blue Christmas Service on Saturday,

Dec. 9th at 6 PM. The contemplative service promises respite to weary hearts. We will find a quiet place in our sanctuary where grief, pain or disappointment can be acknowledged in the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

In a season of celebration, grief doesn't seem to have a place. But the truth is that the holiday season can amplify feelings of sorrow and pain. Loss of any kind such as a loved one, broken relationships, a health crisis or financial uncertainty can cause suffering that brings hurt, pain, grief and disappointment.

Blue Christmas offers a reflective and quiet approach to Christmas for anyone grieving a loss of any kind with words of comfort, music, and heartfelt prayers all designed to give you comfort and strength.



# **UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP & SINGLES EVENTS**



# Time for a Christmas cookie exchange!

Sunday, December 10 at 1:30 pm. There will also be a hot chocolate bar with a variety of add ins. Babysitting can be available if requested. Sign up outside room 4. Bring 3 dozen cookies to exchange and a container for your "haul". Serving gloves will be provided. The actual

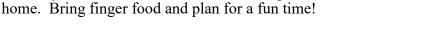


Fellowship News



**Tuesday, December 12** at 10:30 AM, Singles Christmas Brunch at Sandy Ward's

exchange will begin at 2 p.m. to allow everyone to display their goodies and enjoy some





fellowship time.



# A Big Thank You

We want to thank all who donated the delicious baked goods & also to

those who bought the items at the Bake Sale on Friday, Nov. 3rd & Saturday, Nov. 4th. The proceeds were \$2195! You're the best!

> Donna Petersen Chair, United Women in Faith

We would like to extend a warm embrace of gratitude to our church family. Thank you for the many who offered sympathy, guided us through creating a faithful, memorable, and loving service for Tom,



and provided a wonderful meal along with a time for fellowship for our family and friends. Our friends and family were moved by the love that surrounded us at Faith. I am reminded that we are, indeed, "the little church that could".

Fondly,

Kim & Sophie Sjo

Thank you for all the get well cards and the beautiful wishes you expressed during our surgery recoveries. Knowing you care for and wish us well, makes us feel better. We're improving each day.

Gratefully, Diane & Barry Barnett









If you are excited about watching, "The Chosen" or just curious about it, why don't you join our small group? We currently meet on the first and third Mondays of the month, Dec. 4th & 18.

There are some exceptions to this around any holiday - check with the group. The group meets at 6 PM. Bring your own soft drink and a snack to share. You will watch an episode and then have a lively conversation! If you have any questions, contact: Diane Barnett at <a href="mailto:dmbbarnett@gmail.com">dmbbarnett@gmail.com</a>



# It's time to order your poinsettias!

They are \$12.00 each. Last chance to order is Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023.

Turn in the bottom portion of this

sheet with your payment in the offering plate or at the Welcome Center.

Check your color preference, the number you want to order & if you want the poinsettia donated to a shut-in.

You can take your poinsettia home after the service on Christmas Eve.

# Payment required at time of order.

Name	
Phone #	
IN MEMORY/HONOR OF	
# of Poinsettias: Red White	
Please donate # to a shut inYes No	ı
Payment Enclosed: \$	

# CHANGES to Taste of Faith



Beginning in November, we began having Taste of Faith only on the first Sunday of each month. It will continue to run between services from 10-11 a.m. The approved list of items which can be served which includes only nut free items purchased in a store will remain in effect. Coffee will be available all Sundays in the carafes in the lobby. We hope you can join us on the first Sunday of each month for a cup of coffee, a treat, some fellowship, and a chance to get to know someone new.





Thank you to all who donated blood at the Blood Drive on October 29th. We collected 17 units. Our next Blood Drive will be on February 4th.

Debbi Sumner and Lois White, Chairs

# **Small Groups**

The Wednesday night small group led by Janice McBride & Sally Puzon volunteered at the Teen Bridge Center Resale Shop on Nov 11th sorting clothes. The proceed from the resale shop help support the activities at the Bridge Teen Center. Good job ladies.



Mary Circle met on Wednesday, 10/31 for their Halloween party. Anyone is welcome to join. They meet on the last Tuesday of each month. Call Dolores Genis for more information.





"Witness to Fitness" meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday, at 9:00 AM for exercise, fellowship and walking class.

Tai Chi: Meetings at the church on Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM. Call the church office for more information. 708-444-8560.





Faith United
Methodist Church is a church family dedicated to bringing people to Jesus Christ through worship, education, mission, and fellowship.



