

The Messenger

Volume 22 No 12

December 2022



The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

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

Greetings,

We have arrived to the last month of the year for 2022 and it is one of my favorite months. December focuses on the arrival and birth of our savior Jesus Christ. As I write this letter (towards the end of November)

I have already begun to play Christmas music. For the next month I'll enjoy songs about winter wonderlands, holidays, Santa and jingling bells. I will also listen to many hymns on the true meaning of Christmas. Especially on Sundays, I get to sing the hymns of Advent and Christ.

One of my absolute favorites is 'Joy to the World'. We will be singing 'Joy to the World' on Christmas Eve and on Sunday, Christmas Morning.

I excitedly look forward to belting out, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"



Joy permeates this season so much that it is not surprising that even the more secular community around us embraces the holiday so enthusiastically. It truly is a joyful time. Honestly, we need it to be a joyful time. There is so much that causes stress, pain, anxiety, and doubt in this world. We see war and violence unleashed everywhere. Financial pain and worry are stronger this year in the midst of higher inflation. Social Media breeds hate, insults, and harassment. It would be understandable for resentment, sadness and anger to build up in this world. It can be hard at **this time of the year. Maybe you've felt like this woman... She was doing her last-minute Christmas shopping at a crowded mall. She was tired of fighting the crowds. She was tired of standing in lines. She was tired of fighting her way down long aisles looking for a gift that had sold out days before. Her arms were full of bulky packages when the elevator door opened. ...It was full!**

The occupants of the elevator grudgingly tightened ranks to allow a small space for her and her load. **As the doors closed she blurted out, "Whoever is responsible for this whole Christmas thing ought to be arrested, strung up, and shot!" A few others nodded their heads or grunted in agreement. Then, from somewhere in the back of the elevator came a single voice that said, "Don't worry. They already crucified him."**

We need to remember who is responsible for the whole Christmas thing. It is all about God who loved the world so much that He gave us a savior who is Christ the Lord. That reason can be the antidote that helps us in the difficulty and the bad. Jesus is the path to the Joy that can come to the world!

Christmas is the place to find joy that lasts beyond the holidays. This is not the joy in the giving or receiving of presents. It is not the joy of decorating and baking. It is a deeper joy that lasts when all other things fade away. To know in your heart that God came down to Earth as a child to reach you, to let you know He loves you. That is the source of real joy. That is the reason we sing, **"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" My prayers are that amidst the angst of the world, we can find the joy of Christ. It is my prayer that we can be the Christmas star to our loved ones that they may find the Christ child through our joy. Merry Christmas to you and my God's joy be with you fully and always this month! God Bless!!**

Pastor Tom Bourke

Sunday Scriptures & Sermons for December

A Whoville Christmas

December 4 Matthew 1:18-25 ~ Who did God Choose to Parent Jesus?

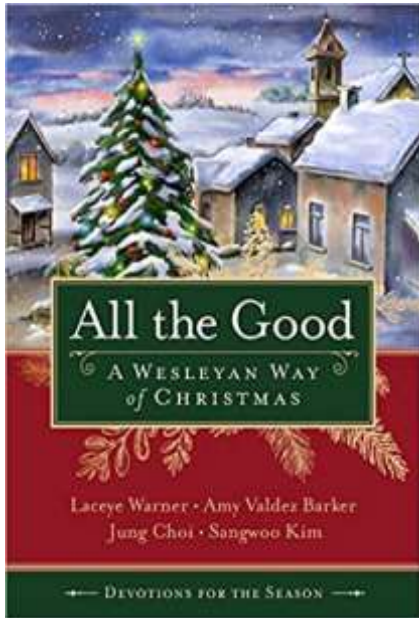
December 11 Luke 2: 8-15 ~ Who did the angels speak to?

December 18 John 1:1-14 ~ Who did God Choose to come to save?

December 24 Luke 1:46-55 ~ Who do we celebrate tonight?

December 25 Matthew 2:1-12 ~ Who searched for Jesus?

Advent Adult Study Group



All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas is an Advent journey guided by a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars, Lacey C. Warner, Amy Valdez Barker, Jung Choi, and Sangwoo Kim. Each Tuesday at 10:00am in the chapel this devotional follows the corresponding themes of Altogether Love, Altogether Hope, Altogether Joy, and Altogether Peace.

Children's Sunday School
meets each
Sunday at 9:00am.

They are led in songs,
prayers,
games and lessons
on God's love.



MISSION OF THE MONTH



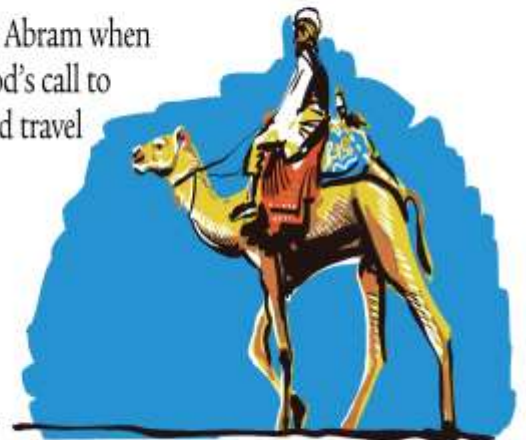
In the narthex you will find names on the Angel Tree from the local school district. Please select a name from the tree, have fun shopping for the requested item, and return the wrapped gift to the church between December 6th — 9th. Please attach the tags to the package so they **won't fall off**.

