



The Lamplighter

First United Methodist Church, Freeport

December 2018/

January 2019



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to
our annual

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m.

First UMC Annual

Cookie Walk



Saturday, December 8

9:00 a.m. till we run out



Christmas Cookies, Candy and Homemade Pies

Plus a Mini Christmas Bazaar

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Dear Members and Friends,

Last week I had the privilege of speaking to a group of residents at Presence St. Joseph Center for their Christmas Tree Lighting reception. Their Christmas tree is covered with angel ornaments honoring or memorializing family members, friends and others.

I spoke on the meaning of the Advent Wreath. In doing some research on the subject, I found that the different Christian traditions have various ways of expressing the meaning of the wreath.

It seems everyone agrees the theme of the **First Week of Advent** is **hope**. Some traditions call the first candle the "Prophet's Candle," referring to the centuries-long hope the nation of Israel held close to their hearts for the coming Messiah. The famous verse from Isaiah is often cited: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (7:14). (By the way, Immanuel and Emmanuel are the same word, meaning "God with us"; the latter is a Latin derivative of the former, from the original Hebrew.)

There are different understandings regarding the meaning of the **Second Week of Advent**. We emphasize the theme of **peace**. But some denominations dedicate this week to **faith**. This taper is called the "Bethlehem Candle," honoring Joseph and Mary's faith in traveling to Bethlehem from Nazareth when Mary was about to give birth. I think even more faith was demonstrated by Mary when she accepted God's mission (presented by the Angel Gabriel, no less) to bear a child even though she had not known a man. Her response: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Now, that's faith!

Everyone agrees the **Third Week of Advent** focuses on **joy**. Unlike the other three candles that are purple or blue, the third candle is pink or rose, the liturgical colors of joy. This is the "Shepherd's Candle," representing the joy the world experienced with the birth of Jesus, and reflecting the angel's message to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2).

We dedicate the **Fourth Week of Advent** to **love**. It is out of God's love that we have the miracle that occurred at Bethlehem. It is out of God's love that he pours out his grace and mercy on us, who are estranged from him. It is out of God's love that we are reconciled to him through the work of Christ on the Cross. The fourth-week theme for other traditions is **peace**, featuring the "Angel's Candle" because of the message from the heavenly host: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors" (Luke 2:14).

Our Advent Wreath includes a larger fifth candle, the Christ Candle, which is always white, emphasizing the purity of Christ, who was tempted as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). We light this candle during our Christmas Eve service. Our Roman Catholic friends have this fifth candle only during Advent seasons when Christmas falls on a Sunday.

It is important that our Advent Wreath is anchored by candles because Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8) and "what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people" (John 1). The light in the sky showed the Magi the way to Jesus place of birth (Matthew 2).

And, being imitators of Jesus, he says we are to be the "light of the world. ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5).

As we take this Advent journey together and enjoy watching our wreath lit up week after week, let us all be lights of Christ to those around us.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Cal

HAPPY 65th ANNIVERSARY HOMER & KAY MEIERS



CHRISTMAS DECORATING



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

We had an excellent response to our Stewardship Drive with a total to date of \$98,922 in pledges. Thank you to everyone who turned in a pledge card as it helps the Finance Committee in putting together the budget. Our budget for 2019 is \$144,000.00. Strong weekly giving makes us less reliant on special offerings. The Bakeless Sale generated \$715.00 and the Thanksgiving offering is \$731.00, so far.

December and Christmas are seasons of giving. It is also a time when the Finance Committee catches up on all of the financial commitments for the year. The Cookie Walk is December 8. Please volunteer to bake and assist to help that morning. Proceeds from that event and a Christmas offering later in the month will go

toward general budget items to cover our year end expenses. Thank you for your support this past year. A strong financial position allows us to continue the ministry that is so important to our congregation, our community and our world.

