

FIRST, EMMANUEL & ADRIAN UMC

# LIFE

DECEMBER 2018 KEY NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS  
BEGINS WITH

*Christ*



**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT IN SOUTHERN MINNESOTA**  
**Volume 5 || Issue 12**

One song calls this the "most wonderful time of the year". That might be hard to disagree with because Advent and Christmas are filled with singular moments of peace and joy. Granted there are hectic moments and emotional ones as well. Jesus came to show us how to make all of life filled with peace and joy - every single day.



Nancy and I extend a heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your love, support, and care in the past years. As we move through this Christmas season, we pray that this time will be filled with peace and joy in celebration of Jesus' birth.

*Blessings to you this Christmas Season!*

*Daren Flinck*

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

**Note: Pastor Daren will be on medical recovery beginning with his other knee replacement surgery on Monday, December 31st until Monday, January 14 (or near that time). Pastor Kathy Brandt will be preaching at the appointed locations on Sunday, January 6th and Sunday, January 13th.**

## Sunday Worship

Emmanuel UMC Worship  
9:00 a.m.  
Adrian UMC Worship  
9:00 a.m.  
First UMC Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
  
United Methodist Office  
408 11th Street  
Worthington, Minnesota  
56187  
Phone: (507) 372-2939

## Inside this issue...

From the Pastor	2	Church Calendar	8-9
December Worship Themes	3	Town Hall Meeting SouperBowl Prayer/Care Center Christmas lineup	10-11
Highlight Reel Church Challenge Mobile Meals	4-5	Church Apps Church News	12-13
Blue Christmas Love Inc Tree Forest Youth Rally Community Events Cookie Walk	6-7	Birthdays & Anniversaries December Calendar of Volunteers, Youth group info	14-15

"Worship the Lord with gladness..." - Psalm 100:2a

## December Worship - Come and Join Us!

Sunday, December 2  
1st Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion @ First/Adrian  
Video Message @ Emmanuel

### *"Watching & Waiting"*

*"Watch and pray, for there is a package being delivered, a package from God, just for you."*

- Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 9  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion @ Emmanuel  
Video Message @ Adrian

### *"Wilderness Preparation"*

*"You, and I, and God know how much prep work there is yet to do."*

- Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 16  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Program @ First /Adrian  
Pastor's Message @ Emmanuel

### *"Filled with Expectation"*

*"Like the people who waited with expectation with John the Baptist, we are filled with expectation of when Jesus comes again."*

- based on Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 23  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Video Message @ Emmanuel

### *"The One of Peace"*

*"It is a joy and peace that keeps our hearts warm in the coldest of times that is often present in the world."*

- Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:39-45

Monday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
5:30 p.m. - First UMC  
7:00 p.m. - Emmanuel UMC  
9:00 p.m. - Adrian UMC

### *"A Time for Miracles"*

*"Christmas Eve is a time to celebrate miracles!"*

- based on Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 30  
1st Sunday of Christmas  
Video Message @ Adrian

### *"New Year Fashions"*

*"Beginning the new year out right means we need to look at the newest fashions and decide what we will wear as followers of Jesus."*

- based on Colossians 3:12-17

### First/Emmanuel/Adrian United Methodist Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

**Office Manager:** Susan Noerenberg

**Custodian:** Sarah & Chad Nickel

**HS Youth Director:** Sandi Mead

**MS Youth Director:** Lisa Gerdes

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Here are the highlights from the First UMC Covenant Council Meeting on November 29th, 2018

### **Celebrations:**

Missions team were very pleased with the 69 shoeboxes filled for the Operation Christmas Child (the team added \$200 for shipping, along with many who provided extra funds for shipping as well). This amount does not include the boxes Adrian UMC put together. The missions team also delivered 68# of food items to the Manna Food Shelf. The Friendship Club served about 110 or so with many volunteers helping. Our church Halloween party served about 80 people (kids and adults) who came to have a fun time. The new boiler seems to be working great (last month's bill was a little lower).

### **Challenges:**

Finance reports that our money counters are a bit short for December - members from Finance are working at providing counters for the month.

