



... first united methodist church ...  
one in ministry to all

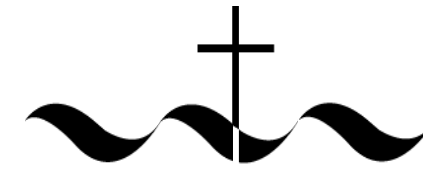
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Organist: Kathy Hartman**  
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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STILLWATER, MN 55082



## First United Methodist Church of Stillwater

*Growing in Love of God and Neighbor*

DECEMBER 2018



### **Pastor Dan's Thoughts**

As I begin this journey through the Advent Season I have been reminiscing about some of the Christmas traditions that have been important and influential to me throughout my life. Many of those traditions can easily sweep you back to the warmth of family gatherings that include the opening of presents around the tree. Favorite traditional meals (for my family it was time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> go round with Turkey and all the fixings). Baking cookies, (sugar cut outs, peanut butter blossom, or pfeffernusse). Traveling to grandmother's house. Going to candle light services, singing favorite familiar carols, hearing the story of Jesus birth proclaimed once again and as the light of Christ was passed from one candle to the next and together we would sing **Silent Night** you could feel the warmth and love of God being poured out.

While in my office on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, I spent much of my time listening to a Pandora station that only plays Christmas Music. (I was getting an early jump on the Advent Season.) In the mix of secular songs such as Silver Bells, I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas and Santa Clause is Coming to Town, I was warmed by voices that offered Christmas Carols that reminded me of this incredible gift that God gave to the world in the gift of the Messiah, A Savior. Angels we have Heard on High, The First Noel, O Holy Night. Within 3 hours I was able to hear the voices of Nat King Cole, Michael Buble', Boys to Men and Casting Crowns all offer beautiful renditions of Silent Night. As I listened, I felt the same warmth of God's love being poured out just as I do every Christmas Eve.

Friends as we look at all that is happening in this world, I pray that during this Advent Season and Christmas we would be in awe of God's gracious love poured out into this world which so often feels dark and cold, and really come to know that God in the Gift of Jesus is offering to us so much more than the world can give. We are given the gift of light, hope, peace, joy and love. May we all be warmed by the gift of Jesus, Emmanuel – God with us!

Merry Christmas

Pastor Dan

*"...I felt the same warmth of God's love being poured out just as I do every Christmas Eve..."*

**We're on the web!**  
[www.fumcstillwater.org](http://www.fumcstillwater.org)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday through  
Thursday 9:00 am to  
3:00 pm.  
Friday 9:00 am to 1:00  
pm.



**Article Requirements:**  
Please help the church save the environment and money, by keeping your articles to 100 words or less. The **January Newsletter deadline is Thursday, December 20th.**

## Christmas Gifts that Won't Break Church Study & Advent Sermon Series

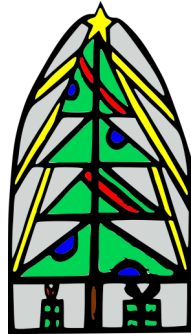
This Advent Season we will be using James W. Moore's book *Christmas Gifts that Won't Break* as the basis for both our Sunday sermon series and several study opportunities that you can be a part of. The gifts that God offers to us and the world that won't break are the very gifts that are spoken of in the lighting of the Advent Candles each Sunday. Those gifts that won't break include: Hope, Love, Joy, Peace and the Gift of Christ!

Class opportunities that you can be a part of include:  
 Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. starting Nov 28th  
 Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. starting Nov 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. starting Dec 2nd

Books that include devotions are available to all at a suggested cost of \$11.00.



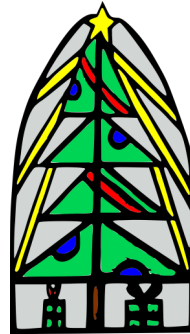
## Celebrate with Us on Christmas Eve



All are invited to join us on Christmas Eve, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the gift of Jesus.

**Candle light services** will be taking place at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm. The 5:00 pm service will be family oriented. The 11:00 pm service will include the celebration of Holy Communion as a part of the service.

We would also like to invite individuals, friends and families to help us offer the gift of Hospitality on Christmas Eve by being present as greeters and ushers. There will be sign-up sheets at the information center if you are willing to help at any of our worship services.



