

# The Messenger

Volume 19 No. 12

December 2019

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

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



## *Merry Christmas,*

A little boy and a little girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded "Silent Night" with the words, "sleep in heavenly beans." His sister elbowed him, and said, "No. Not beans, peas!"

The way many of us feel by the time we are ready for Christmas, the song might just as well end with beans or peas instead of peace. Because sometimes in the frantic rush to get everything done the peace of the season seems to elude us.

I've worked on a short list of things that happen at this time of year which may contribute to increased stress during the Christmas season. Do any of these match? Can you add any of your own?

- ♦ - Shopping for gifts - Wrapping the gifts
- ♦ - Putting up the decorations - Cooking a meal
- ♦ - Buying a tree - Fighting the traffic
- ♦ - Having enough money to buy gifts
- ♦ - Figuring out when to celebrate Christmas with family on both sides
- ♦ - Three frightening words, "Some assembly required"
- ♦ - Gaining weight - Untangling the strands of lights
- ♦ - Christmas programs for the kids at school and at church
- ♦ - Sending out Christmas cards - Cleaning the house
- ♦ - Hearing "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" for the 150th time
- ♦ - Forgetting someone for whom you should have purchased a gift
- ♦ - Facing relatives you don't get along with
- ♦ - Knowing that maybe you'll spend Christmas alone
- ♦ - Missing loved ones who have passed away
- ♦ - Paying off the credit cards - Weeding through crowded stores.

Peace &  
Goodwill  
to All



When you compile a list like this, it's easy to see why Christmas is a major period of increased stress for many people.

Does Christ have anything to say to us in the midst of this season of hurry and rush? I believe he does. All I need to do is focus on my absolutely favorite part of Christmas. Let me paint a picture for you. It is about 11:50pm on Christmas Eve. You are in the sanctuary. The lights have been turned off. However, you and everyone around you is holding a candle. The music plays and we begin singing the beloved song 'Silent Night'.

Those lyrics remind me exactly what Christmas is about. The song actually creates peace in my heart. It washes away the stress of the Holidays and focuses on the core of Christmas. Christ, the Savior is born! That one fact changes everything. Christ came into this world to bring hope and peace to us. This is not to say we won't have trials and tribulations. Stress will still find its way into our lives. Jesus' birth does not magically untangle the Christmas lights or cook Christmas Dinner. However, Christmas provides us the opportunity to experience peace even in the midst of trial.

If you are experiencing stress and struggle this Christmas season try pausing for a moment. Sing 'Silent Night' for a minute and go to God in prayer. I promise you that his love and support will provide you a blessed Christmas regardless of whatever stress finds its way to you.

God Bless,

Pastor Tom

## Sunday Scriptures and Themes for December

**December 1** Luke 1:5-25 ~ *"The Anointing of Zechariah"*

**December 8** Matthew 1:18-25 ~ *"The Courage of Joseph"*

**December 15** Luke 1:26-38 ~ *"The Faith of Mary"*

**December 22** Luke 2:8-20 ~ *"The Gifts of the Shepherds"*

**December 24** Luke 2:1-8 ~ *"The Love of God"*

**December 29** Matthew 2:1-12 ~ *"The Hope of the Wisemen"*



Sundays at 8:45am, adults have been studying the book 'Making Sense of the Bible' by Adam Hamilton.

Rediscovering the power of the scriptures for our lives today. Join us for some great discussions and fellowship. Coffee is available.



### Children's Music Program

*Children love to sing!*  
Our dedicated group of Sunday School children have been busy with their leaders practicing their favorite songs of Christmas and will be singing them during worship on December 22nd. Come enjoy their spirited voices.



*EPIC* Youth Group will be meeting at the Federated Church for the month of December. Sundays 4-6 pm.

Students in 6th grade through college are welcome to participate in games, Bible study, and dinner.



### 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 by Sunday, December 8th. Please attach the tags to the package so they won't fall off.

Thank you, Mission Committee

## ? ? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt



Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13.)



"Yes, it's beautiful — but can we talk about its placement?"

This  
**Month's Activities**



**Charge Conference set for Thursday, December 12th**

The date of our annual Charge Conference this year is THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 7:00PM.



Only church members may vote, but the meeting is open to all. Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet before the conference at 6:30pm. Report forms have been distributed to those who need to

complete them. PLEASE GIVE TO DONNA BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th, OR SUBMIT ON LINE AT: [registration.umcnic.org](http://registration.umcnic.org).



**Christmas Eve Worship at United Church  
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.



**United Methodist Men** meet on Sunday, December 3rd at 7:30 am for breakfast and fellowship. All men are invited to attend!



The Franklin Mall Project sponsored by the Sandwich Lions Club will be collecting non-perishable food items in the red bin located in the narthex. The collection continues thru December 16th.



**BAKE SALE BAKE SALE**

Sunday, December 8th will be the next bake sale to benefit the Apportionment Commitment. Luncheon committee #2 will have an assortment of baked items to sell. If you have any questions, please see Pam Nehring.

Thanks for your help.  
The Finance Committee



**Finance Committee** meets Monday, December 5th at 6:30pm

**Trustees Board** will meet Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm.



Will meet for lunch Monday, December 2nd, 12:00 pm at the Millhurst Restaurant in Yorkville



The United Methodist Women's annual Christmas Potluck will be held Thursday, December 5th at 12:00 pm. The Sandwich High School Madrigal Singers and their director will be the program entertainment and guests. Please bring a generous dish to pass and your own table service.

