

The Window

December 2017 Newsletter



First United Methodist Church

974 6th Street

Windom MN 56101

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www.windomfumc.org



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Christmas...and the “Good Ol’ Days”

Nothing makes us reminisce or become nostalgic like the Christmas holiday season. Whether it’s hearing the opening notes of “O Tannenbaum” from The Charlie Brown Christmas program, or just seeing that first house with Christmas lights after dark, we start to remember...



...and what do we remember? The Good Ol’ Days. The Sears Christmas Toy Catalog (“The Wishbook”), the store window displays with Santa, elves and reindeer, while Burl Ives singing “Have a Holly-Jolly Christmas” blares through cheap speakers. Stringing *real* popcorn on thread to hang on the tree – and those icicles all over the living room. And yes, WAY too many sets of lights plugged into one single outlet!

We remember the smells of favorite Christmas recipes (from Peanut Brittle to pie to yet another turkey!), piling into the car in the snow (with no seat belts!) to go to Grandpa and Grandma’s, and having to play the part of a donkey or sheep yet again in the church Christmas program (“Why don’t I ever get to be Joseph [or Mary]?”).

If you find yourself longing for Christmas to be a little more “old fashioned,” maybe a little less commercial, a little less plastic (and less paid for with plastic!), then let me offer you a simple invitation:

Take back Christmas by taking up Advent. Put the observation of Advent before Christmas this year, and see if it doesn’t help—not only to bring back an “old fashioned Christmas,” but also to bring back the wonder and anticipation you felt about Christmas so long ago.

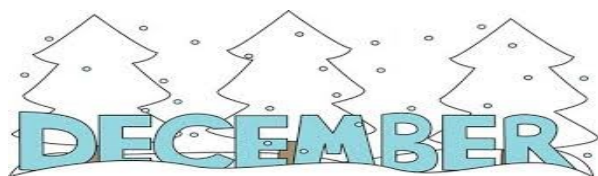
Advent is the four weeks before Christmas day. Each Sunday during Advent in worship we will be challenged to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus the Christ-child, the Son of God. We will sing the favorite Christmas carols and hymns. We will light Advent Candles. The message each week will invite us to hear the good news that God has moved into our neighborhood here on earth, and he invites us to once again open His gift given especially to each one of us.

We are doing a four week study called “Because of Bethlehem.” There are groups meeting on Sunday morning and throughout the week (for high school and adults) that give you a place to listen, learn and be part of a community of fellow travelers seeking to experience the wonder of Christmas.

If you find yourself becoming a Grinch or a Scrooge around this time of year because everything seems out of control and completely missing the point of Christmas, then I invite you to rediscover the warmth, the hope, the promise and love of Christmas once again. Join us each Sunday during December – and don’t forget that on Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) we don’t have a morning worship service – instead there are two Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

I look forward to seeing you during these days of awe and wonder! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Mike



Join us

Saturday, December 24

4:00pm or 6:00pm

for a traditional Christmas Eve

Candlelight and Carols service

Celebration of Life

The lives of Dennis Frederickson and Neal Grunewald were celebrated in November. Funeral services were held for Dennis on November 22nd, and for Neal on November 25th. They will both be missed by so many.



Festival of Trees

Our congregation has a Christmas tree on display to represent our church at the Cottonwood County Historical Society.

In recent years, our church has been the only one represented with a tree at this event. Please visit and vote for our tree display Dec. 1—23.

Special thanks to Arleen Rodman and Terri Jones who setup and decorated our tree!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rick Frederickson, who has begun the process to become a Licensed Local Pastor!

Chamber Coffee will be hosted by First UMC!

**Friday, December 1
10:00am**

in the church lobby. Everyone is welcome—please come and help us extend friendship to the community through this outreach event.



A big **Thank You** to all the ladies and men who decorated our church so beautifully!



Inclement Weather

When Windom schools close due to inclement weather, church activities will also be canceled. A group may decide to meet despite the school closure; that decision will be made by the group leader. If you have any questions about your activity's status, please contact your group leader. The church will normally close during these winter weather school closures.

For winter weather closings, please listen to the following for information:

KDOM Windom 1580am
KKOJ Jackson 1190am
Windom cable channel 3
Windom cable channel 24

Like our FaceBook page for weather-related postings: [Facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom)





An Invitation...