Dec. 2 Deb Auer, Robert Erickson, Marshall White, Meara White; Dec. 3 Jennifer Bye, Dec. 4 Abraham Anderson, Judy Holst; Dec. 7 Cole Funck; Dec. 8 Ann Haraldson, Gail Martell; Dec. 10 Sharon McAuliffe; Dec. 11 Abby Helwig, Dec. 14 Karla Keller; Dec. 20 Drew Keller; Dec. 23 Natalie Janssen; Dec. 24 Diane Jackson, Jane Krentz.; Dec. 25 Jessica Holst; Dec. 26 Sue Niethammer; Dec. 27 William Bickner; Dec. 28 Kristine Bruggemann, Erin Hoff; Dec. 30 Maurice Grogan, Brett Hartman, Jason Haugen, Teresa Myhra, Elias Roll.

If you are on facebook, make sure you "like" us at **First United Methodist Church of Stillwater**. You receive information about what is happening and share this with your family and friends. We post photos of events, worship, gatherings, service work, etc. This is a great way to be connected to your church family!



## YOUTH NEWS

*From Sam*

**HI YOUTH!**

**December 5th and 19th**-confirmation

**December 12th**-We are going to play Price is Right Christmas edition, so come on down for a fun filled night

**December 15th**-SENIOR SATURDAY! Seniors, you are invited to meet at the church to get together and packing up Christmas boxes. We will have some Christmas cookies and hot cocoa for some refreshments and feel free to wear a fun Christmas sweater!



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### October Finances

**FUMC 2018 Budget: \$280,814 (\$23,402 per month)**

	Oct 2018	YTD 2018	Oct '18 Budet Goal
<b>Income</b>	\$26,997	\$227,593	\$234,020
<b>Expenses</b>	\$23,578	\$231,054	
<b>Difference</b>	\$ 3,419	(\$ 3,461)	

Income was good in October which included \$7500 from Festa di Pasta event (thanks again to all of you who helped!). We need to average \$23,000/month for the next 2 months to break even. Let's see if we can do it!

We are blessed to have a congregation that understands the benefits and joy of contributing to the fulfillment FUMC's mission. And the church leadership has done a great job of controlling expenses so we are in sound financial position. As we plan for the future, we hope to complete a couple projects that will .....



### A note from the country store

A huge thank you to all who contributed, bought, and helped. Your generosity is a wonderful quality. We had a great year-not only financially, but the fellowship was terrific.! Bev Walmar

Thank you for your commitment to Koronis Ministries. Your recent gift of \$1,500. was recorded on 10/31/18. Your generous gift will help the vision and build the **Tabernacle at Koronis**.

Thank you so much for all of the calls, prayers, cards, food and visits! It was very thoughtful and I really appreciated it. Special thanks to Pastor Dan. **God bless you, Kathy Holst**

## KID'S CLUB



Kid's Club Come one! Come all! Wednesday, December , 6:15 - 7:15 pm. Come for dinner and stay for the Christmas Holiday themed fun! So much to be excited for and we plan to celebrate!

## LIFE IN THE CHURCH

### Hats & Gloves For Lily Lake Elementary



During the month of December, we will be collecting **new hats and gloves** which we will share with Lily Lake Elementary School. These will be shared with children who may not have these items to keep their heads and hands warm on a cold winter day and allow kids to join their friends on the playground during recess time. A box for gathering these items can be found outside the fellowship hall.

### Worship Media Ministry



A recent article in the StarTribune entitled **“Fastest Growing Religion is ‘None’”** tells us that fewer and fewer people are going to church, see the religion as relevant to their lives and yet are looking to have their lives filled in meaningful ways. Providing opportunities to help people connect to Jesus’ grace and love in worship should be a priority. Technology that is done really well is meant to enhance worship and is one way which helps people, especially those who have little faith experience connect.

Some preliminary work has been done seeking what could be the best possible option for our worship setting. During the latter part of January during one or two of our worship services we will be demonstrating what media would look like in our sanctuary and how it might be utilized to enhance worship. Please note that no decisions have been made and that we are just beginning to explore this possibility.

### Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to join together on Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. to bring the joy of the Christmas to people through the gift of music. Plans are not yet complete but we are working on singing for some shut ins or those in some of the local care facilities. We will gather at the church at 3:00 and journey out to do some singing. Our hope is to end our time together with a soup supper at the church. We are also looking for some people who might be willing to provide crockpots of soup. There will be a sign-up sheet at the information center for those interested in singing, those willing to provide soup and those just wanting to share in this time of fellowship.



### ♣♦ Card Club

We play Bridge on the **FIRST Friday** of every month. Friday, December 7th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please call Margie if you are interested at 651-275-5278.

**New Beginnings Candy Sale** is December 9th before and after worship. Please treat your family and friends to Holiday deliciousness. Proceeds will go to Community Thread. Freewill offering.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**Ada/Ruth** will meet on Friday, December 7th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

**New Beginnings** will meet on December 17th at 12:00 pm at Dock Café in Stillwater. All women are invited.

**Winners Circle** will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, December 13th at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

## MUSIC

### JOYFUL NOISE!



The choir, a few seasonal additions, a string quintet and narrators will present a Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am service. Our cantata is entitled The Christmas Story – A Classic Carol Celebration by Tom Fettke & Thomas Grassi. This cantata has both new and familiar carols with the readings “Christmas Is a Story of Promise”, “Christmas Is a Story of Joy”, “Christmas Is a Story of Faith”, “Christmas Is a Story of Worship”, and “Christmas Is the Story of a Baby” by Ken Bible. The River Town Ringers and a men’s quartet will bless us with Christmas music selections on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our Christmas Eve services will feature soloists/and or small vocal ensembles. Let the carols, hymns and songs of Advent and Christmastide fill your spirit with peace and joy this holy season

## SCRIP

### First UMC Scrip - Gift Shopping that Gives Back

The gifts on their wish list can help make funding the First UMC budget a reality. With gift cards from over 750 brands to choose from, you can give your family and friends the gifts they want while raising funds for First UMC. Find gifts for the adventure seekers. The travelers. The techies. The foodies. The caffeine aficionados. The trendsetters. The pet parents. Even the ones who have everything. **Especially the ones who have everything.** Scrip orders are taken in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday following the worship service. First UMC Scrip doesn’t, cost it pays.

## UMW

Please join us on Thursday, Jan 24, 2019, at 10 am in Fellowship Hall, for a program regarding "God's Gifts". Our program will also include a pledge service. Everyone is welcome; all circle members are urged to attend. Prior to the program, please give some thought to the gifts God has given you. New Beginnings will be providing refreshments. Questions: call Sue Hibberd, 651-439-4672. **Mark your calendars!**


## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The **UMM** will meet at the **Lowell Inn** on Saturday, December 8th at 8:00 am. Join us for a devotion, breakfast, and fellowship to start the weekend. All men of the congregation are invited to attend.



# DECEMBER 2018

The church office will be closed on December 25th for the Christmas Holiday.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship / Communion 11:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga	4 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Martha's Group 12:00 pm Centering Prayer	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Adult Ed Class 6:00 pm Rivertown Ringers 7:00 pm Cantata rehearsal 8:00 pm Open Circle rehearsal	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Winners Circle	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Lowell Inn
<b>9 New Beginning's Candy Sale</b> 10:30 am Worship/ Sunday School Program 11:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Martha's Group 12:00 pm Centering Prayer	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:15 pm Adult Ed Class 6:15 pm Kid's Club 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm Cantata practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Quilters	<b>15 Cantata practice! Orchestra from 9am-9:30am Full Cantata with choir &amp; orchestra 9:30 - 11:30</b>
<b>16 Christmas Cantata</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>17 Valley Outreach</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga 1:00 pm New Beginnings luncheon at Dock Cafe	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Martha's Group 12:00 pm Centering Prayer 6:30 pm Trustees	<b>19 Valley Outreach</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Confirmations 6:15 pm Adult Ed Class 6:15 pm Rivertown Ringers NO Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Valley Outreach</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> NO Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> NO Chair Yoga 5:00 pm Family worship service 11:00 pm Candlelight service	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> Office closed. Merry Christmas! 	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga No Prayer Shawl Group No evening programs	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> NO Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>31 New Years Eve</b> 10:00 am Chair Yoga					