

# Celebrating the Holidays with Community Kitchen Guests



We welcome you to celebrate the holidays with folks from our community on Saturday, December 14!

The Community Kitchen Holiday Party is an event with the guests of CAH Community Kitchen, which operated in our church from 2017-2018.

Plan to talk with those at

your table, share a delicious meal, and play bingo, with a variety of gift and household items available as "prizes."

How can you be involved?

- Plan to celebrate with us on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm. Guests will begin arriving at 12:30 and the party will end at 3pm. Bring a large dessert or desserts to share and any utensils needed, with your name on everything to make sure you get it back. Be ready to get to know our Community Kitchen neighbors!
- Sign up to help set up and decorate on Friday, December 13, 11am-2pm, or to clean up, serve, or

*Article continues on page 5*

## Christmas Worship

Invite friends, family, and neighbors to our Christmas Worship services offered at a variety of times and dates so all can attend. On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 8:30 and 10:45am services, the Chancel Choir will sing.

There will be identical Contemporary Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The band will lead worship. Childcare is provided and both services will feature the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.



On Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9pm we celebrate Christmas with scripture and carols accompanied by the organ. The Chancel Choir and Tintinnabulation Ringers will be providing music for the service. The service will also feature the singing of Silent Night by candlelight.

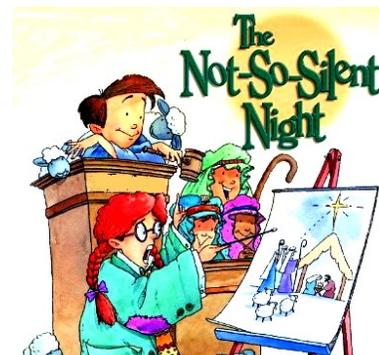
## First Focus

A Newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Holland Michigan

December 2019

## Kids Christmas Program

You won't want to miss the fun on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> during the 10:45am service! Elementary kids will present, The Not-So-Silent Night Christmas Program. Toddler/Kinder kids will also sing a song.



Practices will take place as part of Sunday kids' classes. There will be a dress rehearsal on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Questions? Contact Colleen Bajema by clicking on her name or call 616-536-1088.

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Our Vision: To be a grace-filled community aflame with God's love for the world.

## United Methodist Women

The Service ministry this month is Hope Circle & those providing meals in time of need is Joy Circle.

December schedule:

- 12/04--Bazaar Chairpersons, Lounge at 1pm
- 12/17--Finance Committee, Lounge at 1pm

Kerstmarket Schedule:

- 12/3 - Holiday Kerstmarket, 3pm-8pm with Light Parade at 6:30pm
- 12/6, 7 and 13, 14 - Holiday Kerstmarket--Civic Center Friday, 3-8pm & Saturday, 9am-5pm



The UMW Annual Christmas Luncheon is Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Everyone is invited to enjoy the Vocal Dimensions Choir from Holland High and a delicious lunch catered by Beechwood Restaurant. Cost is \$12.00/person, payable to the office or circle chairperson by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Columbarium Update

The Columbarium Task Force would like to share with the congregation that at this time we will not be pursuing the purchase and installation of a columbarium at First UMC.

While there was much research completed on this by the task force, many questions were asked and comments offered by the congregation, there simply wasn't enough interest to pursue it. The information learned will be kept so that perhaps at a future date this may be re-visited.

## The Best Gift You Can Give Yourself This Year

*"I came so they can have real and eternal life, a more and better life than they ever dreamed of."*  
-John 10:10.

The arc of worship in 2019 has been about spiritual formation. As the year comes to a close, you're invited to give yourself the best gift possible: A Rhythm to Life. A Rhythm to Life is based on the Benedictine Rule of Life and is a way to arrange your life so that your body, mind, and spirit are aligned to nurture your relationship with God. In its most basic form, it answers the question: *How do I want to live so I can be who I want to be and who God calls me to be?*

Recognizing that what gives abundant life is unique to each individual, there is no formula or worksheet to complete, but rather questions to think through and a list of resources to explore that will help you discover and create what fits your life.

For every Rhythm to Life created and submitted, the staff will give a donation to the [Arbor Day Foundation](#) and a tree will be planted in your honor. Giving yourself life will also give the earth life. Then once a month we will touch base with you to encourage, support, and hold one another accountable.

Questions to Ponder:

- *Considering my personality type and needs, what practices will I seek to engage in on a daily basis? Weekly? Monthly? Yearly? Where will I engage these disciplines? What time of the day/week/month/year?*
- *What spiritual practices will I share with a spiritual friend, or a group of friends such as a Core group, so as to grow together?*
- *What do I need to let go of in my life that is currently getting in the way? How will I need to adjust my schedule?*

Submit your Rhythm to Life at [fumcholland.org](http://fumcholland.org) or take it to the office by Sunday, Jan, 5, 2020.