### **Current Focus:**

We will serve hot chocolate and Christmas cookies after the Holiday Parade this Friday. Our church will be delivering Mobile Meals during the month of December - thanks to Kathy Gallagher and Sally Hibma for organizing this effort. We will be hosting Love INC's Christmas Tree Forest during the first week of December. Janelle Johnson is once again helping organize the Operation Christmas Basket, hosted by the American Reformed Church the first Friday in December. First UMC will also host the Chamber Singers 25th Anniversary Concert on Sunday, December 9th at 3:00 p.m.. On December 12th, the youth will have a Christmas party during their meeting time. On December 15th, the youth will be baking for the Cookie Walk (which can be purchased on Sunday, December 16th). The Christmas Program will be presented on Sunday, December 16th during the 10:30 a.m. worship time, followed by a potluck in the fellowship hall. Emmanuel invited anyone who would like to sing Christmas carols at various health care centers to join them on Sunday, December 23rd at 1:00 p.m..

Christmas Eve services are set for 5:30 p.m. (First), 7:00 p.m. (Emmanuel), and 9:00 p.m. (Adrian). The missions team is presenting the 4th Annual Chili and Soup Cook-off for Sunday, January 27th.

### **Cutting Edge Issues:**

#### **Item #1: One Church Exploratory Team Update -**

We discussed the progress of the Exploratory Team. The team continues to meet to refine the areas of financial and building matters, volunteer staffing, and proposed name change. The target date for a special church conference to vote on this proposal will be set for early June 2019. A Town Hall meeting is planned before that date to bring everyone up to speed on the proposal, giving everyone a chance to understand the complete picture of the proposal.

#### **Item #2: 2018 Financial Report -**

Ellen reports good news that we are still current on paying our apportionment payment on time - we are caught up going into the last month of the year! Praise God for your faithful giving to the ministry of First Church!

The next council meeting is set for Church Meeting Night,  
Thursday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m..  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

### *Church Challenge!...*

CHURCH CHALLENGE! or as Pastor Daren said in his sermon - "I double dare you!" Every month we're going to ask you to do the challenge once a week, for the whole month.

### **December's Challenge:**

Feeling the Holiday crunch? Take a deep breath, remember why we celebrate and feel a sense of peace as you exhale. Wishing you a blessed Christmas!!

### *Mobile Meals Sign Up:*

There are 2 routes left, one is on December 26th and the other is December 31st. This is a great opportunity to make this a family Holiday moment! Please sign up in the narthex after church or email or call the church to sign up. Thank you for your help with this important ministry.

### *Decorating the Church:*

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on December 1st starting at 12:00 p.m. If you are willing and available please come and help us make the church ready for the celebration of Christmas.

### *Blue Christmas Service:*

First UMC has scheduled it's second Blue Christmas Service for Sunday, December 2nd, 2018 - 6:00 p.m., to be held in the Chapel at the church. Led by Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck, this Blue Christmas Service is a time to remember lost loved ones during the Advent season. On that night, we will lift up the Lord's presence for the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with such loss. Everyone is invited to come and attend this meaningful service. Please make a note of this event on your December calendar!

### *Love Inc. Christmas Tree Forest:*

The **Annual Christmas Tree Forest** event by Love INC is fast approaching. There will be familiar activities that we've come to enjoy as well as new opportunities. Here are some new ways in which your church can be involved.

**Churches can now submit one decorated tree.** Perhaps you have a youth group or small group that want to do something together. Why not submit a decorated tree? The theme for this year is ***Open Your Hearts***. What a great way to share about our awesome God. (You don't have to follow this theme for your tree.) If you want to submit a tree, just give us a call and we'll give you all the details.

**Serve together during the CTF event!** We need folks to help welcome, guide, serve cookies & drinks, and clean up. Your group can serve in any shift (or more than one shift!). The shifts are 3:15 PM - 5:30 PM and 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday. Please contact Love Inc. @ 727-7291.

The Love Inc. Christmas Tree Walk will be on December 4th, 5th and 6th from 3:30-7:30 pm at First United Methodist Church (FH). With setup on Sunday, December 2nd starting at 1:00 p.m. and cleanup on Friday, December 7th by 12:00 p.m.

### *Youth Rally:*

The Worthington Area Youth Ministers Association would like to invite all youth in 7th through 12th grade to the "507 Youth Rally" which will be held on Wednesday, December 5th at American Lutheran Church. The evening starts at 6:30 p.m. with free pizza, followed by a youth rally from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The rally is to unite students and encourage them in their walk of faith together.

