



First United
Methodist Church
DOWNTOWN FOR GOOD

December 2016
& January 2017
Number 11

the Chimes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MADISON



Worship Services

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Join children, youth and adults who take the roles of angels, shepherds and prophets of old to re-tell the traditional story of the Holy Child's birth. After the service, enjoy Christmas treats in Fellowship Hall.

Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21, 7 p.m., Chapel

A quiet time of music, candlelight and reflection to gently welcome the Light of the World.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Sanctuary

A Service of Lessons and Carols accompanied by candle lighting to celebrate the Holy Birth. Childcare will be provided during the 7 p.m. service.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Celebrating with Communion, carols and even more carols.

Sunday, January 1

First Sunday After Christmas

Message: Rev. Tina S. Lang, "A Voice Was Heard"

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord

Message: Rev. Dr. Mark A. Fowler

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

DECEMBER 4

Second Sunday of Advent
Communion at Both Services
Text: Matthew 3:1-12

Message: Rev. Dr. Mark A. Fowler
"Remembrance of Christmas Past:
The Wilderness Crying for a Voice"
Music: Festival Choir

DECEMBER 11

Third Sunday of Advent
Text: Isaiah 35:1-10
Message: Rev. Dr. Mark A. Fowler
"The Life of Christmas Present"
Music: Chancel Choir,
Adam A. Shelton, Soloist

DECEMBER 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Text: Matthew 18-25
Message: Rev. Dr. Mark A. Fowler
"The Hope of Christmas Future"
Music: Blessed Brass,
Chamber Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship - Annual
Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
Communion at Both Services
A Service of Carols and
Communion at Both Services
Quadrilateral Quartet,
Mary Ann Harr, Harpist
Christmas Community Meal,
Noon-2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

8:30-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall



We seek to embody grace and hospitality in the manner of Jesus, nurturing our diverse spiritual journeys and joining together as a servant community to help realize a more loving and just world.

Musings

We need a little Christmas, don't you think?

There is enough difficulty and uncertainty in the world.

As a preacher and theologian I look to the story of the birth of Jesus and ponder the mystery of incarnation. I try to wrestle with the implications of God becoming flesh and the authority of the life and ministry of Jesus for our own belief and journey. Yes, that will occupy my study and my prayer. It will shape and form the preparation for my preaching and teaching.

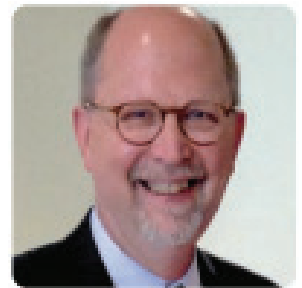
But, I think this year I need a little Christmas. I need the familiar and the idealistic, the romantic and the sentimental. I am not sure that words like Joy and Hope and Love can be said enough this year. Perhaps said until they become real for me again.

I am sure that a candlelit sanctuary will fill me with gratitude and hope. The warm glow of Christmas Eve illuminates your faces and recalls the grace that has brought us together. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." That phrase touches me deeply and will have new meaning as we have joined in this journey of life and faith and hospitality and hope for a loving, just and transformed world.

There is enough difficulty in the world.

"Fear Not!" the angel said.

We need a little Christmas, don't you think?



"I am not sure that words like Joy and Hope and Love can be said enough this year."

Mark

Rev. Dr. Mark A. Fowler, Lead Pastor

first church News

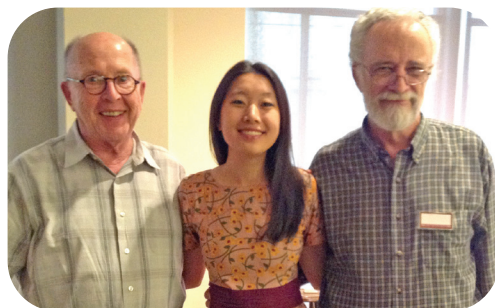
Adjourned Session of the Church Conference

Monday, January 16, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

On November 29, Scott Carlson, our District Superintendent, convened a Circuit-wide Charge Conference at Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison. His purpose was to gather the churches of Madison to celebrate our ministry as United Methodists and address the importance of reaching out to our city with the message of the gospel and growing our church communities. Some of the business of the annual church conference normally held each year was conducted. Salaries, preliminary expenditure plans, membership management, election of Governing Board members were the major items on the agenda.