Individuals, couples and families are invited to light our Advent candles Sundays December 3, 10, and 24th (4PM), and to read our Advent reading. If you are willing to participate, or if you have questions, please contact Becki Wormstadt or the church office at 831-3284 or umcvolunteer@windomnet.com.



McPrayer!

Who: Students in grades 7 through 12

What: McPrayer is a gathering of students who come for breakfast, devotions, and to pray.

When: Fridays @ 6:30am during the school year

Where: McDonald's

Cost: Free to you

All students are welcome; you do not need to be from our congregation. If you need transportation to or from McPrayer, please call the church office. Adults are also welcome to help with McPrayer!



Two opportunities to spread cheer!

Caroling Around the Square

Thursday December 14 @ 5:30pm
- we'll meet at the church to carpool.

Caroling at the Good Sam Campus

Sunday December 17 @ 11:30am (right after the service). Afterward, we'll gather at the church for a pizza lunch. All ages are welcome and encouraged to come!

United Methodist Women Calendar



United
Methodist
Women

Executive Meeting 9:30am Tues. Dec. 5

Lois Circle: 3:30pm Wed. Dec. 6

Pie Social at Sogge Chapel 2:00pm Thurs. Dec. 7

Friendship Circle: 10:00am Wed. Dec. 13 at the church

Did you know that you can provide your financial offerings to the church by automatic withdrawal?

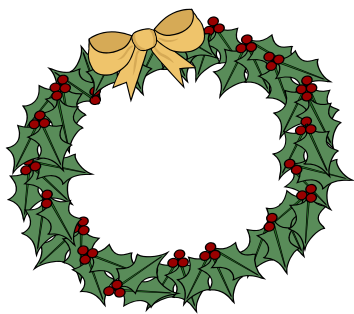
You control the amount and how it is directed (budget, missions, capital, loan, etc), and you can change it at any time. Automatic giving can be set up with any bank in the U.S.

Contact the church office for a form; we can put it in your church mailbox, or send it by mail or email. You are also welcome to use the yellow pew cards to let us know if you are interested.

**SHARING
BRINGS JOY**
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.



First UMC Finance Committee



Christian Education

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

DECEMBER 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Youth group will meet December 3rd. Junior high at 5:00 and Senior high at 6:30
- KFC will not meet Dec 6th. We will have Christmas program practice instead.
- Sunday School Christmas Program Dec 10th
- Entire congregation invited to go caroling to the Good Samaritan Center on December 17th. Youth group will meet following pizza.

The Sunday School classes PreK—6th grade invite you to our Christmas program to be held on December 10th during our church service at 10:00.

This year's program is titled "Journey to Bethlehem"

The children and Sunday school volunteers are busy preparing for this special day.

Thank you to all who are sharing their time in helping to prepare for this program!

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

November 29th for 3-6th graders.

December 6th for Pre-K through 6th grade.

We will practice from 5:30-6:30 each of these nights. Supper will not be provided this year. If you are unable to make it, please let Miranda or Robin know.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Caroling!!

Our church family & friends will be caroling after church at the Good Samaritan Campus on December 17th. After we are done caroling we will go back to the church for a pizza lunch.

Youth Group

ALL YOUTH will be busy on Dec 17th. We will be greeting and lighting the Advent candles during worship. We will then go caroling and enjoy pizza with others. Then we will meet in the youth room for a church service project and our Christmas party. Don't forget our Christmas sock gift exchange!



No Sunday School December 24th and December 31st
Classes resume Jan. 7th



We hope everyone is enjoying the *Because of Bethlehem* study. Because of Bethlehem, we have a Savior in heaven! A Savior who loves us and understands when we talk to him about every problem we face. He understands because He has been *here*! If you haven't joined us in this study, *it is not too late*! There are 5 different opportunities to choose from!

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
MAX LUCADO



BECAUSE OF
Bethlehem

LOVE IS BORN
HOPE IS HERE



Thank you to everyone who either donated baked goods or purchased baked goods at the youth bake sale on November 18th!

And thanks to all the youth that helped make the sale a success!



9 junior high youth and 3 chaperones enjoyed a weekend at Cragun's resort in Brainerd for "the Event". Named and Claimed was a success! Everyone had a good time. We would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and support. It is a very inspiring weekend. Huge THANK YOUS to Sarah Smith and Danny Martinez for chaperoning. It was a great Weekend!



