



The church **Messenger**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | STORM LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | DECEMBER 2023



Sunday School Christmas
Pageant
Dec. 10 @ 10 a.m.



Youth Group and Confirmation students will be serving Cookies and Coffee in the Family Life Center starting at 9:00 a.m. until the 10:00 a.m. SS Christmas Pageant begins. Please come and join us!

Church Events

December 7th, 2023

3:30pm—Christmas Program Practice

December 9th, 2023

10am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

December 10th, 2023

9am—Coffee & Cookies in FLC

10am—SS Christmas Program

December 15th, 2023

Blood Drive

December 24, 2023

10am—4th Sunday in Advent Service

3pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25, 2023

Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Pastor's Pen



This coming Sunday is the first Sunday in the Advent season. Can you think of some of the Biblical themes of this season?

Certainly, the love and faithfulness of God our Father is high up there,

but have you ever considered the idea of hope? Although it may not be the first thing that comes to mind during the Christmas season, there is much to consider. This year we are going to consider the following themes. The Theme for the first Sunday of Advent is “Hope”. The Second Sunday’s theme is “Faith”. “Rejoice” is the theme of the third Sunday of Advent. “Peace” is the theme of the fourth Sunday. I am going to invite you to a Revival of a sense of politeness during this season of Advent.

The following is a great little illustration from Mark Batterson’s book entitled, “Please, Sorry, Thanks” - For the love of Emily Post, we need a revival of politeness, and it starts with *please*. “It sets the tone for whatever follows and is one of the most universal manners.” (The Magic Words—The Emily Post Institute, Inc.) Nothing primes the pump like please, especially if you put a pretty in front of it. How does it work? “It changes a command into a request.” (the Magic Words—The Emily Post Institute, Inc.)

News flash: No one wants to be told what to do!

When Christian Herter was governor of Massachusetts, he stopped by a church barbecue after a long day on the campaign trail. As he made his way down to the serving line, he asked whether he could have a second piece of chicken. The woman serving the chicken said, “Sorry, only one to a customer.” Governor Herter was a humble man, but he was also

hungry. “Do you know who I am? I’m the governor of the state.” Without skipping a beat, the woman replied, “Do you know who I am? I’m the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister!”

Demands come across as entitled, governor or not. A simple please levels the playing field. It will get you further than your title, your rank or your credentials. Authenticity trumps authority, like a royal flush. The word please demonstrates a posture of humility, and no one did it better than Jesus. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant. (Philippians 2:5)

This coming Sunday we are going to light the first candle which we are going to call “Hope”. In fact, hope is a very prominent theme in Advent. The anticipation of the coming Messiah is always in light of the hope we have in his return. Just as the Israelites hoped for their deliverance, we too look forward to the final deliverance, his return in glory where he will create a new heavens and a new earth. As the prophet Isaiah proclaims: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

God has promised us he will deliver us. He encourages us by his Holy Spirit to cling to his promises, to love his word and to cherish his statutes. He makes clear paths for our feet so that we continue to press forward in a world which is often so dark. We eagerly anticipate the coming of our Lord, who “shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4). May we all do our best to show kindness and politeness to all. Blessed Advent.

From my heart ♥ to yours.....

Pastor Kiboko

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Celebrating a birthday 80 years and above for December:

Virginia Carlson	12/09
Bev Nelson	12/13
Brad Raveling	12/11

Celebrating anniversaries of 25 years and more for December:

Mark & Deb Langner	12/05
Ron & Margo Sievers	12/06
Brent & Sarah Low	12/18
Tim & Jill Gallagher	12/26

If you are not listed on the birthdays or anniversaries list, it is because we do not have the information in our records. Please contact the office if you would like to be included.

VOLUNTEERS Needed

Greeters/Ushers for Sundays: Greet people as they come in and help with passing the offering plate.

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS



It is getting close to that time of year again. The **CHURCH** and **OFFICE** follow the schedule of the Storm Lake Public School System

during the week and will close when schools are not in session due to the weather. This means when there are weather related school closings, early dismissals or late starts, the office will be closed accordingly. Listen to KAYL 101.7 for information.

In the event that it is necessary to cancel a Worship Service or event due to inclement weather, notice will be given on **local radio stations** and **our church website**, as well as our **Facebook page**.