Given that this is Mark Fowler's first year with us and there are important items that our church may want to discuss at greater length and detail, there has been an **Adjourned Session of the Church Conference** scheduled in January. This is a special consideration by the District Superintendent, our pastor and the Governing Board for this important time together.

All members of the church and United Methodist Clergy who look to First United Methodist Church as their Charge Conference are invited and urged to attend. The meeting will be on the evening of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. It will begin with a brief worship service of remembrance. The full agenda will be posted in the weekly @First electronic newsletter and available at worship on January 8 and 15. **Please put January 16 on your calendar. We hope this will be a great opportunity to review our good work together and look forward to what has been planned!**



Grace Newton spoke at the Fall Festival Luncheon about her experiences studying and traveling in China, pictured here with Jim Ostrander (l.) and her father, Jim Newton (r.)

Newcomer Gathering

**Sunday, December 4
10:30 a.m., Room 201**

If you would like to learn more about First Church and its mission and ministries, please join us for an informal gathering. Let us know you are interested in attending by contacting Mary Hasheider at mhasheider@fumc.org or 608-338-0107.



Introducing Lyons Lecturer Robin Meyers

Spiritual Defiance: Building a Beloved Community of Resistance; Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus; and Why the Christian Right Is Wrong: A Minister's Manifesto for Taking Back Your Faith, Your Flag, Your Future - Judging by these book titles, we are in for some exciting as well as controversial topics when the 14th annual Lyons Lecture hosts Reverend Robin Meyers this coming April 29, 2017. Mark your calendar now. You won't want to miss this one!

Rev. Meyers, Ph.D, has served as the senior minister at Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ since 1985, and as professor of rhetoric in the Philosophy Department at Oklahoma City University since 1991. Watch future issues of *The Chimes* for more information on Dr. Meyers, what his lectures will be, and other matters pertaining to our highly successful event!

Isthmus Brass Christmas Concert for Porchlight

Thursday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.,
Sanctuary

The Isthmus Brass is one of the foremost brass ensembles in the Midwest, composed of musicians from throughout south central Wisconsin; many are music professors at various colleges in the area. (Learn more about them at their website: <http://www.isthmusbrass.com/>) For the past number of years, it has been my dream to fill to overflow capacity the entire Sanctuary at First United Methodist Church. As this will probably be my last public event as Executive Director of Porchlight, I would like to have as many attend this event as possible. It is a free will offering for Porchlight and a donor will match dollar for dollar the donations we receive up to \$5,000. Please help us reach our goal and enjoy an evening of fantastic music.

Steve Schooler

Hospital Visits

The dedicated members of our Hospital Visitation Team are available to offer visits and prayerful support to members and friends of First Church during a hospital stay. **If you are going to be hospitalized and would welcome such visits, you must indicate this to the hospital upon admittance.** (This is especially important to keep in mind when someone is admitted through the emergency department, where information about visiting preferences may not automatically be collected.) Your permission gives the hospital authority to share your name when they are contacted by our Hospital Visitation Team representatives. Please help our team find you so they can share your burden and help make a difficult time a little easier for you and your family.



Perfect Harmony in Concert

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus of Madison Presents
"Winter Memories"

Musical Selections Celebrating the Season

Friday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, 3 p.m.

Celebrating its 20th year, the Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus is Madison's gay and gay-friendly men's chorus, who "sing to make a better world." The program will feature seasonal songs, including "Let It Snow," "Let There Be Peace on Earth," and "Hallelujah." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at www.PerfectHarmonyChorus.org or at the door.

Bread Bakers Kneaded

Each Sunday we give first-time visitors to our church a loaf of homemade bread as a welcome gift. If you like to bake, we invite you lend your talent to this hospitality program. Members of our bread baking team supply 12 small loaves one Sunday several times during the year. Please contact Sue Petkovsek via the church office at info@fumc.org or 608-338-0545 for details. Thank you!