Thank you to everyone who helped with Operation Christmas Child. Whether you donated items, monies, or helped pack boxes, it was all appreciated. We ended up with 23 boxes. THANK YOU!!





Our 3rd and 4th grade class at FUMC has been **BUSY!**

They have packed UMCOR hurricane relief kits and Operation Christmas Child boxes.

This class also participates in our KFC group which meets the first Wednesday of every month.

Their latest project is rehearsing for our Christmas Program, "*Journey to Bethlehem*" which they are looking forward to presenting to the congregation on December 10th.

This class is led by their fearless leader Sarah Smith. They also enjoy when Jordan Smith comes to help out!



**3RD-4TH
GRADE
TEACHER
SARAH
SMITH**



Local Food Shelf

The Cottonwood County Sharing Center Food Shelf is in need of donations. Food donations are always welcome, and donations of money are even more helpful. They have sources where each dollar buys far more than what we can buy. Checks can be written to the church; please mark them for 'Food Shelf'.



Our 2018 **First Things** radio ministry calendar is now available. The first sponsorship opening is Sunday March 4th. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast for \$34, or if you have questions, please contact the church office at 831-3284 or by email at umcoffice@windomnet.com.



Christmas Cheer Box

For Infant to age 18 years old in Cottonwood County

Our church is collecting NEW toys, clothes, mittens, hats, etc. And cash donations for

Cottonwood County children under 18 years old. Cash donations can be made out to the church with Christmas Cheer Box in the memo. The collection deadline at the church is Tuesday, December 5.

For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11



The 2017 Hope 4 Christmas Giving Guides are available in the church lobby, or by email on request. There are suggested prices in every range to bless others through this mission outreach.



Jesus
Is THE GIFT

The Cottonwood County **Salvation Army** invites you to "Ring the Bell" to help children and families in need here in our county. Money raised provides "emergency temporary help to those who cannot be filled through normal government agencies", and 88% of the money donated here stays in our county to help our neighbors and friends.



Please volunteer! There are 2 hour timeslots available at HyVee & Shopko from now through Dec. 31. Please call Deb at 507-830-1498 to help.





Y U T H
❄️
WINTER RETREAT

prairie river camp | bricelyn, mn

MARCH 16-18 \$85/PERSON
grades six through twelve

for more information
contact a retreat coordinator

russ jacobson (507)600-9155
ashley swoboda (813)504-5100



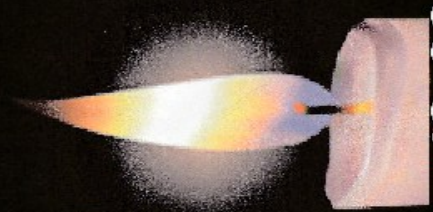
The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all
children who have died

Worldwide Candle Lighting®

... that their light
may always shine.

Sunday, December 10, 2017
7 PM Around the Globe



*For parents & families of children who have died.
A special time to honor/remember their children.*

Festival of Trees gallery, Cottonwood County Historical Museum
812 4th Ave, Windom, MN Doors open at 6:15 PM.

Materials provided to make a special ornament for your child
or bring one to add to the Children's Tree.
Time for sharing photos, memories of your child.
Refreshments after.

All are welcome!



Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

All United Methodist churches are connected through shared mission and ministry and united in their efforts to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. Check out these news tidbits from the Minnesota Annual Conference, which serves all 360 United Methodist churches in the state.

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- **Conversations on a Way Forward with Bishop Ough:** The United Methodist Council of Bishops formed the Commission on a Way Forward in 2016 to assist them in finding a way forward through the denomination's four-decade-long divide on the matter of homosexuality. This fall, Bishop Bruce R. Ough is hosting regional conversations across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area regarding the Commission's work. He is eager to keep you informed about the Commission's deliberations and progress, and gather your thoughts about a way forward. He is interested to dialogue about how you see The United Methodist Church remaining united in the presence of significant cultural, regional, and theological differences. To learn more and sign up for a gathering, go to www.tinyurl.com/wayforwardconversations.
 - **Missionaries making a difference:** Did you know that The United Methodist Church supports missionaries working in more than 60 countries around the world? More than a dozen have direct relationships with churches in the Minnesota Conference, and two missionaries recently visited Minnesota to talk about their work. Paul Webster, who runs Mujila Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia, has played a key role in creating a robust local economy that feeds people and provides them income; he also trains pastors and lay people on how to make worship a mountaintop

experience. And Quynh-Hoa Nguyen is training lay people throughout Vietnam; she's started a Bibles and backpacks program to prepare kids for school, a health kits program to increase access to health services, and a used clothing program to benefit the poorest communities. To learn about how your church can form a covenant relationship with a missionary, visit www.minnesotaumc.org/missionaries.