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY

- Family & friends of Phyllis Francis
- Dorothy Mernin & family upon the death of her grandson.
- Jill Gallagher and family upon the death of her father, Robert Allen Gunderson

PRAYER FOR THE GRIEVING

Lord, you know those who are hurting right now. We know you care because you are our Heavenly Father. God, I thank you for giving us comfort when we hurt. Help us remember we are not alone as we grieve. Help us cling to You when we feel despair and we miss those we have lost. Father, show us how to take refuge in You when our hearts are shattered. We know you understand. So we lift up each person reading this right now. Comfort them. We pray this in Your Son's precious and Holy name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Kim Piercy	Dan Bogaard
Virginia Carlson	Dexter Meseck
John Nichols	Drew Havens
Connor Hansen	Sondi Raveling
Jesse Mayfield	Karen Salmen
Cass (Meyer) Loesche	Lance Bellinghausen
Kermit Tolzin	Marlen Gasner
Jenny Allen	David Walker
Bev Schmidt	Reid Sears
Stan & Steph Quick	Melva Bainbridge
Sherise Ellis	Carol Prichard
Donna Blom	Tyler Crandal
Coleen Baughman	Barb Seiler
Terry Davenport	Susan Thompson
Wally Johnson	Rachel Neuroth
Margaret Weber	Deb Richardson
Rob North	Harold North
Wayne Stark	Kathy Wadsley

All who are affected by COVID 19

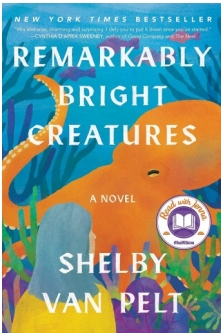
PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that you would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love! In Jesus' name. Amen!

Church Library News

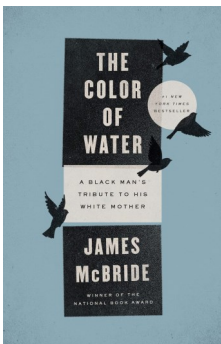
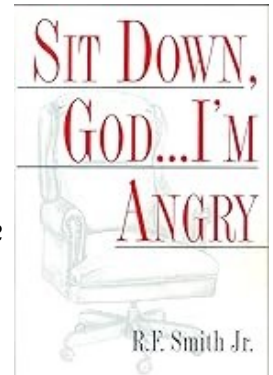
December 2023

This month I am featuring 3 more new books recently added to our library. Also, please note there is a new section on two shelves to the North of the checkin/out desk entitled “Large Print” books. As I go through more shelves we may have a few more large print books to go on these shelves. If you have any large print books to donate to our library we would welcome them. Just put them on the library desk by checkin/out box with a note “donate to library”. If you want recognition in that book please print your name on that note saying “donated by _____”.



“Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt. This book is a beautiful examination of how loneliness can be transformed, and cracked open with the slightest touch from another living thing. It features one of the most intriguing and satisfying characters to be encountered in fiction in a very long time—Marcellus the Octopus. It’s truly an original and touching story of family, community, and optimism in spite of darkness. Prepare to fall in love with a most exceptional octopus and a lady who cares for him.

“Sit Down God... I am Angry.” by R.F. Smith Jr. ‘God, get in your black chair. I’ve got some things I need to say’. I yelled this as I fell to my knees in a hospital waiting room, surrounded by family, physicians, and friends. His family learned they could vent anger and frustrations without suffering negative consequences. This book also points out how God must have felt when the Romans put Jesus to death. God allows us to vent and heal, each in our own time frame.



“The Color of Water” by James McBride. As a boy in Brooklyn’s Red Hook projects, James McBride knew his mother was different. But when he asked about it, she simply said “I’m light skinned.” Later he wondered if he was different too, and asked his mom if he was black or white.” “You’re a human being,” she snapped. “Educate yourself or you’ll be a nobody!” And when James asked what color God was, she said “God is the color of water.” As an adult, McBride finally persuaded his mother to tell her story—the story of a rabbi’s daughter, born in Poland and raised in the south, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a Baptist church, and put 12 children through college. “The Color of Water” is James McBride’s tribute to his remarkable mother and an eloquent exploration of what family really means. It’s a #1 New York Times bestseller!