Expenses	September	October	November (As of November 26)
People	\$4,345.82	\$9,251.50	\$6,535.45
Operations	\$1,845.09	\$1,571.22	\$1,114.73
Programs	748.99	\$748.84	\$847.90
Total	\$6,939.90	\$11,571.56	\$8,498.08
Income			
	\$14,906.69*	\$8,460.50	\$8,322.00



*This figure is higher than the others due to assistance from the Daughenbough Endowment.

\$3,144.00 Outstanding bills as of 11/25/2018

Checkbook balance \$245.81

Warren Zumdahl
Finance Committee Chair

Board of Trustees

Struggle as we may with the 21-year-old mechanicals of the building, we keep finding that God continues to provide for us! We had to repair the furnace in the office and install a new furnace that provides heat for the narthex, hallways and library. The heat exchanger went bad on this unit thus causing the odor we experienced for a few days.

Our front entrance trees are down and Bill Ackerman took charge of getting the stumps removed by Stumpbuster. The trees were causing several problems. In the spring we will have a few roots to dig up and get rid of.

Also, scheduled for the spring is the landscaping. I am excited to see and enjoy the renewed appearance that we will have.

I am asking a favor of all: We know everyone has the church and the building at heart, and that is so appreciated. However, there are people that are contacting contractors for work to be done. These things must go through the Trustees. I am accessible by email or texts as are the other members of the committee.

What's for Dinner? has wrapped up their business at our facility and is now using the kitchen at St. John UCC to do catering. What's for Dinner? Is no longer making daily meals. We wish Dina and Kevin well.

We are saddened at this time of year knowing the changing of committee members. We are excited that Kelli Joy is staying on another 3 years and thank her for her dedication! Rotating off the committee are Jim Aten and Len French. These two men have been a great asset and will be missed. And, we are happy to welcome to the committee Pat Davis and Jerry Donmeyer.

Sherry Cancelose
Board of Trustees Chair



Education

As we come to end of our fall curriculum, "At Home with God," in the One Room Sunday School, we are reminded of the importance of families. We've been learning Bible stories about how families care for children as they grow, build loving relationships and exploring how different families belong in God's big family. In the new winter curriculum, we will continue learning with our Deep Blue Kids and their families. Through our lessons, we'll celebrate Advent with our families, learn of Jesus' work healing and hear stories of families and their faith, traditions and wisdom. We remember the Bible verse: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5) as we welcome 2019 and continue learning and growing in our faith.

On December 23 children ages 3 years through 6th grade are invited to a Christmas Party in the Youth Lounge, 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. We'll share the story of Jesus' birth using our Nativity figures, make a Christmas craft, play games, decorate a Christmas cookie to enjoy with our juice and receive a small Christmas gift bag. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we celebrate the season of Advent with hope, love, joy and peace, children will present a gift of music for the congregation on December 23 at the Time with the Children during the worship service. All children in the congregation are invited join the Jingle Bell Band, ring a bell and help us sing a Christmas song to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. We hope you will join us for the Children's Party and also be a part of the Jingle Bell Band.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts with joy and peace!

Mary French
Church School Superintendent

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

We thank Ruth Carus as she rotates off the committee, and we welcome Voncile Carlson as part of the class of 2021. Also we are glad Kay Meiers and Joann Willits signed up for another three years of service.

In a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our hearts. Crazy weather disasters strike out at unsuspecting areas, ravaging peaceful homes and interrupting the lives of unsuspecting residents. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer. In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, we need the Lord's joy and peace more than ever. I would like to share "My Prayer for You This Christmas" found on the Family International website. The author is Chloe West:

It is not within my power to give you all the special things you need and deserve, so this Christmas I'll offer a prayer for you, asking God to give you His very best. First, I pray for your happiness. The Bible calls it joy. My prayer for you is for joy that lasts even when things don't go just right. Next, I pray for peace in your heart—a sweet knowledge that God is in control and that He won't let anything happen that He and you can't work out together. And a pray for you to have faith—strong faith based on the most wonderful realities of all: God and His love and His promises to you. Last but not least, I pray for you to experience love—great love, overflowing love, patient love, wise love, sweet love, fun love, exciting love, purposeful love, abiding love, strong love, encouraging love, God's love in all its wondrous forms.