Thank you, The Missions Committee

Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



Answer: C (See Genesis 12:4.)



DECEMBER

Activities

*UCS Boards and Committee's will not meet in December.
Merry Christmas!*



U'Niter's will be having a potluck on Monday, December 5, at 12:00pm. All women welcome.



United Women of Faith will meet Thursday, December 8, at 9:30 am in the chapel. All women of the church are invited to attend.



Christmas Eve
WORSHIP

SERVICE
at UCS

Saturday, December 24,
5:00 pm & 11:00 pm

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

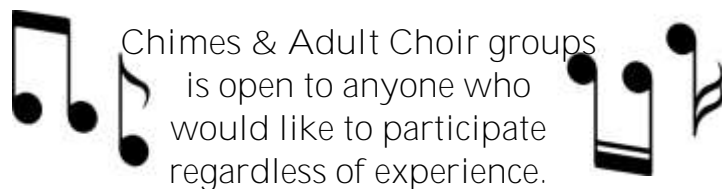
Join us to welcome Christ,
the light of the world.



The annual Charge Conference will be **MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:00pm.**

Report packets will be available at the **meeting or the church office.**

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Cmte will **NOT** be meeting before.



Chimes & Adult Choir groups is open to anyone who would like to participate regardless of experience.

Practices are Wednesday evenings, 6:00pm and 7:00pm, respectively.

December 7th & 21st.

Both current and traditional selections are enjoyed.

Contact Kevin Duy or Pastor Tom for more information about joining.



**COFFEE HOUR
DURING
ADVENT**

HOSTS

12/4 ~ U'Niter's
12/11 ~ Choir-Chimes
12/18 ~ SPRC



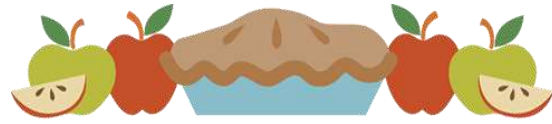
PIE OF THE MONTH SCHEDULE 2022-2023

December:

Pie-Apple Crumb

Order Deadline-December 16

Ready for pickup-Saturday, December 24



January:

Pie-Blueberry

Order Deadline-January 6

Ready for pickup-Saturday, January 14

April:

Pie-Triple Berry (2 crust)

Order Deadline-March 31

Ready for pickup-Saturday, April 8

February:

Pie-Cherry

Order Deadline-February 3

Ready for pickup-Saturday, February 11

May:

Pie-Peach

Order Deadline-May 5

Ready for pickup-Saturday, May 13

March:

Pie-Apple (2 crust)

Order Deadline-March 3

Ready for pickup-Saturday, March 11

June:

Pie-Strawberry-Rhubarb

Order Deadline-June 9

Ready for pickup-Saturday, June 17

On the date of pickup, the church will be open from 9AM-11AM.

Please use the south door. Pickup only-no delivery.

Orders can be placed with the Church Secretary, Tuesday-Friday, 9AM-1PM at 815-786-9243.

The 'Pie of the Month' is \$20.00 per pie (Dec-June) unless a Membership is purchased.

3-Month Membership-\$55.00 only for the pies listed for January-March or April-June 2023.

6-Month Membership-\$105.00 only for the pies listed for January-June 2023.

Memberships can be purchased starting in December.

A Gift Certificate will be provided for you to use if needed.

Specialty Pies will be available only for December 2022: \$25.00 each

December ~ Pecan & Mincemeat

You may pay with cash or check, or on the website through online giving.

Pies listed for January-June can be purchased baked or frozen (Baking instructions included).

For additional information call the church.

UCS appreciates your support, and to you ~ *Happy Pie Eating!!*

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/March%202022%20Reporter.pdf>



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

David Seymour
422 Deerfield Dr
Oswego, IL 60543

Marlene Cook
Cedarhurst of Yorkville Unit #20
4040 Cannonball Trail
Yorkville, IL 60560



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

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



DECEMBER 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)	5	6 10:00 Advent Adult Bible Study Angel Tree Drop off thru the 9th	7 6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	8 9:30 United Women of Faith Mtg 7:00 Al Anon Mtg	9	10
11 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online	12	13 10:00 Advent Adult Bible Study	14	15 7:00 Al Anon Mtg	16 Holiday Pie Order Deadline 	17
18 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)	19	20 10:00 Advent Adult Bible Study 	21 6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	22 7:00 Al Anon Mtg	23	24 9:00 ~ 11:00 Pie P/U UCS Worship Service 5:00pm & 11:00pm
25 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online	26	27	28	29 7:00 Al Anon Mtg	30	31

The United Church
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — DECEMBER 2022



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

Children's Sunday School, 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study, Tuesdays, 10:00 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:

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

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

Leadership Team 2022

Church Council Chair	Sarah Stevens
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	Jim Bernhardt
Trustee's Chair	Gary Anderson
Annual Conf. Delegate	Bonnie Miller
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Phyllis Whitehead
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Kim Henrich
United Methodist Women	Marilyn Steenwyk
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