

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

Worship in January and February

In the world in which we live today, the Christmas season begins sometime in November. The streets are hung with lights, the stores are decorated with red and green, and you can't turn on the radio without hearing songs about the spirit of the season and the glories of Santa Claus. The excitement builds to a climax on the morning of December 25, and then it stops, abruptly. Christmas is over, the New Year celebrations begin, and people go back to work and school.

But really, Christmas begins on December 25. Advent, that time of waiting for the coming of Christ, begins often on the last Sunday of November. The church begins to prepare the sanctuary to encourage our waiting with the symbols of the Advent wreath, with the readings of longing from the Old Testament prophets, and with the colors of hope ... blue or purple. The season of waiting ends on Christmas Eve with the joyful celebration of Christ's birth, and the white and gold representing holiness and joy become the dominant colors in the sanctuary represented not only in the fabrics but also in the candlelight.

Christmas Day is the first of the 12 days of Christmas, a season that continues through January 6, Epiphany. We celebrated Epiphany this year on January 1. The baptism of the Lord on January 8 will begin the season after Epiphany with the color symbolizing growth, (green) as the dominant color in the sanctuary and with light as a prominent symbol.

With the weather outside sometimes cold and stormy, come to worship appreciating the love and warmth of God in worship. The theme of the season focuses on invitation ... the invitation that the church offers to those who do not yet know the love of God in Christ. The readings will be taken from the Old Testament prophets of Isaiah and Micah, and the Gospels of Matthew and John.

Come and see,

Pastor Pat

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Calendar

Bulletin Board Headlines

From the Director of Music

As we turn the page to another year, those of us responsible for things that require us to think and plan well ahead have already looked at the calendar three to four months into 2017. The Common Lectionary provides us with a path through the scriptures in a three-year cycle that covers the entire story of God's plan for salvation through Jesus Christ. From those readings, themes emerge; from those themes, sermon topics begin to take shape; and the framework of the service is set up, including the search for possible hymns and songs relating to those themes, and the choice of anthems from our music library or bought new. Although practice, rehearsal, and preparations continue steadily, the details for a particular service are worked out as a particular service gets closer. All that to say that those of us involved in planning worship think several months ahead of most folks. So to look ahead with us, I hope you'll put the following dates on your new 2017, calendar and I would encourage you to keep this dates in mind as you plan.

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| March 1 | Ash Wednesday |
| March 5 | First Sunday in Lent |
| April 9 | Palm Sunday |
| April 13 | Maundy Thursday |
| April 14 | Good Friday |
| April 16 | Easter Sunday |

I hope the joy and wonder of the Christmas experience will linger with us all as we look ahead to celebrating Christ's work among us

as he began his ministry, and ultimately as we celebrate his walk to the cross and glorious resurrection. May our worship these next months glorify God and also be inspiring and challenging for us all.

On Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm, our 2017 Community Concert Series will offer a presentation of *The Ten Commandments*, Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 blockbuster silent movie depicting the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. The showing will include live pipe organ accompaniment much like the film would have been originally presented in theaters of the day. Guest artist, John Schwandt, from the University of Oklahoma, and a master of this art form, returns to Hillsdale after his acclaimed performance presenting *The King of Kings* in our concert series last year.

This unique event may be appreciated on several levels – the spiritual nature of the great story of Moses, the Exodus, and the giving of the Ten Commandments; the fascinating art of black and white silent movies, including the experimentation with early forms of color filming; and the amazing and creative skill required for an organist to play live accompaniment to the movie on the pipe organ. You really don't want to miss this! As always, be sure to invite someone to come with you. The uniqueness of this event makes it an exciting and easy invite for us all to offer to someone who hasn't been involved in the church or may not even be acquainted with the great stories of God and God's people. Let's use this event to share the Good News!

SDG, JO

Worship Team Notes

Much of the behind the scenes work related to preparing the sanctuary worship space, is taken care of by members of the Worship Team.

The area in front of the altar will soon be empty of the symbols and signs that have collected there since the first week of Advent. The sword with the plow, the dead stump with a green shoot, the desert with colorful flowers, and the simple blue scarf of Mary - each appeared in successive weeks supporting the themes from readings of the prophet Isaiah. We hope that these visual signs enhanced our understanding of the prophet's words and will help us remember the truth of God's promises.

As Christmas transitions through Epiphany (January 1) and the Baptism of our Lord (January 8), we return to "Ordinary Time" until Lent begins on March 1. The liturgical color for this season is green, and so the green dossal cloth behind the altar and the green paraments on the pulpit and lectern will return. The brilliant white cloths, hung since Christmas Eve, will be put away until Easter Sunday, April 16.

