The Herald

The deadline for the next issue of the Herald is Friday, December 12th at noon. Information can be mailed to the church, or emailed to media@waterloofirst.org. Please clearly mark the item for the Herald or the bulletin.

Pastor's Column

A Different Kind of Christmas

Every year, we come to the Christmas season with joy and anticipation. We tell ourselves that we’re going to focus on the reason of the season and that we will cut back, simplify, and focus on the presence of God in our lives and not just the presents that we give to one another. But then we seem to get caught up in preparing for holiday meals, football games, and advertisements for the next newest and greatest thing that we never new we needed before. The busyness of the season can rob us of the peace and joy that Jesus came to give us.

This Christmas, we’re going to cut through the holiday hype that leaves us exhausted and broke as we explore a different kind of Christmas, one where we experience peace and hope in knowing that God is with us as we find ways to give back to God and one another by sharing the Good News that Jesus Christ is born. Throughout Advent, we’ll see that our faith calls us to expect miracles, give up on being perfect, feel the scandalous love of God, learn what’s on Jesus’ wish list, and head into the new year by a different road, inspired and changed by the birth of the Christ child.

I hope that you can find peace and hope this holiday season as we journey through advent together. To help you study and grow in your faith this Advent, each Sunday we will have a GPS in the bulletin (Grow, Pray, and Study). These GPS guides will help you and your family learn more about the messages each week and give you another way to remember the reason of the season. If you want to learn even more, I’d invite you to pick up a copy of the book, “Christmas Is Not Your Birthday” by Mike Slaughter and the accompanying devotional book, “A Different Kind of Christmas.”

You’re not going to want to miss this Advent at Waterloo First. It’s going to be a great Christmas season and so I hope and pray that you can find a way to share the holiday joy with your friends, coworkers, and neighbors, by inviting them with you to church, sharing a GPS with them, or bring them to our choir performance of special kids program with crafts and fun to follow.

Merry Christmas
Pastor Nate
Our youth are supported, in part, by our "Support the Youth and Save" program. Church members and business owners pass savings on to you and help our youth group at the same time. If you'd like to know more about the businesses that support our children and youth, contact the people below:

Jessica Crouch, Shaklee Consultant, 319-504-6689, Jessica@OrganizeAnywhere.com
Gloria Walker, Tastefully Simple Consultant, 319-235-6214, gloriawalker46@yahoo.com
Tammi Knipp, Mary Kay Cosmetics, 319-232-4756, tknipp@marykay.com.

They raised $94.97 in October
December Usher Team
Larry Baker, Arlet Cassaidy, Scott Garmager,
Dick Hockey, Larry Ryan, Phil Schoessler

December Fellowship Servers
7th - Sarah Circle
14th - Betsy Bentley, Sue Carver, Judy Shepard,
Kelsey & Kendra Parker
21st - Deb Stephens, Missie Sturch, Jack Kuper,
Jackie Garmager, Brian Butz,
28th - Jack Smith, Reid Corson, Ann Walker,
Mark Ganske

United Methodist Women

December 2013
Bible Verse: Isaiah 60: 1 (NRSV)
Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of
the Lord has risen upon you.

Saturday, December 3
Executive Board Meeting: 12:00 a.m. in the
Dinette

Thursday, December 11
Sarah Circle: 6:30
Christmas Party
Hostess: Sally Thurman
Co-Hostess: Jessica Crouch

12/6 – The United Methodist Men will be meeting at the Village in Friendship Village at 8 am for breakfast.
Bill Winder is hosting.

Christmas Cantata
Please join the Chancel Choir on Sunday, December 14th during 9:30 worship as they perform the Christmas Cantata;
“Together for Christmas”

2015 Altar Flowers
The sign up sheet for the new year is on the bulletin board in VonLackum Lounge. Honor or memorialize a loved one with altar flowers, the cost is $25.

The friends and family of Sandra Cassaidy
Adult and children’s Sunday School classes meet Sundays at 10:45 am.

Childcare is available.

Pre-K - 5th grade: room 112
Taught by Pam Tallman & Tammi Knipp & Susie Karns

Jr. High/Sr. High Classes: meet in Youth room
Taught by Rev. Nate Nims

Cum Deo: meet in the Fireside Room
November 23: Living the Questions— Sam Anderson
November 30: Living the Questions— Sally Thurman
December 7: Bob Dise— The Tortured Souls of Our Great Theologians
December 14: Bob Dise-Noisy Coin
December 21: Bob Dise
December 28— No Class

Genesis: meet in the dinette
Animate— Faith
Searchers: meet in the Wesley Room
Young Adults: meets in the nursery
When Christians Get it Wrong

December 7, 14 and 21
Professor Bob Dise will be speaking in the Fireside Room. His topic will be “The Tortured Souls of Our Great Theologians: Paul, Augustine and Luther.” Everyone is welcome!