**United Methodist Women** would like to thank those that supported the hat, mitten and scarf tree to benefit the Sharing Pantry.



Poinsettias will be ordered to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The choice of colors are red or white and come in a 6 1/2" pot, at a cost \$16.00 each. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the following form and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate no later than **December 9**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Given (in memory of) or (in honor of) \_\_\_\_\_

My order is for \_\_\_ Red \_\_\_ White (\$16.00 each)

Total Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (enclosed)

**ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 9.**

## JOIN THE LIBRARY

December 13th @ 6:00pm for their annual Christmas celebration. Enjoy Christmas treats, ornament making, a special holiday concert, and a certain jolly-faced man in red.

December 17th @ 6:30pm: Test your knowledge with this holiday-themed trivia event. Teams and individual players welcome. Winner will receive a holiday-themed gift basket!

Do you shop at Amazon? 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!



## Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.*



shepherd's staff        \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

tree that keeps its leaves      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

shines to lead the way      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

green for eternal life,       \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ &  
red for Jesus' blood      \_ \_ \_ [ ] [ ] \_ \_

sounds to announce       \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
good news

has no beginning or end      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Th   ks b  to  od fo   is  
indesc   ba  le gif  !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

## CHURCH MEMBER INFORMATION

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Attend but not a member \_\_\_\_\_ Would like to become a member \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving the church newsletter? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, would you like to? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ By E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ or Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERESTS & TALENTS

Check any of the following:

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Message   | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Fellowship         | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion Minister   | <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgist                | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musician             | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Speaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baking               | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer (Food Pantry)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Assistant   | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting/Drawing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving for Others   | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing               | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Work            | <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching or Testimony   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Programming | <input type="checkbox"/> Heating/Air Conditioning | <input type="checkbox"/> History     |

Please add any other information you would like to share and turn in to the office.

\_\_\_\_\_

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Liturgists

- 12/01 Diane Pearson
- 12/08 Carole Forman
- 12/15 Pam Nehring
- 12/22 Les Banks
- 12/29 Doug Reiners

## Greeters

- 12/01 Al & Phyllis Whitehead
- 12/08 Diane Salisbury
- 12/15 Ione Martin
- 12/25 Deb Seymour
- 12/29 Deb Seymour

## Ushers

- 12/01 Deb Seymour/Carole Strock
- 12/08 Jim & Bonnie Bernhardt
- 12/15 Matt & Joanna Olson
- 12/22 Gwen Fox/Chris Bagwill
- 12/29 Doug Reiners

## December Communion Ministers

Rick & Debby Hill, Jim Bernhardt



## Birthdays

12/01	Briggs Mager Harper Mager
12/02	Jennifer Hallaron
12/03	Hannah Schlapp
12/06	Melanie Hallaron
12/08	Debbie Heinekamp
12/09	Diane Salisbury
12/10	Barb Diemer
12/14	David Schlapp
12/15	Chloe Heiman
12/17	Ed Heyer
12/18	Jeanne McNish
12/19	Todd Hallaron Greg Nehring
12/21	Bonnie Young
12/25	Carol Erickson
12/26	Connie Mitchell
12/27	Nicholas Schlapp Tami Wig Lindsay Young
12/28	Conway Mitchell



## Anniversaries

12/02	Al & Myrtie Warren
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## ALTER FLOWERS

If you would like to add a touch of beauty to the worship with a gift of flowers or donate bread for Holy Communion, the Sign Up Sheets are in the narthex.



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



## DEADLINE:

### Newsletter Articles December 17

## NEWSLETTER HELPERS






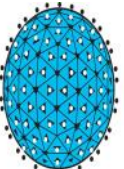



Thank you to those who have filled out the member information cards. If you haven't filled one out yet, please send any email, phone number, and address updates to the church.



If you would like to be added to the church email prayer list please contact the church office or Pastor Tom.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>7:30 UMM Breakfast</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 U'Niter's Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 Chimes</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 UMW Christmas Potluck</p> <p>6:30 Finance Cmte Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Al-Anon</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>DECEMBER 7, 1941</p>  <p>PEARL HARBOR Remembrance Day</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Poinsettia Orders Due</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 Chimes</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00-2:00 Angel Tree Gift Pick Up</p> <p>6:30 Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30 SPRC Mtg</p> <p>7:00 Charge Conference</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Communion</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Newsletter DEADLINE</p> <p>6:30 Trustees Board Mtg</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 Chimes</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 Al-Anon</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>FIRST DAY OF Winter</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>Children's Sunday School Program</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00-7:00 Franklin Mall Project</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Services 5:00pm &amp; 11:00pm</p>	<p>25 Office Closed</p>  <p>GLORY to the NEWBORN King</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 Al-Anon</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30 Newsletter Assembly</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>New Year's Eve</p>	 <p>Welcome, 2020!</p>			

# The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Road  
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## THE MESSENGER — DECEMBER 2019

### The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Road, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: (815) 786-9243

Email: [ucssandwich@frontier.com](mailto:ucssandwich@frontier.com)

website: [www.unitedchurchsandwich.org](http://www.unitedchurchsandwich.org)

#### Sunday Schedule

Worship 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](mailto: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 2019

Church Council Chair	Ken Young
Recording Secretary	Deb Heinekamp
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Pam Nehring
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Sarah Stevens
Lay Leader	Gwen Fox
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
CYM: Joint Youth Coop Rep.	Joanna Olson