

# The Voyager



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

November 2023

801 Broadway St, PO Box 99, Emmetsburg IA 50536  
712-852-2154; emmetsburg-first-umc@iaumc.net

Pastor Kolleen Queener (kolleen.queener@iaumc.net)  
Jana Nelson, Office Manager  
John Strohman, Custodian



Celebrate the season with your church family.  
Enjoy the ABCs of Christmas, plenty of Christmas music & Christmas Brunch.  
Wear your Christmas Sweaters (and get your picture taken if you wish!)  
**It's time for Christmas fun & fellowship!**

Dear First UMC Family,  
Happy New Year!

That's right—the season of Advent marks the beginning of a new year for the Christian church. We begin our year with preparing for the birth of Jesus!

Sometimes it seems all our preparations make a super busy season for everyone, with so many “extras” — extra get-togethers, extra food, extra gifts and decorations! The pressure to fit it all in and do it all perfectly can be intense as our to-do list grows longer and longer.

Add to that the people and traditions we might miss as Christmas doesn't quite seem to be what it used to be, and this can be a time of very mixed feelings. The holiday season can become a real roller coaster! What to do?

I encourage you to “Stay alert!” as Jesus says in Mark 13. Stay alert—not by doing more, but by intentionally pausing each day. Take a moment to notice *God already-with-us* in your everyday life. Try reading the daily devotions on p. 5 of our newsletter. Listen to your favorite Christmas songs. We don't have to wait for Christmas Eve to rejoice that through Jesus, God is with us each day, extending unrelenting grace to you and to me—no matter how we feel at any particular time.

Speaking of Unrelenting Grace—last month I mentioned the Bishop's study on this topic for Advent. We're going to save that study for January. It will be good preparation for the upcoming General Conference in 2024.

In the meantime, **I hope to celebrate the Christ in Christmas with you this season**—especially on **December 10** with our Christmas Program & Brunch (wear your Christmas Sweater!!) and on **Christmas Eve** (morning and/or evening). This is indeed a special time of new life for each of us. Let's take the time to enjoy God's gift to us!

In Christ,  
*Pastor Kolleen*



To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. *Luke 2.11-12*

## December Worship Stewards

	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24 10 am	12/24 6 pm
Candlelighters	Shirk Family	Rouse Family	Burns Family	Ward Family	Kogel Family
Liturgists	Sarah Frederick	Michelle Kogel	Michelle Chase	Brian Garrels	Danielle Ditch
A-V	Kogel Family	Anderson Family	Duhn Family	Ditch Family	Hudson Family
Video/	Duhn				
Offering Counters	Cal Christensen Karen Sargent	Brian Garrels Dean VerMulk	Greg Hoyman Jim Hobart	Shayne Kogel Karen Sargent	Tony Salas Steve Hoyman
Communion	Ana Shirk Danielle Ditch Kari Anderson			TBD	



## Ministering to Our Homebound

♥ Jackie Donovan  
**Emmetsburg  
 Care Center**  
 2405 21st St, Emmetsburg

♥ Darlene Harris  
**Emerald Oaks  
 Assisted Living**  
 2603 17th St, Emmetsburg

♥ Marjorie Solberg  
**St Luke's**  
 1301 St Luke's Dr, D9  
 Spencer IA 50501

♥ Virginia Place  
 ♥ Darryl's wife  
**Lakeside Senior Care**  
 301 N Lawler St,  
 Emmetsburg

♥ Joyce Muller  
 ♥ Helen Merrill #203  
**PARC Hall**  
 3201 1st St, Emmetsburg

♥ Pat Anderson #103  
 ♥ Jan Bare #206  
 ♥ Anne Carney #216  
**Willow Ridge**  
 3203 1st St, Emmetsburg

Missy Hall (recovering  
 from heart transplant)  
 c/o St Mary's Hospital  
 Rm MB6-706  
 1216 2nd St SW  
 Rochester MN 55902



*Please send a card or stop by to brighten their day!*

If you are, or know, someone who is homebound, please let Pastor Kolleen know. Also, if you or a loved one is hospitalized, please call the church—the hospital does not call. Contact the church office at 712.852.2154 or email: emmetsburg-first-umc@iaumc.net



## Chapters in Our Life Together

### *Birthdays*

2 Ally Rouse  
 4 Jim Tonderum  
 5 Jodi Ward  
 Jaden Ward  
 7 Brandi Fehr  
 Steven Hoyman  
 8 Johnathan Horsman  
 10 Tara Sargent  
 13 Bev Salas

15 Chris Mammen  
 16 Mya Burns  
 John Strohmman  
 18 Marilyn Carlstrom  
 20 Howard Morey  
 Barb Goodlaxson  
 21 Jordan Anderson  
 22 Mason Shirk  
 23 Clayton Hoch  
 25 Carol Ensley

28 Roger Chism  
 29 Justin Malm  
 30 Brenda Bell  
 Darlene Hankey  
 Taytum Sargent  
 Dean Ver Mulm

*I thank my God  
 always for you,  
 because of God's  
 grace that was given  
 to you in Christ  
 Jesus.*

