



**Born in Such a Time as This**

We are in the midst of the Advent Season and quite quickly will finish out the year 2020. Everyone I know is looking forward to saying goodbye to 2020. The global pandemic has made this one of the strangest and most difficult years that many of us can remember. Some Americans were putting up Christmas trees at Halloween to wishfully think about the end of the year!

Maybe Advent is the very best season to end 2020. Long ago, into another difficult time, a small child named Jesus of Nazareth was born. Jesus was born into a world with a despotic Kingdom. He was born in a world where there was poverty and discrimination. He was born to a people who were looking for and had been waiting for the coming of a Messiah.

In many ways the world Jesus was born into was not that different than our own. It was also a world in need of a savior and redeemer who brings healing and justice to God’s people.

Find comfort in these words from Jesus’ mother Mary, in sharing about who Jesus was to be,

*“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of the Almighty’s servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is God’s name.  
God’s mercy is for those who fear God  
from generation to generation.  
God has shown strength with God’s arm;  
God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
God has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
God has helped servant Israel,  
in remembrance of God’s mercy,  
according to the promise God made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” Luke 1:46-55*

May God use us in this season of Advent to “magnify” the Lord and magnify God’s love and work in this world.

In the name of the coming Christ,

Pastor Tim

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postal  
**PAID**  
Indianola, IA  
Permit No. 49

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**The Messenger**  
Monthly Newsletter of Indianola First UMC  
December 2020-January 2021

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Church Office hours are Mon – Thurs. 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Follow us on Facebook: [Indianola FUMC](#) and [Indianola FUMC Children’s Ministry](#)  
and on Instagram: [fusefirst](#) and [indianolafirstumc](#)

Sunday schedule through January 10th:

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday School for pre-K through 5th grade (via zoom)  
**9:30 a.m. AND 11:00 a.m. online worship services** These ‘blended’ services can be found on Facebook (Indianola FUMC), YouTube, and indfumc.org. Both services are the same. Choose which time works best for you!



**10:30 a.m. Hospitality Time** via zoom. Stop by for some Sunday morning Hospitality and visit with other Church Members (Bring your own Coffee :) Indianola First United Methodist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Hospitality Zoom meeting. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89288691097?pwd=MVFzOWNKbnV6Y05vMzlydWpzblQzQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 8869 1097

Passcode: 491877

**Phone-In service:** Call 712-432-3900. When you call, it may ask you to hang up and wait for a call back a few seconds later. If so, answer. When prompted, enter this code (ending with # sign as shown) :

**841689 #.** It will ask you if you are the moderator--ignore that prompt and stay on the line. The service should start after a few seconds. For best sound quality, listen on speakerphone.

Starting January 17th (tentatively)

**8:30 a.m. service in-person** in the sanctuary

**10:00 a.m. service in-person** in Parish Hall

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday School for pre-K through 5th grade in Bibletown

**9:30 a.m. AND 11:00 a.m. online worship services** These ‘blended’ services can be found on Facebook (Indianola FUMC), YouTube, and indfumc.org. Both services are the same. Choose which time works best for you.

**Phone-in service** continues (see above for instructions).

Upcoming in Worship:

**Dec. 6th** - Second Sunday of Advent: ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord’- Mark 1:1-8 by Pastor Tim  
**Drive-by Communion:** Join Pastors Tim Bonney and Brian Williams for a unique Service of Holy Communion. The pastors will share the Communion liturgy and consecrate the elements on Facebook Live following the 11:00am service, around noon. Immediately following this online portion, the pastors will be under the south canopy of the church where you can drive through and receive the elements from the safety of your vehicle!...**This is also happening on Jan. 3rd.**

**Dec. 13th**- Third Sunday of Advent: ‘Follow the Light!’ - John 1:6-8;19-28 by Pastor Brian

**Dec. 20th** - Fourth Sunday of Advent: A Service of Lessons and Carols: ‘Magnifying the Lord’ - Luke 1:46b-55 by Pastor Tim

**Dec. 27th- Video service only** from the Bishop at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Facebook (Indianola FUMC), YouTube, and indfumc.org.

**Prayers of sympathy** for the families of our members who have recently passed away:

Joan Simpson, Bill Pendgraft

**Prayers for those with recent health concerns:** Bruce Haddox, Missi Spurgeon, Caryll Wilbur

We are always in need of good hearty soups, apple sauce, green beans and canned chicken. We also supply deodorant, shampoo, dish soap, diapers and laundry detergent to our clients so those needs are also really high. Thank you for helping out **The Helping Hand!**

<b>PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 2020</b>			
	Difference		
	Actual	Budget	Actual vs. Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
Pledge receipts	\$457,012	\$484,800	(\$27,788)
Non-pledge receipts	\$63,680	\$95,300	(\$31,620)
Other revenue	\$10,878	\$24,830	(\$13,952)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$531,570</b>	<b>\$604,930</b>	<b>(\$73,360)</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>			
	\$591,793	\$635,903	\$44,110
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>(\$60,223)</b>	<b>(\$30,973)</b>	<b>(\$29,250)</b>



**Middle School**

Wed 6:30-7:30pm

**High School**

Wed. 7:45-8:45pm

To receive text reminders text @fusefirst to 81010

Follow us on Instagram at fusefirst

Like us on Facebook at Fuse-first

www.indfumc.org

FUSE is open to all students 6th-12th grade! If you would like to stay up to date on all things FUSE, follow us on Instagram/Facebook and join our Remind texts by texting @fusefirst to 81010. I hope that you will all join us for Zoom on Wednesdays!