### *Community Christmas Basket:*

The following items are needed to fill baskets for the needy families in Nobles County: Cash Donations to purchase food and clothing. Non-perishable foods. New adult warm clothing, especially gloves, scarves, hats or earmuffs. New child mittens, gloves, caps, slippers or stockings. New toys for children. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps and combs. Volunteers for packing and so forth. Cash Donations may be mailed to: Community Christmas Baskets, PO Box 552, Worthington, MN 56187. Donated items may be delivered to the American Reformed Church in Worthington from 8:00-10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 6th. Please contact Dennis or Marie Weeks at 376-9180 for more questions on donations. Baskets will delivered on Friday, December 7th. Any further questions may be directed to Janelle Johnson at 376-5479.

### *Worthington Chamber Singers:*

The Worthington Chamber Singers will be presenting its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 9th at 3:00 p.m. at First UMC. The theme for this year's concert is "Women of the Promise". The concert will feature Christmas songs arranged by women. A special commissioning has been ordered to sing a song that commemorates the 25th year of the Chamber Singers existence. Under the direction of Eric. E. Parish, the concert will feature singers and instrumentalists from our area, including some from our own local churches. A free will offering will be taken for local missions.

### *Children's Christmas Program:*

The Children will have their Christmas program on December 16th at 10:30 a.m.

### *Youth Cookie Walk:*

The youth will be working on cookies for their annual cookie walk on Saturday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to donate cookies please bring them on Saturday from 10:00-12:00 or Sunday morning for the cookie walk on Sunday, December 16th with the Cookie Walk starting at 9:00 a.m. If you'd like to help with the cookies please show up at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. The youth really appreciate your help in this fundraiser for youth activities. Please contact Lisa Gerdes or Sandi Mead for more details.

### *First & Emmanuel Christmas Poinsettias:*

Don't forget to order your Red Poinsettia for a Christmas decoration of the sanctuary this year in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion. The cost per poinsettia will be \$9.00 and will be delivered to the church. Please share them with the church until after the Christmas Eve service. The deadline for the order is December 17th. There will be a sign up sheet in First's Narthex and you may either put the \$9.00 in a separate envelope in the offering plate (please indicate what this is for) or deliver it to the church office.

## *Town Hall Meeting in January:*

Coming up on the date calendar of important moments for United Methodists is February 23-26, 2019, when a Special General Conference has been scheduled of the United Methodist Church to discuss three plans that came out of the Commission of the Way Forward and the Council of Bishops. Our Bishop Ough and our General Conference Delegates have done much to provide gatherings around the conference to keep us informed. We may not be as aware of the issues our denomination is facing and - as a result - may be unprepared for the outcomes in February. We have been encouraged to have a church wide conversation before this important meeting. Please set aside Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 11:45 a.m. for an important Town Hall Meeting with all three congregations - the meeting will be held in First UMC's fellowship hall. The desire for is to inform our congregation to simply bring awareness to the fact that change is likely to happen. For further questions, please contact Pastor Daren.

## *Souper Bowl/Soup Cook-Off:*

Mark your calendars for the Mission Team's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup Cook-Off. It will be held immediately after church in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January, 27, 2019. For a freewill donation to missions, tasters will enjoy a soup lunch and vote for their favorite recipes. Competitors, start perfecting your recipes. Watch for more details.

### *Prayer Chain*

Please send requests to our email or phone prayer chain:

#### **[email prayer chain]**

Bob & Judy Emary  
rjemary@mediacombb.net or  
(507) 376-6895

#### **[phone prayer chain]**

Janelle Johnson  
(507) 376-5479.

Also watch for prayer updates in the Prayer Corner of the Friday Update.