1 Cor 1.4

### *Anniversaries*




12 James & Connie Manwarren  
 13 John & Shirley Schmidt  
 17 Dean & Carol Simonsen  
 18 Steve & Mary Lou Morrison





# December

First UMC, Emmetsburg, Iowa

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church Office: 712-842-2154 Office Hours: M-Th, 9am - 1pm Pastor Kolleen: 712-541-32666 * indicates Family Life Center						
3 • 9am Adult SS • 10am Worship & Holy Communion	4 • 12pm Card Club* • 1:30 Horizons* • Just For Kix	5 • 12pm Card Club* • 1:30 Bible Study	6 • 3pm Coffee • 1:30pm Confirmation • 5:30pm JAM	7 • 1pm Horizons* • 2pm Emerald Oaks • 7:30pm AA*	1 • 12:30pm Hope Haven*	2 • 9am Church Decorating
10 • 9am Adult SS  CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & BRUNCH • 5pm Blue	11 • 12pm Card Club* • 1pm Horizons* • Just For Kix	12 • 12pm Card Club* • 1:30 Bible Study	13 • 3pm Coffee • 5pm Lost Island Women's Team • 6:40 pm Piano Recital • 7pm Finance*	14 • 11:30pm Trinity PALS at Pizza Ranch • 1pm Horizons* • 7:30pm AA*	15 • 12:30pm Hope Haven*	16
17 • 9 am Adult SS • 10am Worship	18 • 12pm Card Club* • 1pm Horizons*	19 • 12pm Card Club* • 1:30pm Bible Study	20 • 3pm Coffee • Newsletter Articles	21 • 12pm Circuit	22 • 12:30pm Hope Haven*	23
24 • 10am Worship • 6pm Candlelight Worship	25 	26 • 12pm Card Club*	27 • 3pm Coffee	28 • 1pm Horizons* • 7:30pm AA*	29 • 12:30pm Hope Haven*	30
31 • 9 am Adult SS • 10am Worship • 6pm Boy Scouts						

# PREPARE - ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

*This season we prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all: Emmanuel, God-with-us, Jesus Christ. To help us prepare, even with our holiday busyness, consider taking a few moments each day to be alert to the Spirit's presence in our lives NOW. Try reading these passages aloud, perhaps even 2 or 3 times, and let them wash over you. The Spirit will bring to your attention what you need!*

## WEEK 1 (11/26)

### KEEP AWAKE

Sun – Mark 13:24-27  
 Mon – Micah 4:1-5  
 Tues – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 Wed – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Thurs – Romans 13:11-14  
 Fri – Jeremiah 33:14-16  
 Sat – Isaiah 64:1-9

## WEEK 2 (12/3)

### GET READY

Sun – Mark 1:1-8  
 Mon – Isaiah 40:1-11  
 Tues – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
 Wed – 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
 Thurs – Romans 15:4-13  
 Fri – Psalm 43:3-6  
 Sat – Psalm 27:1-4

## WEEK 3 (12/10)

### TESTIFY

Sun – John 1:6-8, 19-28  
 Mon – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
 Tues – Psalm 126  
 Wed – Luke 1:46b-55  
 Thurs – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
 Fri – 1 John 1:4-7  
 Sat – Isaiah 60:1-3

## WEEK 4 (12/17)

### BE COURAGEOUS

Sun – Luke 1:26-38  
 Mon – Luke 2:1-20  
 Tues – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
 Wed – Luke 1:46b-55  
 Thurs – Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
 Fri – Romans 16:25-27  
 Sat – Matthew 1:18-24

## WEEK 5 (12/24)

### WORSHIP AND BLESS

Sun – Luke 2:22-40  
 Mon – Luke 3:1-6  
 Tues – John 3:16-21  
 Wed – Luke 2:41-52  
 Thurs – Matthew 2:1-12  
 Fri – Matthew 2:13-18  
 Sat – Matthew 2:19-23



## Harvest Dinner & Auction Thank You!

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make our Annual Harvest Dinner & Auction a wonderful success!

Between the mouth-watering turkey & pork loin (with ALL the sides) and the amazing array of auction items, our full house of friends and guests enjoyed a great afternoon of Harvest Fellowship.

All these contributions raised funds for First UMCs missions and ministries, including some extra toward our FLC mortgage.

I am so impressed with this event—your generosity of presence and gifts has really made a difference for First UMC!

*Pastor Kolleen*

**Thank you to the Auction Committee** for all the work and time invested in making the Harvest Dinner and Auction such a wonderful success! A "special" thank you for the Grand Prize - an IPAD Mini!

*Judy Richardson*

# Thankful for you!





**First United Methodist**  
801 Broadway, PO Box 99  
Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Permit No. 153  
Emmetsburg, Iowa

We're on the web!

- ♦ [emmetsburgumc.com](http://emmetsburgumc.com)
- ♦ [facebook.com/emmetsburgFUMC](https://facebook.com/emmetsburgFUMC)



CHRISTMAS EVE

"Let us now go to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that has come  
to pass; which the Lord has  
made known to us."

Luke 2:15; NKJV

Join us for  
**Christmas Eve**  
ALL DAY

- ✧ 10:00 am Worship & Holy Communion
- ✧ 6:00 pm Candlelight Service

Bring friends & family  
for this extra special celebration  
of the birth of our Savior.