End of Year Giving



The offering plates and the church office will be receiving contributions to the church for 2023 through Sunday, December 31. If you plan on dropping it off at the office or sending it in the mail, please make sure it gets to us by the 29th of December. Thank you for your help in this!

New Church Directory is Here!

The printed version of our new Church Directory is here and will be available for you to pick up after the worship service in the Narthex. We have put labels on them so we know who has or hasn't been able to pick them up.

The Directory is also available on a mobile app. Follow the directions to download the app and create a login. (see to the right) If you have any questions, please talk to Lynn Snyder, 732-5458.



Android Mobile App QR Code



iOS Mobile App QR Code

Birthday Party Mission Project

Our youth group is doing a Birthday Party Mission Project. We are putting together birthday party packages that will include everything needed to make and serve a birthday party. These packages will be handed out at the Monday night food distribution.

We are giving the congregation the opportunity to help with this project. You could bring any of the following items and mark them for the Birthday Party Mission Project: can of Sprite or 7-Up, cake mix, frosting mix, 9x13 disposable aluminum pan, birthday napkins, birthday candles or an unopened package of balloons. You can leave your items in the church office. Thanks for helping with this mission project.



Dear Pastor Kiboko, Confirmands and Mentors,

Pastor, thank you for your visits and comforting words for me, Lindsey and her family. We all "thank you" for attending Devin's funeral and also for visiting with Joyce. Please extend a "big" thank you to the Confirmands and mentors for the cards, pictures & comforting words. The caring from all of you will remain with me always. God Bless each one.
In Christian Love—Dorothy Mernin

VIEW OUR
**CHURCH
DIRECTORY**
ON YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Sunday School Christmas Program








On Sunday, December 10, at the 10:00 am worship service, our pre-K through sixth grade Sunday School classes will be presenting a Christmas message in song, dramatic reenactment, and dialogue. Please come and support our youngest students as they

share their faith and grow in their leadership skills.

**DYNAMITE
PRAYER**

A Bible study, with Pastor Kiboko, on the Dynamite Prayer is being offered on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Women in Mission</p> <p>Youth Activities</p> <p>Committee Meetings</p> <p>UMM</p>				<p>30</p> <p>4:30pm NOW Rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30 Confirmation Class</p> <p>9 AM SS & Bible Study</p> <p>10am Worship w/ Communion & NOW Singers</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am Exercise Class in FLC</p> <p>4pm Food Dist.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting</p> <p>1-4pm Christmas Card Making</p> <p>3:30-ZONE</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am Hymn Sing @ Otsego Place</p> <p>1:30pm WIM</p> <p>3:30-ZONE</p> <p>5:00-Bells</p> <p>6:00-JH Youth</p> <p>6:00 -Bible Study</p> <p>7:00-YG Meal</p> <p>7:30-HS Youth</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1pm Christmas Decorating in Sanctuary</p> <p>3:30-Xmas Practice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am UMM</p> <p>10am-Xmas Program Dress Rehearsal</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30 Youth & Confirmants serving Cookies before SS Program in FLC</p> <p>9 AM SS & Bible Study</p> <p>10am SS Program</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am Exercise Class in FLC</p> <p>4pm Food Dist</p> <p>5:30pm Finance</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:30-ZONE</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30pm Project Group</p> <p>Circle 3 Brunch @ Pam Milbrandt's</p> <p>10am Hymn Sing @ Otsego Place</p> <p>3:30-ZONE</p> <p>5:00-Bells</p> <p>6:00-JH Youth</p> <p>6:00- Bible Study</p> <p>7:00-YG Meal</p> <p>7:30-HS Youth</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:30pm Chapel @ Otsego Place</p> <p>5:30 SPRC</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p> <p>9am-12pm Blood Drive</p> 	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>  <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30 Confirmation Class</p> <p>9am SS & Bible Study</p> <p>10am Worship w/ Bell Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am Exercise Class in FLC</p> <p>3pm Pastor @ Otsego Place</p> <p>4pm Food Dist.</p> <p>7pm Trustees</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:30-ZONE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10am Hymn Sing @ Otsego Place</p> <p>3:30-ZONE</p> <p>5:00-Bells</p> <p>6:00-JH Youth</p> <p>6:00-Bible Study</p> <p>7:00-JHYG Meal</p> <p>7:30-HS Youth @ FCA</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>  <p>4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10am Advent Worship</p> <p>Christmas Eve Services 3pm, 5pm & 7pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am Hymn Sing @ Otsego Place</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:30pm Chapel @ Otsego Place</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>10am Worship</p>						