#### **Our Care Center Residents:**

##### **Crossroads Care:**

Dorothy Lease  
Myrtle Klumper

##### **South Shore Care Center:**

Marge Wendt  
Julane Coyer  
Anne Doeden

##### **Mary Jane Brown Center:**

Mary Prins

##### **Minnesota Veteran's Home:**

Marvin Klooster





**Sunday, December 2nd:**

*Blue Christmas Service - 6:00 p.m. (Chapel)*



**Tuesday, December 4th - Thursday, December 6th:**

*Love INC Christmas Tree Forest—"Open Your Hearts"*

*3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (FH)*



**Friday, December 7th:**

*Community Christmas Basket @ American Reformed Church- @ 8:00 a.m.*



**Sunday, December 9th:**

*Worthington Chamber Singers Christmas Concert—"Women of Promise"*

*3:00 p.m.. (First UMC)*



**Saturday, December 12th:**

*Youth Cookie Christmas Party*

*6:15 p.m. (First's youth Room)*



**Saturday, December 15th:**

*Youth Cookie Walk Baking/Decorating*

*9:00 a.m. (First UMC Kitchen)*



**Sunday, December 16th:**

*Youth Cookie Walk*

*9:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. (FH)*

*Adrian UMC Children's Christmas Program*

*9:00 a.m. (Adrian UMC)*

*First UMC Sunday School Christmas Program*

*10:30 a.m. (First UMC)*

*Potluck*

*11:40 a.m. (FH)*



**Sunday December 23rd:**

*Emmanuel Caroling*

*1:00 p.m. (Emmanuel UMC)*



**Sunday, December 24th:**

*Christmas Eve Services*

*5:30 p.m. (First UMC)*

*7:00 p.m. (Emmanuel UMC)*

*9:00 p.m.. (Adrian UMC)*

First UMC provides numerous opportunities to get connected and stay connected - especially for those families who are always on the go. Check out a few of these ways to connect with schedules, events, and chances to increase and strengthen your faith:

**Get  
Connected!**

### *Our Church App:*

Download our free app on your smartphone or ipad. You can see the upcoming church schedule, interact by listening to previous Sunday messages or sending a question for the pastor, and you can take notes designed for each Sunday message. You can even give online - it's that easy and secure. You will find the app in the App Store - search for First United Methodist Church Worthington.

### *Our Facebook Page:*

We have an active Facebook page that often promotes the ministry of our church. Announcements, events, and sharing stories takes place on our Facebook page. We also make special announcements via our page to keep you up to date on schedule changes. Use the following link to add our page to your favorites: [facebook.com/worthingtonfirstumc](https://www.facebook.com/worthingtonfirstumc) or [facebook.com/adrianumc](https://www.facebook.com/adrianumc)

### *Pastor Daren's Blog:*

Pastor Daren has a blog that provides insights and behind the scenes reflections on our busy lives today. His most recent series included reflections on his trip to Italy and the Holy Land - the articles are still there for you to read! Here is the link to his blog - subscribe to it today (no cost): [revdaren.blogspot.com](http://revdaren.blogspot.com)

### *First UMC YouTube Channel:*

We have just started this channel as a place to share the videos that are produced by the church. The plan is to post the messages from Sunday on this channel making it easier for you to stay connected. Just go to YouTube and search for First United Methodist Church Worthington or Adrian United Methodist Church

### *Right Now Media Library:*

RightNow Media Library is an online video resource that you can utilize at home right from your computer. Over 10,000 Christian growth and learning videos are available to you - right now! First UMC provides this service at no cost to all of its members and friends to use in their Christian growth and learning. It's like Netflix for Christians. Set up your personal account today at no charge! Contact Susan at the church office - she can help you set up your account to get started.

### *UMW—God's Work Our Hands:*

The UMW would like to thank everyone who has donated to their "God's Work Our Hands" project. They raised a total of \$2,285.00 to put towards the Christmas Baskets, UMCOR, SW Crisis Center, Worthington Salvation Army-Nobles County, The Banquet, The Friendship Supper and The Emma Norton home.

### *Missed Last Sunday? Listen Up!...*

If you are out of town on a Sunday, you can still listen to the message each week. Using our church app, go to the "Listen" button and select the message you would like to listen to. You can also use our church website to access the Sunday message select the "Sunday" page and the message you wish to hear should be right there. Usually, the Sunday message is uploaded by 12:30 p.m. each Sunday. If you desire, you may also obtain a dvd copy of the service to watch on your tv or computer. Be watching for a future announcement that we are planning to livestream the service on FaceBook Live! Stay connected with your church during these busy fall and winter months.

### *Sunday Worship on TV - YouTube:*

Sunday's worship service is available online and on public access tv in various locations. The service is always broadcasted on the Adrian Cable Public Access Channel. Viewings are on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 pm; Wednesday and Friday at 11:00 a.m. It's a great way to stay connected if you are out of the area on the weekend! You can also access the Sunday worship service broadcast from Adrian and First Church on each church's YouTube channel - just subscribe to your church's channel by searching for either Adrian United Methodist Church or First United Methodist Church. Sunday services are usually uploaded by Sunday night of that worship service.

### *New To Our Church Library:*

The Night Light Circle have purchased two new books - Parents Arise! Grandparents Arise! Books 1 and 2 by Al Erickson. They are biblically based parenting books that deal with real time issues like human trafficking and "entrapment" issues. Book 1 spells out the challenges for safeguarding our youth and book 2 presents a tool box of ways to do so. Please check them out. We hope they are an asset to help you protect our youth.