- **Emma Norton Services Orange Door Day on Oct. 28:** Emma Norton Services—which provides housing and support services for homeless, women, children, and families who have the added challenge of mental illness and/or chemical dependency—is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. You're invited to make your day make a difference by bringing a group from your church to the organization's first annual Orange Door Day on Oct. 28. Join other members of the Minnesota Conference and United Methodist Women as they work to paint, refurbish, and redecorate each room at Emma Norton Residence in St. Paul. Then, come to a celebration thanking those who helped start Emma Norton 100 years ago. Register at www.tinyurl.com/orangedoorday.

BRIGHT SPOT IN OUR MIDST

- **Hubbard UMC hosts renewal event for 200:** On Sept. 14 and 15, Hubbard UMC—which worships 80 to 100 for most of the year—hosted a "Breakthrough Renewal Institute" that welcomed 200 clergy and lay people from 70 churches across the Minnesota Conference. The event included three dynamic worship services and 11 breakthrough workshops on topics ranging from breakthrough prayer to building an active youth group. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Thanks be to God for Hubbard UMC's leadership and radical hospitality!

STAY CONNECTED!

"Like" the Minnesota Annual Conference on Facebook, follow the conference on Twitter and Instagram (@MinnesotaUMC), and sign up (at www.minnesotaumc.org) for e-newsletters. For more information about any of the items listed above, visit www.minnesotaumc.org.

First United Methodist Church ~December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00a Sun School 9:00 Adult Groups 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things Radio 5:00p MS Youth 6:30 HS Youth	4	5 9:30a UMW Executive Meeting 6:00p Worship Broadcast Ch 3	6 9a Bible Study 3:30p Lois Circle 5:30 Program Practice 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Bible Study	7 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's 2:00p UMW Pie Social at Sogge Home	1 6:30a McPrayer at McDonalds 10:00 Chamber Coffee – hosted by and at First UMC. <hr/> 8 6:30a McPrayer	2 <hr/> 9
10 9:00a Sun School 9:00 Adult Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship Service Children's Christmas Program 11:30 First Things Radio	11	12 12:30p Missions Team 6:00 Worship Broadcast on Cable Channel 3	13 9:00a Bible Study 10:00 Friendship Circle @ Church 6:30p Confirmation 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Trustee Mtg 7:30 Finance Mtg	14 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's 5:30p Caroling Around the Square	15 6:30a McPrayer at McDonalds	16
17 9:00a Sun School 9:00 Adult Groups 9:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things 11:30 Caroling 12:30 Pizza Lunch 1:00 All Youth	18	19 6:00p Worship Broadcast on Cable Channel 3	20 9a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	21 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardee's	22 6:30a McPrayer at McDonalds	23 Our church tree display at Historical Society - Last Day
24 Christmas Eve 11:30 First Things Radio Candlelight Services 4:00pm 6:00pm 	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 6:00p Worship Broadcast on Cable Channel 3	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 First Things Radio					Historical Society Tree Display Dec 1-22 Vote for our First UMC Tree!	

First UMC Birthdays & Anniversaries ~December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 Danielle Ambrose Jan Dehmlow Savannah Hetterich Lynn Mohlencamp Jerry Torkelson	5 Mavis Thompson	6	7	1 <hr/> 8	2 Jerry & Barb Torkelson <hr/> 9 Sharron Tibodeau Jason & Sarah King
10	11 Jim Glidden	12 Jan Falk Becky Stevens	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Wayne Wormstadt	21 Betty Haack	22 Harold Johnson	23 Eric Pfeffer
24 Tom Christensen	25 Roger Ambrose	26 Jerry Moon	27 Rebecca Marker	28 Marjorie Eichner	29 Dana Krumrey Josh & Miranda Schunk	30 Jake VanNorman
31 Doris Buhler Margaret Grunig Jamie Thiessen				Updates and additions are welcome! Please let the church office know.	Green = Birthdays Red = Anniversaries	