



The Herald

December 2023

The deadline for the next issue of the Herald is **Tuesday, December 12th**. Information can be mailed to the church, or emailed to media@waterloofirst.org. Please clearly mark the item for the Herald or the bulletin.

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Waterloo, IA 50702
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www.waterloofirst.org

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Emily Forssberg
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Sally Thurman
Media Specialist
Dr. Linda Sharp DMA, MDiv
Organist
Dr. John Roberts, Ed. D.
Pianist
Rumen Hulmequist
Youth Leader

Worship Time:
Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(or by appointment)

*"The Mission of
Waterloo First UMC
is to be a church of
people who live as
disciples of Jesus
Christ by providing a
place for spiritual
growth in a caring,
inviting
community."*

Become



FROM OUR PASTOR

Advent and Christmas seasons are here.

It's a time of anticipating and celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. May the grace of the Savior be upon you all.

My perception of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, has changed since I visited there in 2006. I left Jerusalem one day to go to Bethlehem in the West Bank. This area is inhabited by Palestinians, so I had to pass through a checkpoint. Like the United States' southern border, the West Bank and Gaza were surrounded by a 30-foot cement wall.

As the bus entered the checkpoint, escorted by armed soldiers, the Jerusalem gate was closed. The Israeli driver, who wore a kippah, was replaced by an Arab. The Bethlehem gate was opened, and the bus left. I

remember feeling very nervous because of frequent terrorist attacks and missile firings. Isn't it ironic that the home country of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is called the Powder Magazine of the Middle East?

The war between Israel and Hamas got buried under lots of domestic and international news. I don't want to relay the horrible things happening in Israel and Gaza, but over 1,400 Israelis and over 10,000 Palestinians have died. O Lord, have mercy!

It's not just that Jesus came to earth to bring peace, but he also came as a sin offering. He's also known as a reconciliation offering because he restores and reconciles our relationship with God that sin has alienated. I'm brokenhearted when I see what's happening at Jesus' birthplace, which he came from for this purpose and no other, and how His mission is being undermined.

But in Jesus' first sermon (Matthew 5), I am not only comforted by God but also reminded of "our" mission:

(Continued on page 2)

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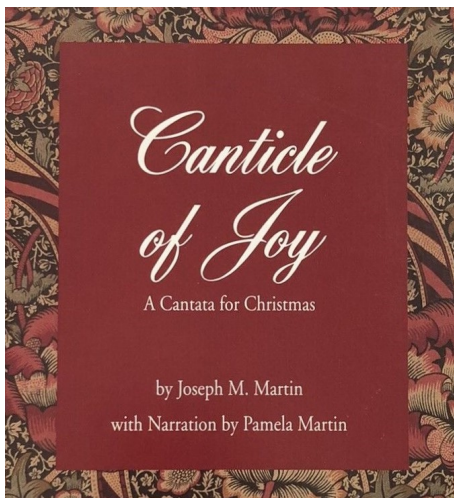
⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Let's be peacemakers together. Will you join me?

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." - Luke 2:14 –

Pastor Hojin



Canticle of Joy

December 10 at 10:15 am

First Baptist Church

434 Baltimore St, Waterloo, IA 50701

Come to First Baptist Church on December 10th at 10:15 am, to hear the combined choirs of First Baptist Church, First Congregational Church and Waterloo First United Methodist Church perform Canticle of Joy by Joseph M. Martin.

***There will be no worship service at Waterloo First UMC on December 10*

A Service of Lessons and Carols

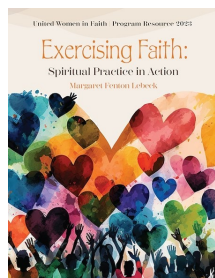
Join us for a special service of Lessons and Carols on December 17 at 9:30 am. There will be Christmas Hymns to sing and special music by the Golden Bell Choir and the children.



Lessons and Carols



Belong



United Women in Faith

December 2023

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians
12:4 (NIV)

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit."