Recycle the Warmth

Sunday, January 29

Help us collect blankets for St. Vincent de Paul to distribute to needy individuals and families by bringing new or gently used blankets to church on Sunday, January 29. Another way to help is to purchase blankets at a discount on Friday, January 27 or Saturday, January 28 at Shopko stores in Madison, where you can make a blanket donation in the store. Help us **Recycle the Warmth!**

Please Welcome These New Members!

New members join a fellowship seeking to build upon the faithful journeys of the past as we make a difference in the name of Christ today. Please take time to seek out our new members and welcome them to the fellowship of our church and the journey we will share together.



Sarah & Robert Emerson



Rafael & Erin Hastey



Glendale Stewart

Advent



Sharing Comfort and Joy

Sundays, December 4 – 18, Octagon

Mission ministries associated with First Church can help you bring “tidings of comfort and joy.” Comfort is shared through various ministries in the world and joy comes to loved ones and friends as they receive the gifts you’ve purchased through our mission partners. The Comfort and Joy Market will be available in the Octagon area outside Fellowship Hall every Sunday during Advent. Visit the International Ministries table where you can purchase Fair Trade coffees, teas and chocolates. Then stop at the Pilgrims of Ibillin table for handmade soaps, wood carvings, scarves and jewelry from Palestine. The third market table will offer homemade food products from Porchlight (a Dane County non-profit agency providing emergency shelter, food, employment services, counseling and affordable transitional and permanent housing to over 8,000 people annually) and MUM’s Just Bakery. Let your Christmas giving this year offer “tidings of comfort and joy!”

Warming Up the Manger Bed

Help bring warmth and comfort to little children by filling the manger bed with hats, mittens, and scarves. The manger bed will be located in Fellowship Hall throughout Advent. Bring hand-knit, crocheted or store-bought items and help fill the manger bed. The United Methodist Women will collect the contributed items and get them to children and families affiliated with Northcott Neighborhood House, a United Methodist ministry in Milwaukee.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Children, youth and adults of First Church will tell the story of Jesus’ birth through verse and song. Enjoy this annual tradition followed by Christmas treats in Fellowship Hall.

The Christmas Spirit Found in Community

Special community-building activities are planned for each Sunday of Advent. These will be wonderful opportunities for inviting friends and neighbors to join you. This is a season when your invitation may be most welcome. Reach out and find ways to encourage others to share the joy of our amazing community of faith by joining you for worship and these special activities!

Sunday, December 4:

Christmas Cookie Walk

All members who are able are invited to bring one dozen decorated Christmas cookies to add to our cookie walk. **Bring them to the kitchen by 8:45 a.m.** Our kitchen crew will get them displayed on a table right down the center of Fellowship Hall so they’re ready for coffee hour at 10 a.m. Extra cookies will be decoratively boxed and shared with friends at Come As You Are Worship on Wednesday and through the Food Pantry.

Sunday, December 11:

A Victorian Parlor Concert and Luncheon

11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Enjoy the music amidst the glow of candlelight reflecting off the silver service that’s been all shined up for a luncheon of Victorian-themed finger foods and decadent desserts. **Sign up by December 5** at fumc.org or at the Information Desk on Sunday.

UMW Tabitha Circle

Thursday, December 15, Noon

Tabitha Circle will meet for a catered luncheon and fellowship at Josie Gobel's home. We will also work on planning our 2017 calendar and reading program. For planning purposes please R.S.V.P. via the church office at info@fumc.org or 608-338-0545.

Thanks to UMW!

The Food for Thought Initiative sends many thanks to the United Methodist Women for their Fall Backpack Drive. They collected almost 40 backpacks to be used for students to take home food from our two food pantries, in East High School and Sandburg Elementary. The backpacks are a way to transport food without other students knowing they are in need. Thank you so much for your kindness, and thanks to the entire congregation for your generosity!

Mary Lou Taylor,

Madison Metropolitan School District

United Methodist Women Interfaith Brunch

Saturday, January 7, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

The women of First Church will welcome women from the Orchard Street Mosque as our special guests for a time of fellowship and learning about the Islamic faith. The Raging Grannies will also be present to add their special musical touch to the morning. Child care will be provided. The buffet brunch will include vegetarian and gluten free options. Tickets will be available for purchase in the Welcome Center in the Narthex on Sundays in December. Do plan to be present for this very special event!