**The TEN
COMMANDMENTS**

Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm
Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 epic silent film

Accompanied live
by returning silent film
organist
John Schwandt
Free admission



Hillsdale First United Methodist Church
2017 Community Concert Series
Sharing the gift of music in the name of Christ

JANUARY 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 11a Memorial Service 6p Kiwanis 6p Lions' Club | 4 1:30p Quilters 6:30p Radio Club Board | 5 3p Memorial Service | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship (Fellowship Hall) 1p Boy Scouts | 9 5:30p Trustees 6:30p Sanctuary Preparations (Worship Team) | 10 12p Kiwanis | 11 1:30p Quilters 6p ONE Team | 12 1p Love, INC 5:30p KJP Board 6:30p Choir 8p Praise Band | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship with breakfast (Fellowship Hall) 1p Boy Scouts | 16 6:30p Worship Team | 17 12p Kiwanis 5:15p Handbells 6:30p Habitat for Humanity | 18 9:30a First Light Bible Study 1:30p Quilters 6p First Light Bible Study 7p AYSO Board Meeting 7:15p MJT Circle | 19 6:30p Choir 7p Radio Club 8p Praise Band | 20 NEWSLETTER Deadline | 21 ALL DAY REHEARSAL (J. Schwandt) Sanctuary |
| 22 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship (Fellowship Hall) 1p Boy Scouts 4p Community Concert <i>The Ten Commandments</i> with organ | 23 1:30p ArtWorks 7p Ad Board 7p Kiwanis Board | 24 12p Kiwanis 5:15p Handbells | 25 9:30a First Light Bible Study 1:30p Quilters 6p First Light Bible Study | 26 6:30p Choir 8p Praise Band | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship (Fellowship Hall) 1p Boy Scouts 1p ArtWorks Competition | 30 | 31 12p Kiwanis 5:15p Handbells | <p>For the most current information on scheduled events, remember that you can also check the online calendar found on the church's website at:</p> <p>http://hillsdalefirstumc.com/resources/calendar</p> | | | |

Bulletin Board Headlines

Prayer Requests

Prayers for anyone who is in need of God's comfort and peace.

Current: Debbie Bigelow, the family of Mary Curry, the family of Scott McKenzie, the family of Donna Wellein

Continuing: Betsy Baker, Jill Baker, Tom Bildner, Jack Bowditch, Jack Bowles, Lorna Busch, Chrissy Coles, Shirley Connolly, Ethel Ferguson, Lynn George, Crystal Gimenez, Joe Gosla, Kristine Hasty, Carolyn Parker, Gene Parker, Bonnie Reamer, Betty Scheibner, Maggie Swan, Daryl Sweet, Larry Sydor, Carol Tindall, Rev. Tamara Williams (Albion District Superintendent)

In Nursing Care or at Home: Dorothy Aspinall, Sammy Brink, B.J. Clark, Shirley Connolly, Jean Dieterle, Susie Eichler, Lois Fosbender, Bev Hart, Bert Hill, Ruth Huston, Jackie Mitchell, Bettie Monroe, Dawn Nisbett, Colleen Ridenour, Bob Scholl, Mary Sodergren, Carol Tindall

Serving in the Military: Ricardo Arellano, Emily Mitchell

Anniversaries

| | | |
|----------|----|--------------------------|
| January | 1 | Aaron and Ginny Delauter |
| January | 10 | Dick and Sonja Slagle |
| January | 24 | Dan and Kathy Nestorak |
| February | 2 | Jack and Pat Bowditch |
| February | 9 | Jamie and Pat Vreeland |
| February | 17 | Dick and Carol Emery |
| February | 21 | Steve and Jill Monroe |

Birthdays

| | | |
|----------|----|------------------|
| January | 1 | Jeri Little |
| January | 7 | Elaine Rich |
| January | 10 | Dan Nestorak |
| January | 11 | Carol Tindall |
| January | 14 | Jeff Hart |
| January | 16 | Anna Bertalon |
| January | 28 | Dick Emery |
| January | 30 | Yvonne Anderson |
| February | 3 | Carol Stanley |
| February | 4 | David Knowles |
| February | 12 | Corbett Amburgey |
| February | 21 | Roger Brook |
| February | 24 | Ginny Delauter |

Notes of Thanks | Many thanks for the communion services, calls, and other kindnesses. Bless you. *Clif and Fran Wells*

Thanks for allowing HCCSA (Hillsdale County Community School of the Arts) to use the sanctuary for our recitals. *Judy Bixler*



Nick Nestorak, Toledo Opera, February 12

Nick Nestorak will be performing with the Toledo Opera on Sunday, February 12 in their production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. A motor coach trip from Hillsdale is being planned. Please contact Kathy Nestorak or Renee Nestorak for more information regarding reservations.

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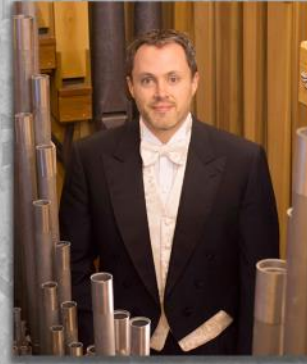
John Schwandt

Free admission

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2017 Community Concert Series

Sharing the gift of music in the name of Christ



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