Holiday Tunes

Away in a Manger
 Choir of the Bells
 Dominick the Donkey
 Frosty the Snowman
 Holly Jolly Christmas
 Jingle Bell Rock
 Jingle Bells
 Let it Snow
 Little Drummer Boy
 Little St Nick
 O Holy Night
 Rudolph
 Santa Baby
 Silent Nigh
 Silver Bells
 The Christmas Song
 The First Noel
 Winter Wonderland



S G R D A M A F C I F Z Z X F K U H J X
 W A W A Y O B R E M M U R D E L T T I L
 C K M B H P L O D U R J T G J I H Z N O
 Z D W T Z E D S Y E L C B Y R T G C G K
 G N O S S A M T S I R H C E H T I J L L
 Q A N K O I D Y A L F D G I R L N B E D
 X L S O X Q R T B T I N W X N E T O B J
 D R T J T I R H V A A H X I P S N A E W
 F E I F W V T E C M B E U U B T E S L S
 N D T U C C H S A Y A A I N S N L C L Q
 B N E V X E G N X I L M T R I I I Y R W
 F O L N I A I O Z T K L I N X C S J O U
 B W V E S Y N W K M G F O O A K T E C N
 G R O K A C Y M V Z E U A J Y S L D K U
 M E Q W Q O L A O H K P I T Y K B N M Q
 G T A P U I O N T S L L E B E L G N I J
 L N F G C Z H N S L L E B R E V L I S E
 I I Y E K N O D E H T K C I N I M O D S
 L W B T K S L L E B E H T F O R I O H C
 U I M U Y F C J H B X B V R U M O C Y B

CHRISTMAS CAROL MATCH

Match the song lyric on the left to its song title on the right.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Now the jingle hop has begun | A. Away in a Manger |
| 2. How are thy leaves so verdant | B. Deck the Halls |
| 3. And heaven and nature sing | C. Frosty the Snowman |
| 4. It's the best time of the year | D. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing |
| 5. Two eyes made out of coal | E. Here Comes Santa Claus |
| 6. City sidewalks, busy sidewalks | F. Holly Jolly Christmas |
| 7. What fun it is to laugh and sing | G. Carol of the Bells |
| 8. I gave you my heart | H. Jingle Bells |
| 9. Bells are ringing children singing | I. Joy to the World |
| 10. The stars are brightly shining | J. Let it Snow |
| 11. All is calm, all is right | K. O Holy Night |
| 12. Christmas is here, bringing good cheer | L. Rudolph |
| 13. I've brought some corn for popping | M. Silent Night |
| 14. They used to laugh and call him names | N. Sleigh Ride |
| 15. In the lane, snow is glistening | O. 12 Days of Christmas |
| 16. Glory to the newborn King | P. Silver Bells |
| 17. Little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes | Q. Jingle Bell Rock |
| 18. Fa la la la la la la la | R. Winder Wonderland |
| 19. Five golden Rings | S. O Christmas Tree |
| 20. Giddy yap, giddy yap, let's go | T. Last Christmas |

Answers

N-01	K-01
O-19	E-6
B-18	T-8
A-17	H-7
D-16	P-6
R-15	C-5
L-14	F-4
J-13	I-3
G-12	S-2
M-11	Q-1



"I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these..."

-John 14:12

Be inspired by how the faithfulness of people like you is helping people around the world experience God's grace for themselves:

- **In Cambodia**, tens of thousands are accessing digital children's Gospel lessons distributed by Global Ministries missionaries.
- **In the Czech Republic's capital city of Prague**, United Methodist missionaries are serving refugees and other marginalized people who make a home in this European crossroads alive with the power of God's prevenient grace.
- **In Argentina**, Rev. Douglas Williams nurtures a diverse flock, including his beloved parishioner "Rana", who actively ministers to the homeless community of which he is a member.