# **Nursery Help Needed**

We are in need of a team of volunteers to help occasionally when one of our attendants is ill or on vacation. We want to ensure that our nursery is able to offer an excellent, inviting, and safe environment for our youngest children. Volunteers need to have attended a Safe Sanctuary class within the past 3 years. If you are willing to assist occasionally with this important job for Sunday services or have questions, please contact Kathy Broadhurst at (708) 535-3591.

# Hi from your Endowment Committee

We met this week on Tuesday evening the 14th of November with this meeting being our last for 2023. We were blessed to have 5 grant requests submitted to our



**Endowment Committee** 

committee for review. The following are the requests that we were able to fund with the balance of the monies available for us in our 2023 grant budget: Filter of Hope, John & Damien Grimberg Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, Father Scott Donahue, HHH Ranch - Christine Beechler, & Greater Chicago Food Depository. Our next meeting in 2024 will be on Tuesday, January 9th where we will welcome Debbie Sumner to our committee. We will also be reviewing the current officer positions of the Endowment committee as those positions need to be voted on & approved annually.

Wishing you all a very happy & blessed holiday season.

Submitted by: Paula Morrone - Endowment Chair

### **Faith United Methodist Church**

15101 South 80th Avenue Orland Park, IL 60462 708.444.8560 E-mail: faith@faithumcop.org

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Saturday Service: Blended - 4 PM Sunday Services: Traditional - 9:00 AM Contemporary - 11:00 AM Nursery - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8:30 AM —3:00 PM Friday 8:30 AM—12:00 PM

Jacques Conway: Pastor
Beth Ridderhoff, Director of Music
Jamie Meehan, Director of Family Ministries
Jim Sandberg: Director of Congregational Care
Sally Puzon: Office Manager
Sandy Ward: Program Coordinator
Rolf Moan: Choir Director
Renee Powers: Custodian

Please submit newsletter articles by the 15th of each month. Articles can be e-mailed, or submitted in MS WORD format.

### **Deadlines**

Please forward all articles/information/photos for the monthly newsletter and for the Sunday bulletin to: faith@faithumcop.org. The deadline for all newsletter articles is noon the 15th of each month; the deadline for the bulletin information is Wednesday at noon. Be certain to indicate if the news is for the bulletin and/or the newsletter.



If you are looking for ways to serve the church, the AV team is looking for volunteers to help out with the sound provided during services. We are looking for someone for Saturday, (even one Saturday a month would help), the fifth Sunday at 11 AM, and as a back up.

No experience needed and training will be provided. If you are interested, contact the office at faith@faithumcop.org.

# **Strategic Goals**

Bless Children & Youth Deepen Discipleship Broaden Missional Impact



# Faith Matters November 2023

# Please keep our homebound in your thoughts and prayers:

Nancy Jeutter, Garnet Suhs, Mario Vergara, Doreen Wardell, Bob Fulton, Maury Junod

### Please lift up in your prayers:

For the victims of the mass shooting in Maine.

For people of Morocco who lost so much due to an earthquake.

For neighbors in Chicago & around the world impacted by gun violence

For people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine and all parts of the world torn apart by war