The members of S/PRC wish everyone a joyful Christmas: Ralph Blum, Ruth Carus, Mary French, Kay Meiers, Heather Kempel, Rev. Dixie Marklund, Larry J. Phillips, Joann Willits and Diantha Landowski (chair). Contact anyone of us when you have a question or concern, which will be held in confidence.

Diantha Landowski
Staff/Parish Relations Committee Chair



United Methodist Women

The ladies had a very successful Ham Loaf Sale. They made, baked and sold 1,440 ham loaves. They worked very hard, but at the same time had wonderful fellowship together.

Upcoming dates to remember:

December 12	Lunch at Imperial Palace, 11:45 a.m.
December 18	Ruth-Naomi Circle, Potluck dinner, 6:00 p.m., Val Clawson's, 47 N. Bolton Rd.
January	No Meeting, unless needed
February 5	Country Junction, 9:30 a.m., Call to Prayer & Self Denial Program

Mary French & Helen Hoover
UMW Co-Presidents

Ruth-Naomi Circle

Ruth Naomi Circle will meet Tuesday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. at Val Clawson's home at 47 N. Bolton Rd. for a potluck supper. Please bring a dish to pass and join us for a lovely holiday evening of fellowship. In the spirit of giving, we invite you to bring colorful warm socks for children ages Infant through 4-years-old for Mother Hubbard's Kiddie Cupboard. Please call Val at 815-990-8654 if you will be attending and Mary French at 815-232-3072 if you would like a ride. We look forward to seeing you.

Memorials Committee

Funds have been received for a new memorial, in memory of Pat Smith, with \$300.00 of this fund designated for use by the UMW.

The Memorials Committee has agreed to provide funds, if needed, to help pay for the new furnace that has recently been installed.

MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Greeters, ushers, liturgists, acolytes, child-care providers, van drivers and Fellowship Time hosts are needed every Sunday and communion servers the first Sunday of each month. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call one of the coordinators listed :

Coordinators:

Acolytes: Mary French (815-232-3072)
Altar Flowers: Deb Dickinson (217-840-1468)

Greeters: Russ & Barb Lesikow (815-235-3433)
Liturgists: Mary Zumdaahl (815-563-4198)

Child Care:	Mary French (815-232-3072)	Ushers:	Mary Zumdahl (815-563-4198) Cindy Vinck, as of January 1 (815-616-8913)
Communion:	Willits (815-291-4803)	Van Drivers:	Larry J. Phillips (815-291-0343)
Fellowship Time:	Mary French, Heather Kempel (815-233-0366), Pat Sellman (815-233-0453), Mary Zumdahl		

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to serve please contact the appropriate coordinator(s).

VAN MINISTRY: Dedicated to transporting to and from church people who would otherwise be unable to have fellowship and worship services of our church. We want to ensure that our members who need a ride to church have one. If you would be interested in driving or are in need of a ride, please contact Van Ministry Coordinator Larry J. Phillips (815-297-1447 or 815-291-0347).



MEALS ON WHEELS: Our next Meals on Wheels Week is January 14. Drivers and runners are needed to deliver meals to those who cannot get out and shop for themselves. It takes about a hour of your time. We meet at the hospital at 10:30 a.m. We are down to one route and will be delivering every 15 weeks. Please call Helen Hoover (815-232-6588) to volunteer or for more information.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: If you knit or crochet, please join us 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the church. Also, we have a nice selection of shawls, so if you know someone that is ill or homebound please feel free to take a shawl. We just need the number from the card on the shawl and who you are giving it to. Please give this information to a prayer shawl ministry member or to Liz in the church office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Come join us for a great time of fellowship at 8:00 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at the Big Apple restaurant on Galena Avenue, just east of Park Boulevard. If you need a ride, call Pastor Cal (815-908-0289) or Larry J. Phillips (815-291-1447)

FREEPORT AREA CHURCH COOPERATIVE: No collection in December.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S KIDDIE CUPBOARD: The church collects the following items to supply the store: disposable diapers (all sizes), blankets (baby and adult), toys (infant-3 years old) clothing (infant-3T), children's books, baby lotion, baby swings, baby wipes, baby food, deodorant, high chairs, pacifiers, strollers, sleepwear, bath soap, toothpaste, hair brushes, toothbrushes, socks/booties, laundry detergent, etc.