WORK NIGHT at the NE IOWA FOOD BANK
No work nights until January
Stay tuned for the date.
Hope to see you there!

COOKIES FOR SALE
Sarah Circle will be selling cookies
December 7th in Hartman Hall during fellowship
Proceeds to be donated to the JOB Foundation
During our October 13-15, 2014 food packing event for Feed My Starving Children, 771 volunteers packed 171,072 meals; which is 8,000 more meals than we have ever packed! 468 kids will get 1 meal every day for the next year!

Another milestone was that in the 8 years we have hosted and packed for FMSC, the Tuesday, October 14th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm session assembled the 1,000,000th meal packed here at Westminster! That number is because of you and your support!

More funds were donated than needed to pay the bill. These extra funds will be used to help pay for our 2015 packing!

Thank you to all those who supported FMSC in one way or another.

We also thank the Lord for his blessing of this event and the opportunity he has provided us with to help save as many lives as possible.

We already are looking forward to next year!

Blessings to you all!

Marv DeWaard
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Thank you, thank you to all of the drivers who volunteered to help with transportation for Music Mania. Your willingness to drive one, two and some even three weeks has made this session go so smoothly.

Thank you Don and Sue Carver, Sharon Miller and Lois Schultz, Kathy and Rick McFarland, Larry and Prudy Klinger, Larry and Lauraine Baker, Howard and Roberta Craven, Lois and Phil Miller, Lynn Kloberdanz and Dorothy Wright, Larry and Vicky Bjortomt and Bev and Stan McCadam.

Also, appreciation goes to Pastor Nate and some of the trustees for their help with opening and closing the church for our sessions.

Everyone helped make this the best ‘semester’ yet!

Feed My Starving Children Thanks!

Thank you to all those who donated time and/or money to the Feed My Starving Children food packing event at Westminster Presbyterian church. This year, a total of 771 volunteers from around the community packed 171,072 meals over the course of three-day event. That means 468 kids will get a meal every day for the next year!

We are grateful for all those who contributed to this effort and we thank you on behalf of the 468 children whose lives have now been changed!

Pam Hickman
Matthew 25 Committee
Because of Your

 Faith

It is hard to believe but we are in our 6th week of the fall Musicmania and Me session. Once again WFUMC members have shown their support for this program. Because of you, the church was always open, warm and ready to welcome the 25 children and their families. Because of you, full and partial scholarships were awarded to 24 of the children. Because of you, teachers have worked hard to provide lessons each week. Because of you, transportation has been organized and people have offered to drive 7 children who had no other way to get here. Because of you, treats were provided and enjoyed each week. Because of you, we were able to provide a violin for one student who is now taking lessons from a teacher from UNI’s Community Music School. Because of you, another child has a piano at his home to practice on after receiving lessons from UNI’s Piano Department once a week after school.

Bottom line: Because of your faith and willingness to share it, Musicmania and Me exists and is thriving. To God be the glory! Thank you!

Musicmania and Me will have two performances. They will perform at the November 19th Dinner with Neighbors and during the final class, December 9th.
JOIN US TO RETHINK WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT.

This holiday season, let's rediscover the hope and promise of Christmas
November 30: Expect a Miracle
December 7: Giving up on Perfect and Children's Program "Christ is Born"
December 14: Scandalous Love
December 21: Jesus' Wish List and Choir Cantata "Together for Christmas"
December 24: By a Different Road

FINDING THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

That's Church.
waterloofirst.org
Pastor Nate will be having an open house at the parsonage on Sunday, December 21st from 5-8pm. 930 Sunrise, Waterloo, Iowa. Everyone is Welcome!

Cedar Valley Christmas
Presented by the Boys & Girls Club of America
Monday, December 1
7:00 pm
Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center
Cedar Falls
Lobby opens at 6:30 pm
Tickets:
Www.cedarvalleyclubs.org
319-234-2839

Youth Calendar Sales
The 2015 God’s Creation Calendar’s are Here!
Calendars available in Hartman Hall after worship or in the office during the week.
$10 each
"What do you give that person that has everything for Christmas?"

The Matthew 25 Committee has the answer.

What do you get the person that already has everything for Christmas? How about a gift that will make you as the giver feel good, the honorary recipient feel proud, and a complete stranger feel healthier, warmer and more self reliant!

The Matthew 25 Committee’s Christmas Bazaar is right around the corner and we just happen to have that exact gift!

