

The Messenger



Volume 21 No. 12

December 2021

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

"Passionately united to feed all people — body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!"

Greetings,

It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you be of good cheer
It's the most wonderful time of the year

It's the hap-happiest season of all
With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings
When friends come to call
It's the hap-happiest season of all

There'll be parties for hosting
Marshmallows for toasting
And caroling out in the snow
There'll be scary ghost stories
And tales of the glories of
Christmases long, long ago

It's the most wonderful time of the year
There'll be much mistltoeing
And hearts will be glowing
When loved ones are near

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It's the most wonderful time of the year
There'll be much mistltoeing
And hearts will be glowing
When loved ones are near
It's the most wonderful time
Yes the most wonderful time
Oh the most wonderful time
Of the year

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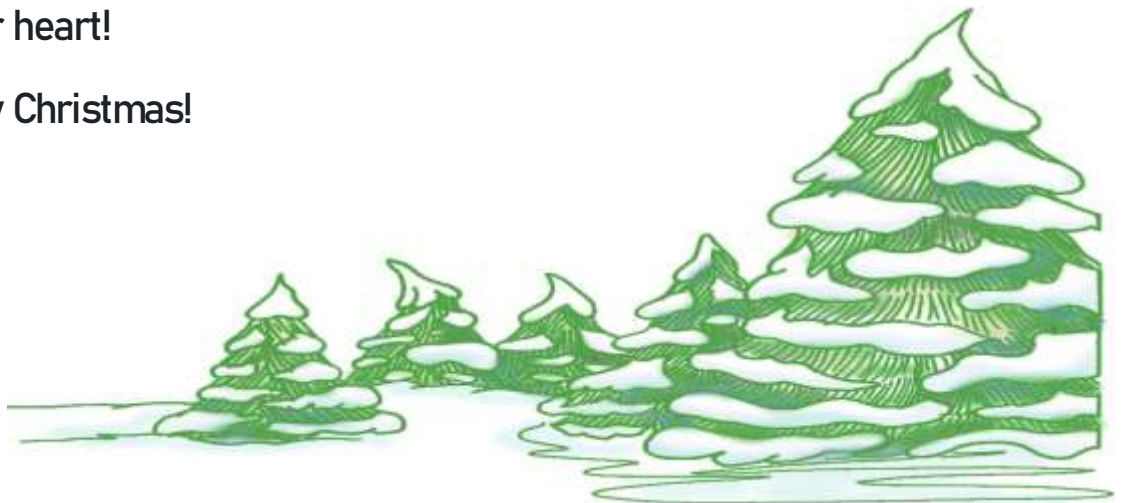
I am sure that you recognize the lyrics of this classic Christmas song from Andy Williams. It is one of my favorite Christmas songs. In fact, I turned on Christmas music about a week before Thanksgiving and by Christmas will have heard this song no less than a few dozen times. I love the sentiment of the words. However, I will be honest that the song does seem unrealistic sometimes. The song is right, that it is 'the most wonderful time of the year'. However, it is not exactly for the reasons that Andy Williams lists.

Sometimes, everything lines up perfectly and the aspects of the Christmas season create a Hallmark postcard. In those moments, it can feel wonderful and exciting. However, more often than not, the Holiday season is not perfect. There is stress in completing all the activities planned. There are communal gatherings that can be fun or anxiety producing. There are a thousand ways things can go wrong.

It is the most wonderful time of the year, because regardless of what your situation is, God loves you so much that he sent His son into this world for you. We get to remember Emmanuel, which means 'God with us'. God chose to be with humanity and experience humanity. The Christmas story was not perfect for Mary and Joseph, but it was wondrous and joyful. Regardless, if this Holiday season is perfect for you or not, it can have that same wonder and joy through Christ.

We are in the Advent Season of church. Advent is focused on arrival, specifically the arrival of Christ. We spend four weeks in preparation for the birth of our savior. In these four weeks, we lift up the concepts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. My invitation to you is to spend some time each week in reflection and prayer on what each of these words mean to you. Where do you see hope? Where are you experiencing peace? What joy is in your heart? How are you experiencing God's love? Light the advent candles, give a prayer and connect with God. I promise that if you do, you will be singing Andy William's song fully knowing that it is a wonderful time of the year, regardless of what is happening in the world around you. You will be consumed by the love of Christ in your heart!

God Bless and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Tom



Sunday Scriptures & Sermon Series for December

“Advent-ually, a story of Hope, Promise and Expectation”

December 5 1 John 4:7-12 ~ God Is Love

December 12 Luke 1:39-56 ~ Jesus Came to Bring Us Joy

December 19 Mark 1:1-8 ~ Jesus Brings Peace

December 24 Luke 2:8-20 ~ God Is With Us



Confirmation Class would like to give a big Thank You to Deb Heinekamp for making an awesome home cooked meal!
It was Fantastic!!