Thursday, December 7

Executive Board Mtg.: 11:00 am VonLackum Lounge

Thursday, December 14

Sarah Circle: 6:30 pm
Hostess: Pam Tallman
Co-Hostess: Sally Thurman
Christmas Party

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

10:45 am



Elementary– Rm 108

Kathy Cooley

Youth– Rm 111

Melissa Warren

Searchers– Fireside Room

Nov. 19: Adam Hamilton video on "Prepare the Way for the Lord, Advent and the Message of John the Baptist"

Dec. 3: Adam Hamilton series on Advent

Dec. 10 No class.

Dec. 17: Adam Hamilton series on Advent

Genesis– Dinette

Use the code **BXWDJR** to sign up and start exploring Amplify Media for your personal bible study and or small group study. Contact Sally at media@waterloofirst.org if you need help.



The United Methodist Men
will Meet on
Saturday, December 16th
at 8 am.

Join the men at HyVee on Ansborough Ave.
for food and fellowship.

Fellowship & Coffee Time at Friendship Village with Pastor Hojin



Wednesday, November 28th from 10-11 am

Friendship Village, Lakeview Lodge
312 Southbrooke Drive

**There will be no fellowship in December



Wednesday at 5:30 pm

The Youth Group will meet at First Congregational in November and Waterloo First UMC in December.

There will be no youth group on November 21st

Bless



Fellowship Servers

Thank you for signing up to serve fellowship!

December 3– Miller/Harris & Cravens

December 10– at First Baptist

December 17– 3rd Sunday Group

December 24– Open

December 31– Open

With open Sundays, we will not have fellowship unless some one signs up.



December Pew Cleaners

No one has signed up to clean pews this month. Please help each other to keep the pews neat.



NORTHEAST IOWA
FOOD BANK

Volunteer at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Thursday, December 21st at 2 pm

Join others to help out at the Food Bank. Let Donna Brown know if you're interested.



THE FOOD NOOK

Our Food Nook continues to increase the help we give our neighbors, which increases the need for help. Donations of individual portion canned food, such as spam, chef Boyardee, Ramen Noodles, Vienna sausages, soups, tuna, canned or plastic container fruit, and Shampoo /conditioner are always needed. Also, they are in need of grocery bags. Donations may be put in the hampers by the stairs in VonLackum Lounge.

Thank you so much for considering a donation. Food insecurity is definitely a community problem, and one our church can be proud of lending a helping hand.



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip



Scrip Cards for Christmas!

Scrip cards make perfect Christmas gifts! Get a gift card for that special someone from their favorite retailer! Talk to Kris Stewart, Emily Forssberg, or Sally Thurman and order your cards today. You can find a form on the [web page](#) or from the blue mailbox in VonLackum lounge and turn your order in today! Don't forget to include \$1 for shipping with each card.

October Attendance & Offering

| Week | 10/2/23 | 10/8/23 | 10/15/23 | 10/22/23 | 10/29/23 |
|-------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|------------|
| Attendance* | 85 | 70 | 60 | 67 | 75 |
| Pledge | \$5,425 | \$2,189 | \$4,630 | \$6,953 | \$7,465 |
| Capital | \$90 | \$490 | \$0 | \$737.50 | \$185 |
| Misc. | \$815.57 | \$355 | \$733.55 | \$647 | \$1,169.59 |



December Ushers

Larry Baker, Toni Brown, Larry McCollum,
Wendy Potter, Larry Ryan

* Attendance for these Sundays is taken from Facebook,
www.waterloofirst.org, and in-person worship.



Greening of the Church

The First Sunday of Advent is December 3rd, the church must be ready for Christmas by then. Groups; please decorate your area of the church between November 26 and December 2.

IOWA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

presents a 2023 Carma Mohler Grant in the amount of \$500 to

Waterloo First UMC Food Nook



for outstanding dedication to combating hunger within the community.

"...For I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35



Your Light has come



In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, "Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it."

