



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
112 Hall St., Watertown WI 53094 (920) 261-0736
e-mail: watertownchristumc@gmail.com

Jeffrey Meyer – Pastor

December, 2018

“NEW HEIGHTS”

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Charles Dickens classic holiday tale, A Christmas Carol, cruelly selfish Ebenezer Scrooge is visited on Christmas Eve by three spirits or ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. It is these visitations and the visions they share, especially the glimpse into Christmas future, that inspire him to change and embrace the spirit of Christmas.

While many churches happily re-visit the glory days of the past and really have no choice but to operate in the present, many churches find it difficult to discuss, much less take a hard look at, the future. Whether it is simply the business of life, fear or simply that they have never done it before, discerning God’s calling and planning for the future has not been a big priority in the Christian church of our day.

This Advent and Christmas Eve, we will be exploring the past through the history of Prophecy in the Old Testament. Specifically, the prophecies that relate directly to the birth of the Messiah, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which we presently prepare to celebrate.

In the darkest times of World History, for not only Israel but the world, these prophecies provided hope. Hope that God still loved us as created children and that He had not given up on us. That God was going to come to us in the flesh through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to save us all.

It is my prayerful hope that this Advent and Christmas, by visiting these prophecies of hope from our past, we, as God's followers, cannot only look towards but also carry this hope of Christ's birth, this spirit of Christmas, into the future. That we will be inspired to prayerfully explore how we can reveal the grace of God through Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit as Christians and as a church, to not only the next generation but other generations to come.

Let us come together as a church this Christmas to celebrate and spread the hope found in the prophesied birth of Jesus Christ...now and in the future. ☺

In Christ

PJ

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**We are called and empowered by Jesus
to love, to serve and to witness.**

-Mission statement of Christ United Methodist Church

December Sunday School Schedule

This year, our Sunday School staff has decided that we will be doing things a little differently and we will be having Sunday school every Sunday in December and will not be taking the Sunday off between Christmas and New Year's! See you in Sunday School!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

This year, our Sunday School children are going to be lighting the Advent Wreaths with their class during the 10:00 a.m. service. The schedule is as follows:

December 2: Pre-K and K class with Gina Skrobak and Becky Frye and Grades 1-2 with Kristin Walter and Kathy Lindemer

December 9: Grades 3-5 with Carol Freson and Concetta Brennan

December 16: Middle School class with Diana Johnson and Angel Eagan

December 23: High School class with Rob Lund and Lauren Turtenwald



This year's Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 16, at the 10:00 am service. During this service, we will celebrate Jesus' birthday and have a big party! All of our Sunday School classes will be

performing during this service. There will be scripture readings, poems, a snowman will be created! We will also have all kinds of special music, such as handbells, chimes, flagging and singing! After church, we will be having cake and ice cream to celebrate Jesus' birthday!

UPCOMING DATES FOR PERFORMING IN CHURCH (GRADES PRE-K TO 5TH)

December 9: Handbells. Song: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

December 16: Handbells, flagging and Singing at the Children's Program

January 13: Handbells. Song: "Deep and Wide"

January 27: Flagging



We are very excited to announce our first annual Glow Dance on Friday, January 11, 2019! Mark your calendar for this special event! We will have a DJ, lights, and lots of glow wear!

Here are a couple pictures from PJ's & Popcorn Movie Night.



Holiday Tour of Homes

Remember that our church, along with others in the Shared Community Mission Group, will benefit from the proceeds of the Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 2, from 1-5 p.m. If you haven't been on a tour before, you will be amazed at the unique, amazing decorations the participants have worked so hard to produce for your enjoyment. Our Weekend Food to Go & Grow will receive half of the profits of the tour. Advance tickets are \$12 and tickets are \$15 at the door of any home on the tour, or at Piggly Wiggly, Tribeca Books, or Hometown Pharmacy. Thanks for considering this in a busy holiday month!



Cookie Walk 2018 - December 8

Calling all bakers and candy makers (women and men, too)! It's time to start paging through your favorite cookbooks and shake out those aprons! Our Cookie Walk will be **Saturday, December 8**, and we're hoping for several batches of goodies from each of you.