## December Missions Offering

From a heart of compassion, Bishop David Bard has once again designated Disaster Relief as the recipient of the annual Advent Offering, which will be the mission's focus for the December Bread Pan Offering at First UMC on December 8<sup>th</sup>.



The funds collected through this offering at First and all UMC churches in Michigan will be shared between UMCOR Domestic Disaster Relief, UMCOR International Disaster Relief, and the Michigan Conference Disaster Relief Fund.

"Advent is about arrival and hope," says Bishop Bard. "As I think about places in our country and God's world that have been devastated by recent natural disasters,

nothing speaks of the arrival of hope more than UMCOR. Beyond the headlines, UMCOR brings hope to people and helps them put their lives back together in the long-run."

Please give as God calls you on December 8<sup>th</sup> or throughout the month of December. For more info, the link: <https://michiganumc.org/missions/disaster-response/>

## Youth Group

Here is the schedule for December:

12/01 - No Youth Group due to Thanksgiving.

12/08 - Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm, both Middle and High School.

12/15 - Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm, both Middle and High School - Christmas party! We will play games, crafts, and celebrate together.

12/22-29 - Winter break, no youth group! Youth group will return Sunday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.



Keep on the lookout for invitations to spend time together (Movie at Sonrisa's, coffee/tea hangouts in Holland, etc).

### Sunday School:

High School Sunday School will meet December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. They will not be meeting on the 29th.

Middle School Sunday School will meet December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

## Celebrations

Celebrating 50+ years of marriage:

15<sup>th</sup> Sheryl & Norman Veldhoff, 276 Goldeneye Ct, Holland, 49424

18<sup>th</sup> Jim & Sherry Robinson 16316 Greenly St, Holland, 49424

20<sup>th</sup> Larry & Linda Den Uyl 845 Claremont Court Holland, 49423

20<sup>th</sup> Elaine & Gary Teall 11611 Ridgeway Ct, Holland, 49424

23<sup>th</sup> Barry & Kay Philage 6104 A Palma Del Mar #104, St. Petersburg, FL, 33715



Celebrating 85+ years:

5<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Bocks 144 River Hills Dr, Holland, 49424

5<sup>th</sup> Marlys Stewart 360 W 40th St, #511 Holland, 49423

16<sup>th</sup> Neila Hook Lake Vista 340 W 40th St, Holland, 49423

20<sup>th</sup> Flora Nies 33 Cherry St, Holland, 49423

23<sup>rd</sup> Paul Klomprens 800 Clarewood Ct, Holland, 49423

## Children's Ministry

Sunday School classes are each Sunday at 9:40am and Children's Time classes are at 11am.

Check-ins take place by entrance C. Kids need to be checked in and picked up by an adult parent/guardian.

Questions? Contact Director [Colleen Bajema](#) by clicking on her name or call her on the cell 616-834-8478.

### First through Fifth Grade

At 9:40am, there will be special activities:

Dec. 1 - Christmas Pageant Practice

Dec. 8 - Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Dec. 15 - Christmas lesson

Dec. 22 & 29 - break from Sunday School.



At 10:40am, Children's Worship Class will meet every week. Our theme is "Unboxed: Find the Joy." Life App-Joy—Finding a way to be happy even when things don't go your way.

The memory verse this month is: Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be Joyful!  
Philippians 4:4 NIrV

### Infants through Kindergarten

December's theme is "Starry Starry Night" and the following points will be reinforced each week.



Memory Verse: "God has given a son to us." Isaiah 9:6 NCV

Bottom Line: God gave us Jesus.

Here are the weekly stories:

Dec. 1 - The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-49

Dec. 8 - Jesus is born • Luke 2:1-7 and we'll sing in the Christmas Program

Dec. 15 - The Shepherds • Luke 2:8-20

Dec. 22 - Happy Birthday, Jesus! • Retell the entire Christmas story

Dec. 29 - The Wise Men • Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

## Join the Tech Crew

Do you have a passion for Music? Sound? Lighting? Or Video projection?

If so, your interests can be a blessing to others! Our Tech Crews who run the sound, lights, and video projection are looking for servants to help out with Sunday morning worship. Training provided, no experience is necessary.

Commitment? You would serve one Sunday a month. The week you are scheduled to run the equipment you would also come to worship rehearsal on Wednesday night at 7pm, for a run through of the worship service.

Questions or to sign-up? Contact [David Newton](#) by clicking on his name or call at 616-541-9210.