Confirmation Class Meals Sign Up

A sign up sheet for volunteering a meal for the confirmation class may be found in the narthex. Watch for a day that is convenient for you and provide a meal for approximately 6 people. For any questions contact Pastor Tom.



Adult Bible study meets in the Chapel on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 am. Currently studying, **Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the 10 Commandments** by Adam Hamilton. You are invited to join in understanding the 10 Commandments, God, our Faith, and each other. This series will conclude on December 21.



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

In Matthew's genealogy, which woman is *not* mentioned as Jesus' ancestor?

- A. Tamar
- B. Rahab
- C. Mary
- D. Ruth
- E. Sarah
- F. Bathsheba



Answer: E (See Matthew 1:1-17.)



December Activities



Board of Trustees will meet
Sunday, December 5, 9:30am.

Administrative Council meets
Tuesday, December 14th, at
6:30pm.

Finance Committee ~ The 2022 New Year will be here before you know it. UCS is so appreciative of the support you have demonstrated with your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service. As a reminder you have the option of giving online using get.tithe.ly. Online giving may also be found on the church website. You can do weekly or monthly gifts or a reoccurring automatic gift and there are 5 different designations you can choose from. Any questions or concerns, please call the church office, 815-786-9243 and help will be provided.

Pledge Cards may be placed in the offering plate or turned into the office by December 5. Thank You!

United Methodist Women would like to congratulate Marilyn Steenwyk on being elected president of the Northern IL Conference United Methodist Women!



UMW will furnish a lunch in the chapel on Thursday, December 2, at 12:00pm, followed by the performance of the

Sandwich High School Madrigal Choir. All women are invited and may bring a friend.

There is no charge. Just come!
Please let a UMW member know or call the office to make set up easier.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



In the narthex you will find names on the Angel Tree from the local school district. Please select a name from the tree, have fun shopping for the requested item, and return the wrapped gift to the church between December 8th-10th. Please attach the tags to the package so they won't fall off.

Thank you, The Missions Committee



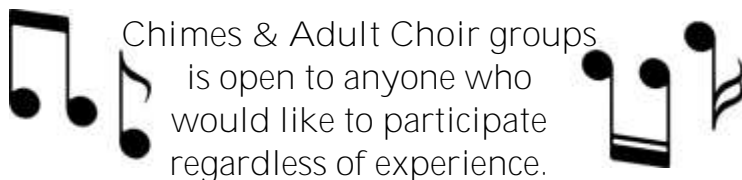
UCS Christmas Eve Worship
5:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Both services will participate in candle lighting, singing Christmas carols and Holy Communion.

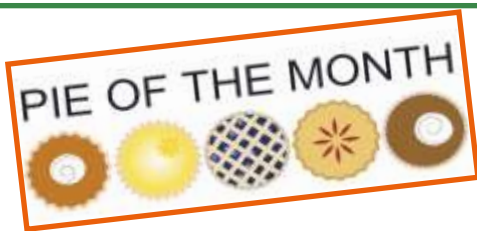
Join us to welcome Christ,
the light of the world.



U'Niter's will have a luncheon meeting December 6th, at 12:00pm, in the Friendship Corner. All women of the church are invited to attend.



Practices are Wednesdays, 6:00pm and 7:00pm, respectively. Both current and traditional selections are enjoyed. Social distancing will remain part of the practice procedures. Contact Kevin Duy or Pastor Tom.



PIE OF THE MONTH EVENT

*Let us do your Holiday baking!
Our expert pie bakers will be gearing up
to bake some delicious pies just for you!*

Preorders and prepayment will be required.

December: Apple Crumb
Specialty Pies: Pecan & Mincemeat

Order deadline: Dec 17

Pickup date: Friday, Dec 24

\$20.00 for the 'Pie of the Month'. \$24.00 for Specialty Pies being offered.

PIE OF THE MONTH MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

3 Month Membership - \$55.00 for pies offered January-March or April-June 2022.

6 Month Membership - \$105.00 is for all pies offered January-June 2022.

The Membership gets you the pies at a reduced cost.

Pies may be purchased baked or frozen (with baking instructions).

**All pies will have to be picked up at the Church-no shipping or delivery.

Please use the south entrance.

Only preorders and prepayment-"Thank You."

Check the UCS Website: unitedchurchsandwich.org for further details.

Call the UCS Church office today to place your order ~ 815-786-9243

We appreciate your support and Happy Pie Eating!!



On behalf of the Staff Parish/Pastor Relations Committee, it is being announced that Carol Larson is retiring at the end of the year as our organist/accompanist from United Church of Sandwich.

