

Windows of Faith



First United Methodist Church
200 E Maple Street
Fairbury, IL 61739
Office phone 815-692-2543
Pastor Ann's Cell 309-525-4423
www.fairburyumc.org
December, 2018

Pastor's Perspective

Christmas memories are often precious to us. One of my memories is the family gathering to decorate the tree. It was a live tree decorated just a week or so before Christmas Day. It was the only part of the preparations that all five of us did together. We had metal reflectors to put behind the 7 watt bulbs to lower the risk of fire, the tinsel which our mother insisted was to be put on a single strand at a time, the old glass ornaments to be handled with great care and the homemade felt ornaments made by grandma T that survived being dropped.

As time passed, the traditions changed. It was no longer 5 gathering to decorate and before I knew it I was on my own decorating my own tree. I had fiascos of trees that wanted to fall and the cat climbing to "help" me string beads. Yet every year as I hang the ornaments I remember where each one came from and the people whose lives have been so much a part of mine. When it's all put together I just sit and find myself smiling as I watch the lights reflect off those pieces of memories.

As much as these memories tell my story, the heart of it all is always the love of God shown to us in Jesus becoming a human being. Jesus became so much easier to understand when I was young when I thought of him as a baby crying just like any other baby. The more I read the story of that first Christmas and what it means to all of us, the more I understand how deep is God's love and how much my life is shaped by that love. The story never grows old whether I read it myself, or hear someone else read it, or even watch Linus read it on "A Charlie Brown Christmas." It is the story of God. It's our story as well. When Jesus came to live among us he taught us how to love God and one another. He brought us all into God's family for he came to save all people.

That love is the source of our hope, our trust, our mercy, our joy. Without it I would look at the world's craziness and the awful things people do and feel nothing can change. With my knowledge of God's love I know things can change, can be redeemed, and can be transformed. It is the power of love that we celebrate each Christmas. May you feel it anew this year.

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Adrianna Cottrell
1-Sharon Monroe
2 - Jim Rich
3 - Nathan Myers
3 - Richard Roy
3 - Josh Roy
5 - Bobbi McKeon
6 - Wayne Kurth
7 - Sue Myers
8 - Roger Brown
9 - Darcy Atkins
11 - Deb DeWeese
12 - Jack Henkle
13 - Karen Munz
13 - Shelly Roy
14 - Amy Steidinger
15 - Robert Walter
15 - Ron Monroe
16 - Allison Kaisner
16 - Shay McDonald
17 - Gordon Gibson
18 - Carra Tinges
19 - Lakin Livengood
20 - Daren Friedman
20 - Keith Dunahoe
21 - Charles McKeon
22 - Lori Schahrer
24 - Dianna DeWeese
26 - Dave McWilliams
31 - Bob Perkins

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Mr. & Mrs. Jay McDonald
16 - Mr. & Mrs. Dick Barsema
17 - Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Dameron
21 - Mr. & Mrs. Roger Scherr

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Jeremy Walter
5 - Lynn Dameron
6 - Tara McDonald
7 - Steve Metz
7 - Erika Wenger
7 - Jayne Trowitch
8 - Matthew Schahrer
9 - Mike Coppinger
11 - Sharon Kurth
12 - Mary Lynne Bailey
12 - Jess Tinges
14 - Brady Quinn
14 - Gina Monson
16 - Chelsea Dohman
18 - Beth McCleary
19 - Mary Zimmerman
20 - Brent Scherr
21 - Ben Morris
26 - Lois Rapp
27 - Pat Perkins
27 - Loris Lane
27 - Kyrsten Dempsey-Atkins
29 - Daniel Schahrer
30 - Bruce McCleary
31 - Eli Aupperle

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brown
1 - Mr. & Mrs. Bruce McCleary



Please keep the following people in your prayers:
 Jessica Rathbun, Brent Edelman, Greg Graf,
 Jordan Broquard, Jamison Davis, Jan Metz,
 Colton Herr, Jerry Kaisner, Mari Lynn Hoselton,
 Mary Lynne Bailey, Robert Freeman, Wanda
 Kupferschmid



Clark Lindsey Village, Urbana-
 Ray Householder
 Evenglow, Pontiac -
 Walt Kohlman
 Fairview Haven Nursing Home-
 Joyce Crews Jim Steidinger
 Joan Steidinger Warren Ulfers
 Dean Moser Lucille Moser
 Meadows Mennonite Retirement Community-
 Glen Oakland
 Good Samaritan, Pontiac-
 Janet Metz
 Meadows at Mercy Creek, Bloomington-
 Florence Voigt Eli Aupperle



Nursing Home Ministry

The Fairview Haven Communion Service will be held Sunday, Dec. 9th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Independent Living dining room. All are welcome!

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast in the fellowship hall. If you plan on attending, please contact the church office or Randy Lane so that enough food is prepared.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Executive Committee - Tues., Dec. 11, 1:00 p.m.
Mary Martha/ Susanna - Tues., Dec. 18, Noon
 Hostess - Carol Aberle
 Christmas Potluck
SOS - Thurs., Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.
 (meet at Shannon Brown's home)



The annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, from 7:00 -1:00. Volunteers are needed! Contact Keith Dunahee with any questions.



The United Methodist Women will be having a Bake Sale and Craft Sale on Dec. 1st, in conjunction with the breakfast. Freshly baked items and Christmas crafts/decorations may be brought in Friday, Nov. 30 or Saturday morning.



The annual Service of Remembrance will be held Dec. 1, at 1:15 p.m. at Duffy-Pils Memorial Home.



We will be showing the Christmas movie "The Star" on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. This animated movie is appropriate for all ages and tells the Christmas story from the animal's point of view. We will have popcorn and snacks also!



Our Family Christmas Eve service will begin at 6:30 this year. There will be communion and we will have a Service of Light to close. This year we are using Glow Sticks instead of candles so all our children can join in too. Our quiet service of lessons and carols will begin at 10:00 and will also include communion and a Service of Light using candles.



Fill your Reverse Advent Bag! Each day from Dec. 1 until Christmas, look up the scripture listed and then place the article listed inside the bag. Please bring your filled bag to church by Christmas Eve, when the donated items will be blessed. All items will be distributed to the Fairbury Community Food Pantry.



Below is a "thank you" from Rod and Laura Kodivatikanti for our donation from the rummage sale proceeds to purchase 12 sewing machines for single Moms to learn a skill to support themselves and their kids. The United Methodist Women thank you all who donated items and/or purchased articles for this blessed mission project.

"On behalf of Project Nehemiah and the Joythi (Light) Project, thank you for your prayer support and generosity. The Joythi Project is a sewing center sponsored by Project Nehemiah in Southern India. It is designed to help young women and widows. Many times women turn to prostitution or other demeaning ways of getting income for their families after their husbands pass away. By providing a way to earn income they can keep their dignity and provide for their families, and keep their children rather than give them up. They are also taught Gods word and given the opportunity to become a Christian. God is faithful and He has used you greatly! Thank you is an understatement! God Bless you all." Rod and Laura Kodavatikanti