First UMC members who volunteered at FHN:

Bill Ackerman, 3,500 hours
Barb Mertins, 6,500 hours
Bob Wachlin, 5,500 hours
Juanita Wachlin, 6,000 hours



For those families that are not celebrating Christmas together because of family feud.

For those who are celebrating Christmas for the first time sober.

For those that are still grieving the loss of a loved one, that they find comfort during the Christmas season.

Worship Assistants in December

	<u>Greeters (2)</u>	<u>Ushers (3)</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
December 2	Bob & Barb Cable	Ralph & Judy Blum, Norm Carpenter	Kim Briggs, Marylee Renner	NEEDED
December 9	Kim Briggs, Marylee Renner	Jerry & Betty Donmeyer, Grace Plowman	Gerry Regez, Joann Willits	Jim Aten Dorothy Musieiski
December 16	Rev. Dixie Marklund Joanne Willits	Merle & Val Clawson, Larry J. Phillips	NEEDED	NEEDED
December 23	Karen & Jim Gapinski	Norm Carpenter, Larry & Pam Wieck	NEEDED	NEEDED
December 24	Russ & Barb Lestikow	Homer & Kay Meiers, LeRoy & Pat Jensen		
December 30	Ron & Cindy Vinck	Jim & Karen Gapinski, Mary Zumdahl	NEEDED	NEEDED
	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Child Care</u>	<u>Van Drivers</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
December 2	Val Clawson	Mary French & Sue Zink	Larry J. Phillips	Jennifer T.
December 9	Sherry Cancelose	Mary French & Sue Zink	Larry J. Phillips	Jennifer T.
December 16	Patrick Davis	Mary French & Sue Zink	Larry J. Phillips	Jennifer T.
December 23	Jeannine Hugill	Mary French & Sue Zink	Larry J. Phillips	Jennifer T.
December 24	Warren Zumdahl		Larry J. Phillips	
December 30	Norm Carpenter	Mary French & Sue Zink	Larry J. Phillips	Jennifer T.
	<u>Communion Servers</u>			
December 2	Jeannine Hugill Pat Sellman			

Worship Assistants in January are Needed



We wish to thank our church for letting our two daughters and son plan a surprise 65th Anniversary Party for us on November 11. So with the help of Dottie Emmo, Mary French, Jan Heffner and Linda Schuler we had the best surprise party ever. Thank you to these ladies and all of our church family who sent cards or came on that day to make it so special.

God Bless you all,
Homer and Kay Meiers

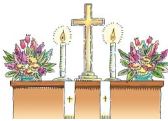


Help is needed packing and delivering Christmas baskets for FACC. Monday, December 17, 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary's gym, 725 S. State Street, Christmas baskets will be packed. Saturday, December 22, the baskets will be delivered, starting at 10:00 a.m.

FACC Church Delegates,
Sue Zink and Helen Hoover



Sponsor or so-sponsor one of our weekly radio broadcasts! If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please call the office. The cost of each broadcast is \$50. You can co-sponsor a broadcast by teaming up with someone and sharing the cost. Please pay for the broadcast prior to the Sunday you are sponsoring. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church with a memo, "Radio Broadcast."



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the Sunday worship service, please call Deb Dickinson (217-840-1468). The flowers are \$10 for one vase. Flowers must be paid for prior to the Sunday you have selected. If paying by check, please make it payable to Deininger's. Also, we would appreciate your returning the insert/vase to the church sanctuary so that we don't have to pay for one each Sunday.