The Staff Parish/Pastor Relations Committee is taking steps to find a new organist/accompanist.

Please plan to attend worship on December 26, as we take steps to celebrate Carol's ministry for we are truly thankful for her services. We have been blessed with Carol's gift of music for over 30 years!



Did you know your purchases on Amazon can now help the United Church of Sandwich! All you need to do is login at <https://smile.amazon.com/> with your normal username and password. When prompted to choose a charity of your choice, type "The United Church of Sandwich" in the search box, it will automatically save as your charity of choice! It's that easy!!! Once a quarter, Amazon donates back to the church 0.55% of all your purchases. It may not sound like a lot, but when everyone does it together, we can add to our revenue. What a great time to tell your family and friends!

Northern Illinois Conference *Reporter*

United Church of Sandwich is a United Methodist Church and the connectional nature of our denomination is vital to our identity. Below is a link to the Northern IL Conference newspaper. Our Newsletter will begin to share the news of the UMC with you to give you the opportunity to learn and discover the events and opportunities of the UMC at large. Please contact Pastor Tom if you have any questions on any topic you read. He would be happy and honored to connect with you.

https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Reporter/6-7-2021_web_reporter.pdf

Matt & Joanna Olson
175 Brompton Ln
Unit B
Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Please send any email, phone number, and address updates such as winter addresses to the church office. Thank you!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/01	Briggs Mager
	Harper Mager
12/02	Jennifer Hallaron
12/04	Mischelle Reiners
12/06	Melanie Hallaron
12/08	Debbie Heinekamp
12/09	Diane Salisbury
12/10	Barb Diemer
12/14	David Schlapp
12/15	Chloe Heiman
12/18	Jeanne McNish
12/19	Todd Hallaron
	Greg Nehring
12/21	Bonnie Young
12/26	Connie Mitchell
12/27	Nicholas Schlapp
	Tami Wig
	Lindsay Young
12/28	Conway Mitchell

12/02 Al & Myrtie Warren
 12/27 Phil & Carole Tuggle

If anyone's birthday or anniversary has been missed please contact the church office. Thank You



**Newsletter
 Deadline
 December 21**

Prayer List



If you would like to be added to the church email prayer list please contact the church office or Pastor Tom. If you are unable or uncomfortable leaving your home we have church members who are able to make necessary trips to pick up basic home and food staples. We want to be in support for you and let you know that you are family and are not alone. If you are one able to make short shopping trips for members, please let Pastor Tom know and you will be added to the resource list of people to call.

Thank You!

December

2021

Sun

Mon

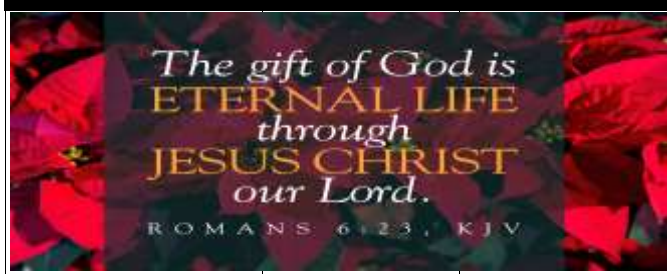






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 United Methodist Women Christmas Luncheon</p>	<p>3</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00 U'Niter's Luncheon Mtg</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Return Angel Tree Gifts To UCS</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 Administrative Council Mtg</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Apple Crumb Pie Order Deadline</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00-11:00 Apple Crumb Pie P/U</p> <p>Worship Service 5:00pm & 11:00pm</p>	
<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 Newsletter Assembly</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p>		

The United Church
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — DECEMBER 2021

The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417
Church: 815- 786-9243

Email: ucssandwich@frontier.com

website: www.unitedchurchsandwich.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School 8:45 am

Children's Sunday School 9:00 am

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Tom Bourke

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm
or by appointment

Email: tombourkejr@gmail.com

Mobile: 630-699-2474

Church Staff

Secretary: Donna Reiss

Tuesday–Friday 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Choir and Chimes Director: Kevin Duy

Organist/Pianist: Carol Larson

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

We are passionately united to feed all people —
body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!

Leadership Team 2021

Church Council Chair	Ken Young
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Pam Nehring
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Gwen Fox
Lay Leader	Sarah Stevens
Trustee's Chair	Matt Olson
Annual Conf. Delegate	Bonnie Miller
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Phyllis Whitehead
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Carole Strock
United Methodist Women	Myrtie Warren
United Methodist Men	
Fair Stand Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Worship & Music Chair	Deb Seymour

United Church of Sandwich's

New Website

We invite you to view the new website for
contact information and to learn more about
United Church of Sandwich

www.unitedchurchsandwich.org