## Happy Birthday!

### FIRST UMC

- 1 Frank McDowell
- 2 LeAnn Donovan
- 3 Burdell Kuhl
- 5 Judy Emary
- 8 Julie Hohensee
- 9 Jeffrey Homan
- 10 Austin Klaassen
- 11 Jean Monthei
- 12 Rebecca Brignac
- 13 Nancy Hyink  
Dennis Miller
- 16 Anna McDowell
- 20 Dane Jeppesen  
Andrew Johnson  
Nancy Flinck  
Kelly Maras

- 22 Amy Molter
- 23 Colleen Potts
- 25 Delores Berkness  
Dianne Dalrymple  
Carol Krosch
- 27 Brian Bishop
- 28 Cindy Langendorfer  
Rachel Moore  
Felicity Steinle

### EMMANUEL UMC

- 3 Anne Doeden
- 6 Justin Roelfs
- 14 Tim Kor
- 17 Brooke Erwin

### ADRIAN UMC

- 2 Kelli Hendel
- 6 Ashley (Palaschak) Kurtz
- 14 Cade Heidebrink
- 15 Keyona Klingenberg
- 16 Gabriella Zebe
- 17 Taylor Heidebrink
- 21 Diego Zebe
- 23 Jason Spaar
- 26 Brent Hokeness
- 27 Paul Reyne
- 28 Nathan Reyne
- 30 Tracey Reyne



## Happy Anniversary!

### FIRST UMC

- 22 Dick & Denise Schlichte

Youth Group (September-May)  
Wednesday 6:15 to 7:15 pm  
Sunday 9:00 to 10:00 am  
Middle School Youth: Grades 6-8 Lisa Gerdes  
Senior High School Youth: Grades 9-12 Sandi Mead

First Ministry Helpers		December Calendar of Volunteers:			
Sound	Tech	Bus	Nursery	Greeters	Ushers
2 Deb Steinle	2 Jeff Ludes	2 Galen & Sherry Benton	2 Ellen Hoefker Ashley Hoefker	2 Jeff & Cheryl Homan Kathy Gallagher	2 Brian Bishop Kari Meyer Clyde Scheevel Ryan Hill
9 Kari Meyer	9 Ben Lopez	9 Clyde Scheevel James Jenson	9 Jill & Liz Spiegelhoff	9 Doris Palmer	9 Gary Hibma Kari Meyer
16 Deb Steinle	16 Kya Nickel	16 Rick Dalrymple Burdell Kuhl	16 Julie Lopez Terry Perkins	16 Jerry Langendorfer Clyde Scheevel	16 Gary Hibma Julie Hohensee Amy & Dana Oberloh
23 Rick Dalrymple	23 Kip Jenson	23 Trevor Nickel Dana Oberloh	23 Lisa Gerdes Jeff Ludes Claire Ludes	23 Ryan & Naomi Hill Merle Belz	23 Kathy Gallagher Clyde Scheevel Burdell Kuhl Nancy Galland
24 Deb Steinle	24 Colby Nickel	24 Not Offered	24 Sharon Algood	24 Jim Nickel Family	24 Jim Nickel Family
30 Kari Meyer	30 Liz Spiegelhoff	30 Mike & Janelle Johnson	30 Amy & Kylee Shirbroun	30 Jim & Iris Pierce Craig & Madonna Carlson	30 Jorge & Julie Lopez Rick & Dianne Darlymple

Emmanuel Ushers
2 Jason Barrie
9 Kevin DeSmith
16 Jason Barrie
23 Kevin DeSmith
24 Jason Barrie
30 Kevin DeSmith

Adrian Ushers
2 Chad & Meegan Heidebrink
9 Dana & Scott Heidebrink
16 Dave & Cindy Hokeness
23 Terry & Darlene Miller
24 Cheryl Dismore & Gary Boltjes
30 Walt & Alice Kellen

Acolyte Lighters
Adrian: Riley Bertrand & Brylee Zebe

Communion Helpers
First: Merle Belz
Emmanuel: Jean Doeden
Adrian: Caryn Harrington (Prepare) Autumn Grussing (Serve)

Video Camera
Adrian: Ky Ruppert

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Come to Know Christ... Go to Make Christ Known



*Return Service Requested*