Church Women United

December and January Gatherings

Gathering, coffee and refreshments at 9 a.m., followed by a short business meeting. Program begins at 10 a.m.

Friday, December 2 at New Beginnings Alliance Church (602 Acewood Blvd.) – *Note location change*

Dr. Ruben Anthony will present a program, "Update on the Madison Urban League."

Friday, January 6 at Bethany UMC (3910 Mineral Point Road)

The Human Rights Award will be presented to Steven Schooler, Executive Director of Porchlight, for his many years of leadership of this organization.

FUMC Connecting Ministries



LGBT Counseling and Support



Transitional Housing



Christmas Mission Giving

A Christmas Mission envelope is included in this issue of Chimes. Special mission giving at Christmas is added to mission gifts of Easter and a midsummer mission special offering to help make mission ministries possible in Madison, throughout Wisconsin, our nation and the world. In 2016 we have been able to share almost \$25,000 with worthy ministries. Please give generously. Thank you!

2016 Mission Grant recipients: Madison Hospital Chaplaincy, Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Madison-area Urban Ministries, Triangle Community Ministry, OutReach LGBTQ Resource Center, Food, Faith and Farming Network, Pathway Home, Porchlight, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, The Faith Place, Forward Learning Youth and Young Adults

The Chimes 7

Serving God's People

Outreach Ministry Programming

Community Outreach Breakfast

Wednesdays

9 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Come As You Are Worship

Wednesdays

9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Outreach in the Octagon

Wednesdays

9-11 a.m., Octagon

Food Pantry

Monday & Wednesday:

10 a.m. – Noon

Tuesday & Thursday:

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Bethel Homeless

Support Services

Meals Provided Weekly

Our Night at the Shelter

Second Saturday every month.

Porchlight Homeless Men's

Drop-in Shelter

Community Holiday Meals

Christmas..... Dec. 25, 2016

Easter..... April 16, 2017

For more information contact

Karen Andro,

Director of Outreach Ministries

kandro@fumc.org

608-338-0320



Honoring Our Homeless Memorial

Wednesday, December 21, Capitol Square

This vigil celebrates the lives of the homeless members of our community who have died without a home. Karen Andro serves on the leadership team for this special community memorial and will share details through church communications when plans have been finalized. If you are interested in helping please contact Karen at 608-338-0320 or kandro@fumc.org.

Christmas Community Meal

**Sunday, December 25, Noon-2 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall**

We will serve our annual Christmas Community Meal on Christmas Day, welcoming our brothers and sisters without homes and all who want to share this special day together. Our volunteer family will prepare and serve a traditional meal led by Chef John Haines. John's menu will feature Roasted Turkey, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, Ambrosia Salad and an array of appetizers and desserts. Cliff Frederiksen will share festive music. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing needed items, call or email Karen Andro at 608-338-0320 or kandro@fumc.org.



Holiday Break in Outreach Services

December 26, 2016 – January 2, 2017

Our Food Pantry, Community Outreach Breakfast and Come As You Are informal worship will be closed from Monday, December 26 through Monday, January 2 (reopening Tuesday, January 3). Wishing our Outreach Ministry volunteer family a peaceful and joyous Christmas and New Year's Holiday!



Young Adults & Young Families

College-Level Van Dyke/Alton Scholarships

Presented Sunday, November 27

Once again this year the church awarded Van Dyke/Alton scholarships to college students who have continued this participation in our youth program despite the demands of their college studies.

The participation of these seven college students greatly enhances our youth program and provides a valuable link between youth director Seth Schroerlucke and the youth themselves. To a great degree our youth program is as strong as it is because of the participation of these college students.