### FUSE 6-8th Grade Wednesday nights at 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83517845092?pwd=aHUzWUg3Rno3Yjl4THVyd0lpVIRRU09>

Meeting ID: 835 1784 5092

Passcode: Fuse

### FUSE 9-12th Grade Wednesday nights at 7:45pm

Topic: HS FUSE

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81377346189?pwd=YzJxV0tiTExoK25FWUdVS3JXK2VNQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 7734 6189

Passcode: Fuse

Wednesday Dec. 2nd /9th /16th : FUSE ZOOM

Wednesday Dec. 23rd /30th: Christmas Break

Wednesday Jan. 13th: Fingers crossed we are back in person!



### Sunday School for pre-K -

**5th grade:** Join us on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:00.

The Zoom ID is **587 437 8346** and the password is **Bibletown.**

We have activity sheets and other fun resources for you to have at home to use each week! If you would like an activity pack, please let Ellen know at [ellen@indfumc.org](mailto:ellen@indfumc.org).



Join Pastor Tim Bonney this Advent season as he walks us through the study *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, by Adam Hamilton via Zoom. We invite you to come together as a church family to remember what's important. Let us reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ child for our lives and world today. Dec. 2nd, Dec. 16th, and Dec. 23rd from 6-7pm. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85762311145pwd=VmdvUGl1MFR5NzU3VmhXK1JiejZzUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 6231 1145

Passcode: 729466

(Books are recommended, but not required. Books can be purchased through this link <https://www.cokesbury.com/Incarnation-1-2> or picked up at the church office.)

### Christmas Eve Services (online)

found on Facebook (Indianola FUMC), YouTube, and indfumc.org.

**Dec. 24th**

3:00 p.m. - Contemporary service

5:00 p.m. - Traditional service



### UMW Update

United Methodist Women continue to stay connected through the pandemic via emails, text, Zoom and phone calls. Just a few weeks ago, we doubted that we would be able to make our annual pledge to missions of \$7,000. But, our members stepped up by fulfilling their personal pledges and contributing to a Bakeless Bake Sale. The nut sales brought us to our goal! A BIG thank you goes out to the congregation for ordering nuts. We pre-sold more nuts and dried fruit than we sold last year. The process was easy and we will do it again next year. Our members are looking forward to safely meeting in-person in 2021.

**Elizabeth-Ruth Circle** will meet on January 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room.

**Hannah Circle** will meet on January 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the FUSE Room.

**Wed., Dec. 16th - Drive-Thru Caroling** from 5pm-7pm. Join us under our south awning for drive-thru caroling! A troupe of merry carolers will be gathered under the awning to share some Christmas favorites with you and your family as you sit warmly and safely in your vehicle. At the same time the singers will be handing out Christmas Eve Connection Bags where you can find materials, information, and goodies for Christmas Eve!



**MISSIONS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Hurry . . . there is still time to donate to Bidwell Riverside's Toy Drive!**



Bidwell Riverside would like to receive all donations by **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**!

The best ways to donate TODAY are:

**Make a financial donation** – Mail a check to Bidwell Riverside, 1203 Hartford Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50315

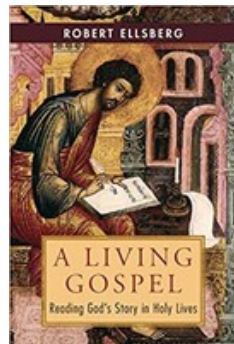
**Shop on-line** - Donate a toy through [Bidwell's Amazon wish list!](#) There are a variety of gifts for ages 0-17. These items will be shipped directly to Bidwell!

[www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/AYUAVS16AXD/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/AYUAVS16AXD/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

(If you have questions, please contact Stacie at [bhbbsavwb@aol.com](mailto:bhbbsavwb@aol.com) or 515/229-8522.)



**Library News December 2020/January 2021**



Merry Christmas from your church library! It's been a slow year for using the church library and we miss everyone. We are praying for a return to more normal times in 2021.

One new book you can check out when the church opens again was given in memory of Ed Pace by Bernice Pickup. It's

**A Living Gospel: Reading God's Story in Holy Lives** by Robert Ellsberg. From biographical reflections on

traditional saints and spiritual masters (including Dorothy Day, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Flannery O'Connor, and Oscar Romero), he reflects on what it means to read the spiritual text that is written in such lives. From that, we learn to read our own lives in the same light.



**Church Directory**

If you would like a printed copy of the current church directory, please contact Ellen Wright at 961-5317 or [ellen@indfumc.org](mailto:ellen@indfumc.org)



**Caregiver Life Group**

Being the caregiver for your mother, father or both can

be a tough task. Caring for aging parents can be both physically and mentally draining. To help you during this season, a new First UMC life group is forming. Many other caregivers have experienced the same joys and struggles as you have, and this group will be a place to walk together in all those moments. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Ellen at [ellen@indfumc.org](mailto:ellen@indfumc.org).

Meeting day and time will be determined by the group.

**Open Table** continues to provide free drive-up 'meals to go' for anyone in the community every Tuesday, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

People can drive in or walk up from Salem Ave. on the southside of the church and exit on "B" St..

- [Dec. 8 - Ham sandwiches, broccoli casserole](#)
- [Dec. 15 - Smoked pork loin on a bun](#)
- [Dec. 22 - Ham balls, cheesy potatoes](#)
- [Dec. 29 - Chili dogs and tater tots](#)
- [Jan. 5 - Corned beef Irish casserole](#)
- [Jan. 12 - Breakfast casserole or tater tot casserole](#)
- [Jan. 19 - Ham & cheese sliders](#)
- [Jan. 26 - Beef enchiladas](#)
- [Feb. 2 - Hot turkey sandwich](#)

Hope to be dining again in person SOON! Until then, God Bless !