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn't a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. "Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world," he adds. "There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies."



Sold By:

Waterloo First's Children's Sunday School Classes

\$10.00 Each

AVAILABLE NOW!

Youth Group Promotions™



The Church Row Coalition had 285 people attend the Clothing Give-Away on October 28th.

Thank you for your generosity and helping our neighbors!



Altar Flowers

Sign up on the bulletin board in VonLackum lounge to honor an occasion or memorialize a loves on with altar flowers

Herald Deadlines 2023/24

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| November 7 | December 12 |
| January 16 | February 13 |
| March 19 | April 16 |
| May 21 | June 18 |
| July 16 | August 20 |
| September 17 | October 15 |
| November 12 | December 10 |

Herald Assembly 2023/24

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| November 16 | December 21 |
| January 25 | February 22 |
| March 28 | April 25 |
| May 30 | June 27 |
| July 25 | August 29 |
| September 26 | October 24 |
| November 21 | December 19 |



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1- Carl Leavell
3- Jackie Garmager
4- Brian Butz
6- Lynn Klobberdanz
7- Betsy Bentley
Betty Kimpston
8- Judy Shepard
13- Missy Sturch
14- Sue Carver
17- Kapalina Gartley
18- Kendra Parker
21- Ann Walker
24- Jack Kuper

25- Reid Corson

28- Dottie Cleghorn

30- Isabella Walker

18- Judy & Marvin Shepard 47

21- Donna & Gary Brown 55

Waterloo First United Methodist Church

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 3  <p>9:30 am– Worship/ Communion 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 am– Sunday School 12:00 pm– Church Row Coalition Mtg. 1:00 pm– Girl Scout Troop #3419</p> | 4 | 5 <p>9:00 am– Staff Mtg</p> <p>6:15 pm– Intensified Prayer 7:00 pm– Bishop’s Advent Study</p> | 6 <p>9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p> <p>5:00 pm– Youth Group 5:45 pm– Golden Bells 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir</p> | 7 <p>8:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk 8:30 am– LSI Staff Mtg. 9:30 am– Food Nook 10:00 am– Book Club 11:00 am– UWF Board Mtg. 4:15 pm– PIE at Irving Elementary</p> | 1 <p>7:00 pm– Worship Public Access 17</p> | 2 <p>3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chancel 15</p> <p>10:00 am – Food Nook</p> |
| 10  <p>10:15 am– Cantic of Joy Worship at First Baptist</p> | 11 <p>11:00 am– Nest</p> | 12 <p>Herald Deadline 12:00 pm– PE Chapter FE/JP 6:15 pm– Intensified Prayer 7:00 pm– Bishop’s Advent Study</p> | 13 <p>9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p> <p>10:00 am– Church Row Structural & Safety Committee</p> <p>5:00 pm– Youth Group 5:45 pm– Golden Bells 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir</p> | 14 <p>8:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk 9:30 am– Food Nook</p> <p>6:30 pm– Sarah’s Circle at Pam Tallman’s</p> | 15 <p>7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p> | 16 <p>8:00 am– United Methodist Men</p> <p>3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chancel 15</p> |
| 17  <p>9:30 am– Worship/ Lessons and Carols 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 am– Sunday School</p> | 18 <p>5:30 pm– Trustees Mtg.</p> | 19 <p>5:30 pm– Finance Mtg. 6:15 pm– Intensified Prayer 6:30 pm– Church Row Neighborhood Assoc. Mtg. 7:00 pm– Bishop’s Advent Study</p> | 20 <p>9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p> <p>5:00 pm– Youth Group 5:45 pm– Golden Bells 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir</p> | 21 <p>8:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk 8:00 am– LSI 9:30 am– Food Nook 9:30 am– Herald Assembly 2:00 pm– Volunteer at the Food Bank 6:30 pm– Ad Team Mtg.</p> | 22 <p>7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p> | 23 <p>3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chancel 15</p> |
| 24 <p>9:30 am– Worship 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 am– Sunday School</p>  <p>7:00 pm– Candlelight Service</p> | 25 <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>  <p><i>Merry Christmas!</i></p> | 26 <p>6:15 pm– Intensified Prayer</p> | 27 <p>9:00 am– Worship on Access 17</p> <p>No Fellowship at Friendship Village</p> | 28 <p>8:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk 9:30 am– Food Nook</p> | 29 <p>7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p> | 30 <p>3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chancel 15</p> |
| 31 <p>9:30 am– Worship 10:30 am– Fellowship</p>  |  | | | | | |