These college scholarships are in addition to the traditional scholarships for high school students which are awarded each June. These college-level scholarships vary in amount depending on the level of involvement each has been able to give to the youth program. This year's scholarships range up to \$1,200 per student. The seven college-level students who received scholarships this year are:

- Emiliano Fraire — UW-Madison
- Anna DeLong — UW-Superior
- Lucy Woolson — UW-Madison
- Michaela Curley — Winona State University
- Timothy Tryon — University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- Alban Marszal — University of Minnesota-Duluth
- Jonathan Betz — UW-Eau Claire

Sunday Morning Brunch

11:30 a.m., weekly

A great chance to meet new people. Just look for the gathering of young adults in the Narthex right outside the Sanctuary after 10:30 a.m. worship and be ready to eat.

Sunday Morning Parent Group

10:30 a.m. in Youth Rooms, weekly

Bring your coffee downstairs and let your kids run around in the youth room, where you can keep an eye on them and at the same time enjoy the fellowship of other parents of young children. It's good to connect.

Young Family Leadership Team Meeting and Brunch

Sunday, December 11, 10:30 a.m., Youth Rooms

Anyone who would like to see more young families at FUMC and more ministry opportunities for young families is encouraged to come to this meeting. We will revisit the results from the spring survey and feedback meetings and explore possible Sunday morning connection opportunities for young families that fit within the needs and values of our group. Free childcare and brunch will be provided.

Sunday School

Children attend worship with their parents at the 9 a.m. service and go to Sunday School in Lower Level classrooms when they are dismissed following Children's Time.

Children's Library, Room LL14

For more info contact Tina Lang at tlang@fumc.org.

Childcare on Sundays

Available 8:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Infants and Toddlers:

Noah's Ark Nursery/ Room 104

Youth

For more info contact Seth Schroerlucke at youthya@fumc.org.

December 25 and January 1

No Children's Sunday School, Middle School or High School classes.

Children and youth are encouraged to celebrate with their families in worship.

January 8

All Sunday School classes resume.

Contact Seth Schroerlucke, Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministries at 608-338-0158 or youthya@fumc.org. Visit our Young Adult Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FUMCmadisonyoungadults/>.

Joys and Concerns

We offer our prayers and support to members and friends of our congregation who have recently lost a loved one:

- Family and friends of Ramona Johannes, who died October 26.
- Family and friends of Rita Kreitz, who died November 9.
- Becky, Mark and Emiliano Fraire on the death of Becky's father, William Collins, on November 10.
- Kathleen Cooley and the family and friends of Keith Cooley, who died November 19.

Celebrations at First Church:

- Solie Jane Webster, daughter of Bryan and Kirsten Webster, was baptized in our Sanctuary on November 27.

FUMC Building Hours

Sunday: 8 a.m. - Noon

Monday –Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: Closed

Note: The church building and offices will be closed on Monday, December 26 for Christmas and on Monday, January 2 for the New Year holiday.

Outreach Services will be on break Monday, December 26 – Monday, January 2.

Stock Donations to First United Methodist Church – Madison (No Commission)

We now have the ability to receive stock donations and sell the stock with no commission costs. If you are interested in making your pledge or special gift to First Church using stock, mutual funds, bonds or other type of investment, please contact Sarah Flanagan at sflanagan@fumc.org or 608-338-1288 for further information. If you would like to make a gift using funds in your IRA Sarah can help with that as well.

Recurring Calendar Items

Date Night: Grandparents On Call

Sunday, December 4, 5-8 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, December 5, 2 p.m., Chapel

Young Adult Tuesday Discussions

Tuesdays @ 7 p.m., Check Facebook for locations (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FUMCmadisonyoungadults/>)

Yoga For Good

Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Chapel

No session on 12/21.

Meditation Group

Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Chapel

No session on 12/21.

UMW Tabitha Circle

Thursday, December 15,
Noon, Josie Gobel's home
Thursday, January 19, 2017
1 p.m., Room 208

Handbell Choir

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Music Room

AA Group

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Room 208

Our Night at the Shelter

Saturday, December 10

Foot Care Clinic for the Homeless Outreach

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9 a.m.

UMW Envisioning Team

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 1 p.m.,
Room 208

Spouses Now Alone

Next Gathering: Tuesday, January 31,
2017, Noon, Imperial Garden, Middleton
(No gathering in December.)

UMW Deborah Circle – This group is
on winter hiatus until March 2017.

First United Methodist Church

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