Be encouraged by how people like you are helping to support some of Ukraine's 6.5 million internally displaced survivors (including 1.2 million children). See how:

- **In Mykoliu**, UMCOR is providing humanitarian relief to survivors hiding in basements and bomb shelters.
- **In Kam'yanytsya**, UMCOR is sheltering the displaced in municipal buildings and outfitting a former hotel to provide more beds, healthcare and job training.

Be uplifted by how the generosity of people like you is supporting some of the 20 million refugees who have fled war-torn Ukraine. See how:

- **In Moldova**, Ukrainian refugees are receiving food, medical care, and career support through UMCOR-funded assistance to local churches and other nonprofits.
- **Vulnerable citizens of Moldova** (one of Europe's poorest nations) are receiving support to help strengthen ties with their Ukrainian guests.

Rejoice in how the generosity of people like you is aiding survivors displaced by natural disasters. See below:

- **In Oklahoma**, UMCOR assisted nearly 600 households devastated by multiple tornadoes, heavy rain and hail in May 2023.
- **In the Texas Rio Grande Valley**, UMCOR provided humanitarian relief and cleanup to communities ravaged by severe weather in April 2023.
- **In Kahramanmaras, Turkey, and Nazas, Syria**, UMCOR brought emergency humanitarian relief to some of the most devastated survivors of the deadly earthquake that struck southern Turkey and northern Syria in February 2023.

Be heartened by how the generosity of people like you is restoring hope and dignity to people leveled by natural disaster. See how:

- **In Florida**, UMCOR is providing long-term recovery aid to 400 single parents and disabled and elderly people after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole brought historic levels of damage in September & November 2022.
- **In Maui**, UMCOR assisted survivors of deadly wind-driven wildfires in August 2023, awarding an emergency grant to the California-Pacific Annual Conference (which includes Hawaii) to fund humanitarian assistance and help survivors recover belongings.

LifeServe Blood Drive

Dec. 15, 2023 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



Appointments are Required
/Photo I.D. Required
Schedule your appointment online at
www.lifesevebloodcenter.org or call
800.287.4903

Location: United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 211 E. 3rd Street, Storm Lake, IA

1st Sunday of Advent—December 3

1 Corinthians 1:3-9/Mark 13:24-37

2nd Sunday of Advent—December 10

2 Peter 3:8-15/Mark 1:1-8

3rd Sunday of Advent—December 17

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24/John 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve—December 24

Romans 16:25-27/Luke 1:26-38

Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-20

1st Sunday after Christmas—December 30

Galatians 4:4-7/Luke 2:22-40



Thank you for giving to God!

General Ministries Fund (as of 10/22)

Nov. YTD General Fund Revenue \$362,208

Nov. YTD General Fund Expenses \$358,901

Attendance		Online
11/05	Sun.—147	227
11/12	Sun.—119	189
11/19	Sun.—129	208
11/26	Sun.—140	175

WOMEN IN MISSION

Wednesday, December 6 in Room 104
@ 1:30 p.m.
Bring a friend.
Enjoy the fellowship!



CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING

Tuesday, December 5 in Room 105

1:00—4:00 p.m. All are welcome!



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Thursday, December 7th

@ 1pm in Sanctuary

All are welcome!

UMM

Our next meeting will be December 9th at 7:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center and is open to anyone who wishes to join us in Christian Fellowship.

Hope to see you—Dale Carver

Requests for Christmas Gifts in Memory or Honor of a Loved One

If you wish to donate to our United Methodist Missions and Ministries (Apportionments), purchase a Church World Service Blanket, a Church World Service Tools of Hope, or contribute to the purchase of silk Poinsettias, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to the church office along with your payment.

CWS Blankets or Tools of Hope are available for \$5 each. You may donate any amount you wish for the UMC Missions & Ministries. We ask that you please pay at the same time you place your order.

All donations received by **Thursday, December 21st** will be acknowledged in the bulletin on December 24th.

UMC Missions & Ministries \$ _____
(Apportionments)

Poinsettias # _____ x \$10 = _____

CWS Blankets # _____ x \$5 = _____

Tools of Hope # _____ x \$5 = _____

in loving memory of:

or in honor of:

From _____

Please contact Marjean in the office, 732-5458, if you have questions about your order.



The United Methodist Messenger
Storm Lake United Methodist Church
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Financial Secretary: **Donna McPherran &
 Jean Bennett**

Librarian: **Roxie Brostad**