Almond bark, peanut clusters and Christmas candies are very popular. Decorated cookies go **fast**. The best cookie sellers are always the cutouts, gingerbreads, and anything colorful. We always sell out of those early and have disappointed customers. In fact, last year all the Christmas-y cookies were gone in under an hour!

This year, we will continue to offer “Gifts to Go” in the form of prepackaged cookies and candies. We also have a selection of Gifts in a Jar. You can select from Fudgy Brownie Mix, Gingerbread Cookie Mix, and new this year—Pumpkin Cranberry Bread Mix. These are great options for gift giving.

We would like to have the cookies and candies at the church by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 6. Please pack one type of goody per container and be sure to label what is inside. A cart for the contributions will be in the narthex the week of December 2 and you can leave your treats there. Freezer space is available at the church if you'd like to start baking early.

The success of our sale is dependent on **lots** of homemade contributions from everyone. Please consider this article your personal request to contribute. This is an important project as all proceeds from our sale go towards general expenses and help pay our apportionments. **With everyone's help, we will have another successful year.**

So, crank up the Christmas carols, fill your home with the sweet smells of the

holidays, get out those recipes and start baking!

Any questions, contact Beth Stuart (920-390-2332),
Cookie Walk Chairperson.

December Mission Sunday—Dec. 9

As in recent years, our December Mission recipient will be Crossroads. Crossroads is a non-profit, local organization that assists families in two ways:

Crossroads House: a home where a family can stay while receiving case management help to achieve self-sufficiency; and

Rental Assistance: to prevent eviction and therefore, homelessness. To be eligible, recipients must be

1. Working;
2. Families in need with children;
3. Watertown area residents.

A portion of our Christmas envelope giving will go to this worthy organization. Our own Joyce Hughes was one of the original organizers of this program and remains very involved to this day!

Christmas Family Gifts—Dec. 9!

Our CUMC elves are anxiously awaiting the arrival of your gifts, chosen from our Christmas-giving tree. The deadline is Sunday, December 9! Please remember to check them in on the sheets with an estimate of the value. We will then organize them by family, fill in any “gaps”, and arrange for their delivery to the families when they have made plans for their storage until Christmas. If there will be a delay in

getting them here by December 9, PLEASE contact me at 988-7029. If we don't know your gift is still coming, we will be purchasing another one in its place unnecessarily. If your circumstances have changed, call and let me know. We appreciate the tremendous generosity of our congregation throughout the year, but especially at Christmas. We know there are many demands on your time and finances. Thank you so much!

Ann Nienow



Mitten Tree

We will continue to collect hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, snow pants, and even outgrown boots throughout the winter for kids in our school district. Even when the tree is taken down, you may still put these items in the Mission collection (white) cart. Hopefully, the prices on these items will start to come down soon. We will give them to the school staff to distribute wherever needed. Thanks!

Dinner & A Movie Night! - Dec. 14

This is an event for EVERYONE! (Children need to be accompanied by an adult). **On Friday evening, December 14**, join us for dinner and a movie! We will meet in the fellowship hall at **5:30 p.m.** for dinner and then head to the sanctuary for a movie! Copyright laws don't allow us to advertise the name of the movie, but it is the story of the nativity and is rated PG.

After the movie, we will head back to the fellowship hall for dessert and discussion about the movie! This event is for everyone: men, women and children that can watch PG movies. There is no charge for this event, but we will take a free-will offering to help defray the costs. **PLEASE RSVP to the church office or to JoAnn Meyer at (734)-790-3331 if you would like to attend so that we know how much food we will need.**

Meals-On-Wheels - Dec. 17-21

It is our turn, once again, to deliver meals to the shut-in's in our community the week of December 17-21. The sign-up sheet is on the Blessings Table in the narthex. Please check it out and sign up to do one or two days of deliveries. Thanks for your help. Any questions, please contact Annette in the church office.

For church cancellations due to weather, watch on TV Channel 12 WISN or wisn.com.



The **Christmas Eve services** will be held on Monday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. for the Family Worship and 7:00 p.m. for a Classic service with carols. Both services will have Communion and Candle Lighting. We will need greeters and a head usher for both services.

Book Club – January 15

“*Unbroken: A WWII Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*” by Laura Hillenbrand.