## Michigan Conference News

Want to stay up-to-date on news happening in the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church? Just follow this link to receive "mifaith," a weekly email about persons and events happening in the conference:

<https://michiganumc.org/news-stories/2019/04/30/share-mifaith-with-a-friend/>

At the bottom of this link you will find ways to subscribe.

## Recycling—Caring for the Earth

Here is an update on what First UMC is doing for recycling:

The tan-colored recycling center is located in the hall near the janitor closet. It has holes in the top with labels to show where each item goes.

Below is a list of recyclable items which you can take to church any time - except for Styrofoam which is recycled once a month.

Bring in your white, clean, packing Styrofoam the first Sunday of each month. A team sorts, breaks it up, and bags it in large plastic bags for the Grandville recycling center.



Small pieces of aluminum like pop can tabs, clean cream cheese wrappers, sour cream and ice cream toppers are recyclable. The Wyoming Park UM Church collects those and turns them in when the price of aluminum is high and donates the proceeds to missions.

Ink jet printer cartridges are acceptable. Fun School collects those regularly.

We no longer take batteries but you can take them to Comprenew which is on the north side in the James St. plaza near Walgreens. Under a pound is free, there is a small fee for over a pound.

You can take clean, flattened corrugated cardboard any time to the labeled dumpster in the small FUN School parking lot off 9<sup>th</sup> street (just past the main lot).

## Staff Office Hours

The program staff have set weekly office hours when they are available for an appointment:

- Brad Bartelmay, Lead Pastor: Tuesdays, 9am-noon & Fridays, 9am-noon
- Tania Dozeman, Pastor of Engagement: Mondays 9-noon & Thursdays 1-4pm
- LuAnne Stanley-Hook, Community Involvement Director: Tuesdays 9am-noon & Thursdays 1:30-4:30pm
- Colleen Bajema, Children's Ministry Director: Wednesdays noon-2pm & Thursdays 10am-noon
- David Newton, Worship Arts Director: Mondays 8-11am, Tuesdays 8-11am & Wednesdays 9:30-10:30am; noon-1pm
- Sonrisa Cortes, Youth Ministry Director: Wednesdays noon-2pm & Fridays 1-3pm
- Julia Colingsworth, Choir Director/Organist: Tuesday 10am-noon & Wednesday noon-2pm.

## New Winter Small Groups

If you missed out on "taking one step beyond worship" this fall, in January we will be rolling out new groups, open groups, and seasonal classes!



If you would like help in figuring out a place for you to belong, please contact [Rev. Tania](#) by clicking on her name or calling 616-681-3524.

Are you possibly interested in leading or facilitating a winter term (February-May) Seasonal Class or Affinity experience? If so, please contact Rev. Tania by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Celebrate

Continued from page 1

run the dishwasher for the event on Saturday. Email [LuAnne Stanley Hook](#) by clicking on her name or call 616-649-2165.

- Pray for this event, for those organizing it, and for all who will attend.

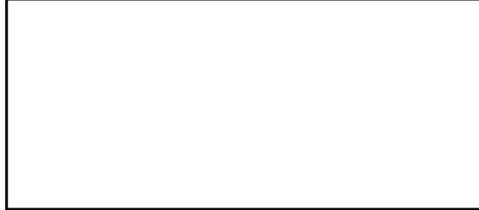
Keep in mind this event may be the only holiday celebration some of the guests will get to enjoy.

You won't want to miss this fun day of giving

First United Methodist Church  
57 W. 10th St.  
Holland MI 49423  
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Reverend Brad Bartelmay  
Phone: 616-528-0152, or  
269-266-2221



December Worship Series:  
The Best Gift You Can  
Give Yourself

Visit us online at  
[www.fumcholland.org](http://www.fumcholland.org)



## The Last Word

The **deadline** for  
submissions to  
First Focus is  
Monday,  
**December 16th.**  
Please email articles  
to [erin@  
fumcholland.org](mailto:erin@fumcholland.org)

“. . . better not cry and . . .” Click!

The good news is that the voice on the car radio belonged to Bruce Springsteen; the bad news is that it was the day after Halloween and the Christmas songs had already started. That’s why I turned it off so quickly.

Even before hearing the music, I had already seen a couple stores with Christmas decorations peaking out from around the Halloween décor.

Now I’m no Scrooge, but I’m not ready for Christmas two months before the actual day. Bless those who are, but it is just not for me. When I start too early, I end up burned out with Christmas fatigue even before the actual day arrives, and when that happens, it’s a shame.

Christmas needs to be *savored*—the special events, the time with family and friends, the decorating—all of it. But most of all it needs to be *savored* as the moment God broke into creation through the birth of Jesus! It would be a real shame if we let Christmas fatigue rob us of the season, especially the opportunity to experience God’s presence all over again.