For healthcare workers, first responders, police officers, & fire fighters

For all who struggle with sadness and depression

# For Health & Healing:

Al & Peggie DeNormandie prayers for granddaughter Paige

Al DeNormandie for his sister, Pamela and brother, Jack

Al Januszewski

Andy & Jeannie Vaveris prayers for friend Phil

Barbara Kellogg

Beverly Dowdle prayers for sister-in-law Ruth & friend Darryl

Bill Grizzle

Debbie DeLorenzo

Dick Maxwell prayers for granddaughter's husband Doug

Don Edgren

Frank Broadhurst

Greg Brudnicki

Harold Deneka

Herb & Carmen Mohn

Jackie Konidaris prayers for friends Paul, Tony & Bud

Jan Haberichter prayers for friends Jan, Rita & Bob

Judy Janes prayers for cousin Mary

Kathy Drechsel

Kathy Jones prayers for her sister Sharon

Kathy McGahan

Kevin Palmer prayers for mother Maureen & brother Tim

Meriellen Anderson

Michelle Babics prayers for friends, Tracy and Kristina

Rita Littman

Ron Drechsel

Steve Kreuz

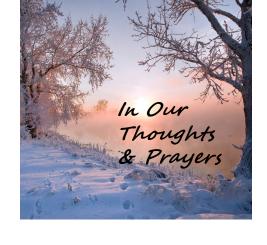
Sue Blattner prayers for sister Eileen

Vanessa Leon prayers for her mom

Vicki Brudnicki prayers for her mom

### **Condolences:**

Debbi Sumner prayers for friend Betty who lost her husband







# December 2023



_		1							ı	1	
> Call Fac	2 OA 8:30 AM WW 7, 8:30, & 10 AM Sant's Jamboree & Breakfast 9 AM:12PM Worship 4 PM	<b>9</b> 0A 8:30 AM WW 7, 8:30, & 10 AM	Cardinal Memorial 10 AM visitation, 11 AM Service Quilters Meeting 10 A Worship 4 PM Ruth Circle 5 PM	Blue Christmas Service 6 PM	16 OA 8:30 AM WW 7, 8:30, & 10 AM	No Worship Service	23 OA 8:30 AM		30 OA 8:30 AM	No Worsnip Service	itness
200	1 ww 8 & 10;30 AM www 10;30 AM	<b>8</b> ww 8 AM www 10:30 AM	0		15 ww 7:30, ww 10:30 AM	Kids Above All 6 PM	22 Office Closed		29		Witness to Fitness M, W, F 9-10
NA COULT		<b>7</b> ww 9:30 AM ww 6 PM	RISE 7 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM		14 ww 9:30 AM ww 6 PM	Thankful Thursday 6:30 PM Trustees 7 PM Rise 7 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM	<b>21</b> Rise 7 PM AL Anon7:30 PM	First Day of Winter	28 Rise 7 PM	Al Anon 7:30 PM	
VACCEMCEN	WENESDAY.	<b>6</b> Staff Luncheon 12:30 PM	CODA 10 AM Upper Room 10 AM Tai Chi 10:30 AM SA 7 PM Choir 7:30		CODA 10 AM	Upper Room 10 AM Tai Chi 10:30 AM SA 7 PM Choir 7:30	<b>20</b> CODA 10 AM	Tai Chi 10:30 AM SA 7 PM Choir 7:30	27 CODA 10 AM	Upper Room 10 AM Tai Chi 10:30 AM SA 7 PM Choir 7:30	
A COLL		<b>5</b> F.O.G. 5:30 PM AA 6:30 PM	-2		<b>12</b> AA 6:30 PM		19 AA 6:30 PM		26 office Closed	Mary Circle off campus AA 6:30 PM Peace	
SA CINCAL		<b>4</b> Tai Chi 10:30 AM SA 7 PM	Disciple 6-8 PM The Chosen 6 PM		<b>11</b> Tai Chi 10:30 AM	Disciple 6 PM Church Council 7 PM SA 7 PM O'Green 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> Tai Chi 10:30 AM	Disciple 6 PM The Chosen 6 PM SA 7 PM	25 Merry Christmas	Tai Chi 10:30 AM Lang/Philosophos Party 2 PM SA 7 PM	HAPPY BIRTHORY JESUS
NY CIVILID	Faith Methods CHURCH	<b>3</b> Worship 9 & 11 AM TWC Christmas tags	available Deadline to order poinsettias		10 worship 9 & 11 AM Return TWC gifts	Cookie Exchange 1:30 PM	17 Worship 10AM Christmas Cantata		24 Worship 10AM	Christmas Eve Services 4, 7 PM	<b>31</b> Worship 10AM
	Key:  AA— Alcoholics Anonymous Al-Anon - Alcoholics Anonymous Group for Families CODA - Codependent Anonymous O'Green - Financial SA - Sexaholics Anonymous										

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15101 S. 80th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
708.444.8560 faith@faithumcop.org
website: www.faithumcop.org

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If you don't want this, write "refused" and return (we'll pay postage).

Address Service Requested

# **Time Sensitive Material**



(Label)

# DECEMBER 2023

# **Special Upcoming Events**

	<u>December</u>
Dec. 2	Santa Jamboree & Pancake
	Breakfast
Dec. 9	Blue Christmas Service
	Cardinal Memorial Service
Dec. 10	Return TWC gifts
	Cookie Exchange
Dec. 17	Joint Service 10 AM
	Christmas Cantata
Dec. 22, 25,26	Office Closed
Dec. 24	Joint Service 10 AM
	Christmas Eve Services
	4 & 7 PM
Dec. 31	Joint Service 10 AM

Be sure to check bulletin for any changes and/or additions to the events listed here.

# December



Please check with the office or the committee chair for exact times and locations. See our website for other, regularly scheduled events & meetings.