- 8 Jim & the late Rose Aten
- 21 Hollie & Pat Sellman
- 23 Linda & the late Charlie Schuler
- Scott & Megan Spahr



- 4 Rosemary & the late Dick Frende



- 2 Kay Meiers
- 3 Bill Ackerman
- 6 Kelli Joy
- Evelyn Mrkvicka
- 8 Heather Lestikow
- 12 Norma White
- 13 Ace Tallman
- 20 Dottie Emo
- 24 Kaylee Sanzenbacher
- 25 Alex Spahr
- 29 Duane Smith
- 30 Landon Baumgartner
- Karen Gapinski
- Sherry Harris
- Greg Kempel
- 31 Heather Kempel

Please call the office (815-232-6210) if you would like us to place you or a loved one on the prayer chain.



- 1 Judy Blum
- 5 Robert Horton
- 10 Sherry Cancelose
- 12 Voncile Carlson
- 13 Angela Hiteman
- Rusty Joy
- Cody Lindenman
- 16 Pat Sellman
- 17 Ralph Blum
- John Tallman
- 18 Cassidy Joy
- 20 Cindy Bessert
- 22 Brad Meiers
- 27 Christopher Lestikow
- 28 LeRoy Jensen
- Jerry Rule
- 29 Madison Kuehl
- Homer Meiers



Just a thank you to all of you who have said "yes" to me when I have asked you to usher during the five years that I have been the usher coordinator. Cindy Vinck is taking over the position, so please continue to volunteer! Every Sunday three ushers are needed, as well as a liturgist, a greeter, treats for fellowship time, etc. There are many ways in which you can help make our worship services inviting!!

Thanks, Mary Zumdaahl

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast (Big)
2 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	3	4 5:15 p.m. Prayer Group	5 6:30 p.m. FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting	6 11:30 a.m. Hunger Luncheon (Wagner House) 2:00 p.m. Advent Book Discussion 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	7	8 9:00 a.m. Annual First UMC Cookie Walk 
9 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	10	11 11:45 a.m. UMW Christmas (Imperial Palace)	12 11:45 a.m. Lunch with the Pastor (Country Junction) 6:30 p.m. S/PRC Meeting	13 2:00 p.m. Advent Book Discussion 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship (Welcome new members Wayne & Kay Walker) 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	17 8:30 a.m. Packing FACC Christmas Baskets (St. Mary's Gym, 725 S. State St.	18 6:00 p.m. Ruth- Naomi Circle Potluck (Val Clawson's home) 7:00 p.m. Comfort Christmas Service (Faith UMC)	19 6:30 p.m. 	20 2:00 p.m. Advent Book Discussion 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	21	22 10:00 a.m. FACC Christmas Basket Delivery (St. Mary's, 725 S. State St.)
23 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Fellowship	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve 	25 	26 6:30 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting	27 2:00 p.m. Advent Book Discussion 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	31					



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 p.m. FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting	3 2:00 p.m. Advent Book Discussion 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast (Big Apple)
6 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	7 1:30 p.m.  Prayer Shawl Ministry Knitting	8 5:15 p.m. Prayer Group	9 6:30 p.m. S/PRC Meeting	10 6:30 p.m.  Choir Rehearsal	11 12
13 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	14	15 5:15 p.m. Prayer Group	16 11:45 a.m. Lunch with the Pastor (Country Junction) 6:30 p.m.  BOARD of TRUSTEES Meeting	17 6:30 p.m.  Choir Rehearsal	18 19
20 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	21	22 5:15 p.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Ruth- Naomi Circle	23 6:30 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting	24 6:30 p.m.  Choir Rehearsal	25 26
27 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time	28	29 9:30 a.m. District Local Pastors 5:15 p.m. Prayer Group	30 5:30 5th Wednesday Dinner	31 6:30 p.m.  Choir Rehearsal	30



First United Methodist Church

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Email Address: fumchurch1@frontier.com
Website: www.firstumcfreeport.org
Facebook: Freeport First United Methodist Church

Catch the Spirit!

9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship Celebration
11:30 a.m.	Radio Broadcast (WFRL AM 1570)

Rev. Calvin B. Haines, Jr., Pastor

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

