

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fort Dodge, IA



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.
The people of the United Methodist Church®

December 25, 2011

Christmas Day

**Indicates you are invited to stand if you are comfortable doing so*

WELCOME

*If you are a visitor with us today, we warmly say welcome. We invite you to join us at the rear of the sanctuary after worship for fellowship and refreshment. Please take a moment and fill out the "Ritual of Friendship" pads at this time. **Please list all family members attending today, your address and phone number**, and then pass the books back through the pews after everyone has signed, so you may greet and know those sitting with you.*

PRELUDE

Christmas Arrangements
By Mark Hayes

The prelude is a time of centering – of transition from "getting here" to "being here". Please take the time to quiet your spirit. Be aware of being with others. Feel the spirit of God in the community.

TRINITY CHIMES

GREETING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Today on Christmas Day we gather in the presence of the Most High.

People: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Leader: As we have been invaded by light, let us enlighten.

People: As we have been found, let us seek out the lost.

Leader: As we have been liberated, let us set the captives free.

People: For to us a child is born, One whom God sends to bring peace and light, freedom and reconciliation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** OPENING PRAYER AND THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Leader: Before Jesus came, the world lay in darkness. But then, "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." Jesus came to us as a light for a darkened world. And he told us that we, too, were to be lights for the world. As we light the Christ Candle, let us remember that we are called to be light, reflecting the greater glory of the Son of God.

(Light the Christ Candle)

Let us pray. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of light, shining upon us in the face of Jesus our Savior. May the light of Christ shine brightly in our hearts, guiding us through life and leading us to your truth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Light the Advent Candle"
#2090 Black Hymnal
Verse 5

***OPENING HYMN**

"There's a Song in the Air"
#249 Blue Hymnal

KID'S MOMENT

Jennifer Peterson

The congregation sings "Where Children Belong" (p.2233) as the children come forward. Ushers collect the "Ritual Friendship Pads" at this time.

"Where Children Belong"

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song. This is where children belong.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:1-7

CAROL "Away In a Manger"
#217 Blue Hymnal

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:8-20

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
218 Blue Hymnal

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:8-25

CAROL "What Child Is This?"
219 Blue Hymnal

PRAYER TIME
Silent Prayers
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer – UM - 895

SPECIAL MUSIC "What Child is This?"
Soloist Jacob Trunnell

SERMON "Joseph's Gift to Jesus"
Rev. Gary Armstrong

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS
The Offertory "A Rossetti Christmas"
Mark Hayes
*The Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
#95 Blue Hymnal
* Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN** "Joy to the World"
#246 Blue Hymnal

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Go Tell It On the Mountain"
Mark Hayes

Luke 2:1-7

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the innhost,* praising God and saying,

<p>Your Staff: The Congregation, The Ministers Gary Armstrong Pastor Becky Ostheimer, Administrative Assist. Jennifer Peterson, Program Coordinator Diane Logan, Organist Mike Richardson, Choirs Director Liz Johnson and Amy Champagne, Children’s Choirs Directors Mary Heimbruch, Praise Band Director Jon Schuman, Chief Financial Officer Linda Wakeman, Nursery Assist. Joe Egdorf, Bldg & Grounds Supervisor Linda Wakeman, Assistant Custodian</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church 127 North 10th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501</p> <p>Radio Broadcast at 11:05am each Sunday - KVFD 1400 AM Office Hours: 8-12 and 12:30-4:30 Mon - Fri Pastor Office: 515-576-7586 Pastor Home: 515-339-8819 Pastor Cell: 515-570-3330 Email Addresses: Office: worship@fumcfortdodge.org Pastor: garyarms@fumcfortdodge.org Program Coordinator: jenniferpeterson@fumcfortdodge.org Website: www.fumcfortdodge.org Truck site: www.takingittothepeople.org</p>
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Matthew 1: 8-25

⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Luke 2: 8-20

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah,* the Lord.¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,* praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

At a recent meeting of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, plans for interim leadership of the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir were approved. This follows Mr. Richardson's resignation from those two positions. Shelley Ellerston will assume leadership and direct the Bell Choir for the remainder of the 2011-2012 year's music season which normally ends in May.

Liz Johnson and David Gardner will share directing responsibility for the Chancel Choir for the same period of time.

Their work will begin on January 1, 2012.

A search for a permanent replacement or replacements will be delayed until we are able to involve the permanent appointment of pastoral support for our congregation.

We know you will want to express your appreciation to each of these people and wish them well as we continue to provide musical support in our worship services.

First United Methodist Church will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, January 1, 2012.



Merry Christmas from the Staff at First United Methodist Church. May we all remember the reason for this joyous season! May you all be blessed with family and friends to share this day. And may God bless each of us as we move into 2012 unsure of what the future may hold, but ever sure that Christ is there with us and guid-

ing our way!

Becky, Jennifer and Joe



Below is a list of people who have volunteered to host the Beacon of Hope Meal through January 2012. A special thank you goes out to each of these people for stepping forward and helping out with this very worthy endeavor. There are still some spots which need to be filled. If you feel that you would like to help out on one of these Monday afternoon/evenings, please call Becky at the church office and she will be happy to put your name on the list.

Date	3:30-5:00 pm	5:00-7:00 pm
December 26	Audra McKinney	Doug Johansen
January 2	Doug Johansen	Leroy & Meredith Berryhill
January 9	_____	Jerry Schnurr
January 16	_____	Doug Johansen
January 23	_____	Doug Johansen
January 30	_____	Doug Johansen

The flower chart for 2012 has been posted on the kiosk in the back of the sanctuary. Please take a moment to sign up for a Sunday to provide flowers or altar grains to grace the sanctuary. Flowers are often given in memory of a loved one, the birthday or anniversary of a family member or friend, or simply no reason at all. If you have any questions about the flower chart and how it works, please contact Becky in the church office and she will be happy to talk with you about it.



If you have a prayer request that you would like placed on the prayer chain at First United Methodist, please contact Lucile Dellit at 573-6240 or the church office at 576-7586.

***Opportunities for Work, Witness and Fellowship
through First United Methodist Church***

Sun, Jan 1

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship w/Communion

Thus, Jan 5

9:30 am Lord's Cupboard
6:00 pm Evangelism Committee Meeting

Mon, Jan 2 **Office Closed**

Fri, Jan 6

1:30 pm Lord's Cupboard
7:00 pm Boy Scout Lock In

Tues, Jan 3

8:00 am Prayer Group
9:30 am Lord's Cupboard
12:00 pm AA
4:00 pm Lord's Cupboard
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Sun, Jan 8

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
5:45 pm UMYF

Wed, Jan 4

7:30 am Men's Bible Study
8:30 am Women's Bible Study
3:30 pm Discovery Gang
4:45 pm Joyful Noise
5:30 pm King's Kids
6:00 pm Wesley Ringers
7:00 pm Chancel Choir



Greeters:
John and Laurel Mors

Liturgist
John Metier



**Our mission is to provide the people of
the Fort Dodge area opportunities
for spiritual growth, real friendships,
and giving of themselves.**