Join us on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, when we will meet at 6:30 p.m. to discuss our next Book Club Choice, Unbroken.

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini ran wild in the streets. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into track, developing his talent to the point where he competed in the Berlin Olympics. But then, WWII broke out and he became an airman in the Pacific. When his bomber crashed into the ocean in 1943, Louis survived adrift on a flimsy life raft, despite sharks, thirst, and starvation, only to be captured by the Japanese and thrown into a POW camp. Driven to the limits of human endurance, Louis would meet desperation with resourcefulness, suffering with hope and brutality with resilience. We will follow his incredible journey to redemption through faith.

Copies are available at the public library through interlibrary loan or at Tribeca. If interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Jan Detrie

Another Turkey Dinner Success

A great big thank you to Joe Wall, Annette Wolf, Deanna Drost, Ruth Borbe, Tom Borbe, Tom Kotur, Judy Frohling, Karen Williams, Mitch Behlke Tammy Lee and Doug Dietzel (to name just a few) who spent countless hours making sure that our guests knew about the event, felt welcome and left well-

fed. A special thank you to Rob Lund and Tom Kotur who cook our turkeys every year (55 again this year).

Once again, our youth were a great help in Fellowship Hall, adding positive energy and very welcome helping hands. Special thanks to Diana Johnson and Amber Haumschild for leading the youth.

We served a record total of 912 meals, earning a profit of \$6,980. Thanks to everyone for coming together and serving God in this unique way.

December Prayer List

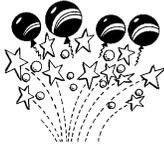
Please include Pastor Jeff and his family and three other families or individuals from the list below in your prayers each day.

Jeremy & Katrina Schwartz Family
 Russ & Lynda Schumacher
 Mike & Vicki Schumacher Family
 Caitlyn Schultz
 Lee & Pam Schuhmacher Family
 Al & Mary Schott
 Ed & Marcia Rydstrom
 Richard & Sally Rumary
 Alex Rumary
 Mike & Lisa Rowoldt
 Debbe Robinson
 Nodra Richardson
 Richard & Shirlee Reynolds
 Dan & Carol Reinhardt
 Chad & Vicky Reimer Family
 Annette Reese
 Scott & Rhonda Radtke Family
 Rich & Laurita Radtke
 Kevin & Julie Quinn
 Laurie Purtell
 Jeff Pirkel
 Jim & Mitch Pirkel



December Birthdays

- 2 Rich Nienow
Brooke Mechelke
- 5 Richard Krakow
- 6 Brianna Kreuser
- 9 Lisa Rowoldt
Katrina Schwartz
- 11 Ed Dantuma
Jeff Overlien
Raelynn Nienow
- 13 Michele Pirkel
- 16 Roger Peirick
- 17 Gregg Breese
- 19 Theresa Toser
Dave Frohling
Polk Burlison
Tisha Morgan
- 20 Ron Brake
Diana Johnson
- 21 Livvy Sorenson
- 23 Cy Spangler
- 24 Shirlee Reynolds
Carol Freson
- 27 Diane Lund
- 29 Mary Bower
- 31 Mindy Bartz
Daryl Haumschild
Mary Wentzel

Holiday Schedule**Sunday, Dec. 2 – 1st Sun. of Advent**

8 & 10 am Worship & Communion
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

Saturday, December 8

8:00 a.m. Cookie Walk

Sunday, Dec. 9 – 2nd Sun. of Advent

8:00 a.m. Worship
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship & Watertown High
School Carollers

Friday, December 14

5:30 p.m. Dinner & A Movie for all

Sunday, Dec. 16 – 3rd Sun. of Advent

8:00 a.m. Worship
8:45 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
6:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 23 - 4th Sun. of Advent

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Worship
8:45 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Family Worship w/Communion
& Candle Lighting
7:00 p.m. Classic Worship w/Communion
& Candle Lighting & Handbell Choir

Sunday, December 30

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Worship
8:45 a.m. Sunday School

Policy for End-of-Year Giving

Financial giving must be in the church office or sent in the mail, postmarked before midnight, Monday, December 31, 2018, to be credited for the year 2018. Anything received after that date will be credited for the year 2019.