Waterloo FIRST United Methodist Church

614 Randolph Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50702



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Waterloo IA
Permit No. 1599

Return Service Requested

Dated Materials

If you would like to purchase holiday poinsettia(s) in honor of or in memory of someone, please fill out this form and return it to the church office by **December 13th**. Supplies are limited, so please order early to get the color you want.

The poinsettias are used to decorate the altar for our Christmas Eve service and may be picked up following the 7:00 pm service.

****Plants are to be picked up, only. There will be no delivery to shut-ins.**

Poinsettias will be \$14; please make your check out to the church or include it with your offering. Choose your color preference. Names will be placed on each plant so that you will get the color you ordered.

My Name: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Red ☐ Pink

☐ Red with white spots ☐ White.

I would like my poinsettia (s) to be "In Honor" or

"In loving Memory" of: *(please circle one)*

From: _____

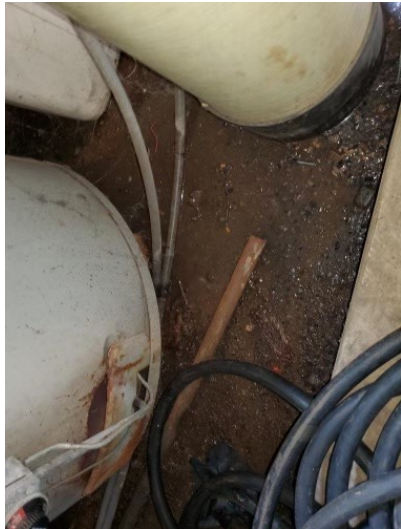
Water Heaters, It's Always Something!

Have you notice that when, and if you get hot water it's not very hot?

We recently discovered that the water heater on the right does not work at all and the water from the heater on the left has to go through the cold water in the water heater on the right. Which explains our lukewarm hot water. So, after some investigating, the Trustees will be spending about **\$3000** on one water heater to replace them both. Take a look at the corrosion and the wet spots around the heaters. These were installed in the 90's.



On another note, there is a steamed valve that needs to be replaced. This



valve covers the heat in the Food Nook. Ask the Food Nook volunteers if the room has been feeling a bit warm, because the valve isn't working to control the heat. The price of a new valve is **\$1806**. On a good note, one of our two new boilers has been installed and the fireside room has heat!



The trustees would appreciate donations toward the purchase of the water heater and the steam valve to offset these unexpected expenses. Any help you could give would be appreciated. Use the form on the other side to designate your donation.



Irving Elementary Baskets of Love

There is still time to donate to the annual Irving Baskets of Love drive. Each year we collect things that make life a little sweeter for the families of Irving. Donations of fleece lap blankets, laundry detergent, personal care items, and books are appreciated, but you can also let us do the shopping and make a donation. Donations and gifts must be in by the end of November.

Pastor Hojin and the office staff have been helping our neighbors with you generous donations to the **We Help Others** fund. The fund is getting low. If you'd like us to continue this part of the mission of Waterloo First UMC, use the form below to designate your donation.



Thank you so much for your continued gifts and offerings. Please use the envelope included in this newsletter to send in one check, using this form and your check memo line, to divide your donation, in whatever manner you chose.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Pledge | _____ Water Heater/ steam valve |
| _____ General Budget | _____ Irving Baskets of Love |
| _____ Capital Improvements | _____ We Help Others |