Members of the Matthew 25 Committee will be in Hartmann Hall during Fellowship time on 11/30, 12/7 & 12/14. This year the Matthew 25 Committee is spotlighting The Heifer Project and the Blanket Program through Church World Service.

We hope you stop by the bazaar to do some Christmas shopping!

Christmas Crafts for Kids

On December 7th we will have the children's Christmas show and an opportunity to bring together our church family with the Burmese congregation. We will have Christmas crafts together with all the kids in Hartman Hall following the service and fellowship time. This would be a one time combined Sunday School class where simple holiday crafts could give us the time and space to get to know each other better.
This month on Facebook, I have seen daily posts from several friends about their reasons to give thanks. I love the reminder this time of year to look for the blessings in every day. In addition to giving thanks for another fun, blessed, healthy year, I feel especially thankful this year for a healthy baby. What reasons do you have to give thanks this year? Whether that includes health or the opportunity to improve your health starting today, have you thought about paying it forward with a gift of health this holiday season? I know we will draw names for my husband’s family at Thanksgiving and start discussing present ideas on the drive home—sound familiar? Consider this list of fun holiday presents (with or without a coordinating gift basket) that include an experiential gift based on the Power 9™. Happy Thanksgiving!

Move naturally: a day pass for the SportsPlex and a gift card to a sporting goods store
Know your purpose: a gift card to yoga
Down shift: a gift card to the spa
80% rule: a holiday dish set
Plant slant: a gift card to RiverLoop Co-op
Wine at 5: a ticket to one of our local wine events
Right tribe: a ticket to one of our local fundraising events
Community: a ticket to a church dinner
Loved ones first: a ticket to a family holiday event

Here’s the update on Irving Walking School Bus pilot with First United Methodist Church in Waterloo.

Because of the early arrival of winter the Walking School Bus will be postponed until spring. Once we start, we will run on Wednesday’s only, before and after school.

Look for more details to come as we get closer to spring, but here are some details to give you an idea of what the program is about.

**Purpose**
We want to encourage healthy exercise, positive interactions with caring adults, lower pollution, and reduced car traffic/congestion at Irving

**Qualification**
All volunteers should be approved by the District. An application form is available on the District web site. Volunteers should carry their personal cell phone for emergencies.

**Volunteer Rosters**
We need a minimum of 4 adult volunteers for each walking event. We will try to staff 6–4 regular and two backups. A volunteer who cannot attend should contact the backup (provided in advance on the roster sheet).

**Stay Tuned.....**
## Birthdays

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## Christmas Cookies Needed

Cookies are still needed for our December Meal with Neighbors. This is going to be an extra special dinner for our friends and neighbors and the cookies will be packaged as a little take home treat. If you can donate 3 dozen cookies and have them to the church by Monday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m. (you could bring them Sunday the 14th), please let Bev McCadam know. (236-3658)

## TIME FOR MEDICARE PART D CHECK-UP

Doing a Medicare Part D check-up is just as important as a yearly check-up with your doctor. Plans can change from year to year so don’t assume the plan you’re happy with this year will necessarily be the best one for you in 2015. Last fall approximately 80% of the people who compared plans with the help of the State of Iowa’s Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) saved money by changing plans for the next year.

Counselors from SHIIP, based locally at RSVP on Kimball Avenue, are ready to help with your Part D check-up. They have information about Medicare prescription drug plans for 2015. They are available to answer any questions you have, help you compare plans and assist with enrollment in a plan you choose. October 15 – December 7 is the annual election period for Part D when you can change plans for 2015 or enroll in a plan if you missed the deadline for enrolling earlier. Call 272-2250 for an appointment with a SHIIP counselor. It is both free and confidential. Don’t wait until the last minute to explore your options. The last two weeks before December 7 will be busy for the plans, Medicare and SHIIP.

Please note on the calendar the change in office hours for the week of last week of December.
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View online calendar at [http://www.waterloofirst.org/#/calendar](http://www.waterloofirst.org/#/calendar)
If you would like to purchase holiday poinsettia(s) in honor of or in memory of someone, please fill out this form and return it to the church office by December 17th.

Each poinsettia is $11.00, please make checks payable to: Waterloo First United Methodist Church.
The poinsettias are used to decorate the altar through our Christmas Eve services and may be picked up following the 7:00 pm service.

My Name: ________________________________
Phone: __________________________________

I would like my poinsettia(s) to be “In Honor” or “In loving Memory” of: (please circle one)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

From: ____________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

☐ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after 7:00 pm worship service on Dec. 24.
☐ Please take my poinsettia(s) to a shut-in.
☐ I would be willing to deliver poinsettias to shut-ins.