



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church
of Carroll, IA 51401

(712) 792-1122

OFFICE HOURS:
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

carrollumc@msn.com

Volume 5, Issue 20 Nov. 24, 2014

Times of worship -

- Saturday Worship 6:00 pm
- Choir Practice, Sunday 9:00 am
- Sunday School 9:15 am
- Sunday Worship 10:30 am

The Messenger items are due at the main desk by Monday prior to printing. Watch bulletins for additional activities.

PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE

Next Messenger:
December 29th and will be for
the month of January!

FUMC STAFF

Dennis Bailey, Pastor (790-4427)
 Suzanne Olberding, Director of Ministries (792-1290)
 Verona Fuller, Admin. & Financial Secretary (792-4886)
 Nina Akin, Technical Secretary (792-9026)
 Michelle Caltrider, Custodian (792-5092)
 Jacki Montgomery, Music Director (792-6509)
 Jason Bush, Youth Coordinator (792-2084)

COMING WORSHIP SERVICES

****Nov. 30 Mark 13:32-37 First Sunday of Advent and Communion "Sleeping Christians"**
 Jesus warns us to live as vital Christians. We are called to "stay awake". Many Christians live as if they are asleep, living out lives of halfhearted devotion (lukewarm and apathetic). Jesus calls us to be aware and awake not to miss what God is doing and calling us to do.

****Saturday, Dec. 6 Mark 1:1-8 "Preparing the Way"**
 John the baptizer came to prepare the way for Jesus. His method was repentance. That method is still essential in our lives as we prepare for the Christmas season. Let's look at what it means for us to be repentant people as we move into this time of Christmas.

****Sunday, Dec. 7 The Children's Christmas Program 2nd Sunday of Advent**
 Come and let the children and our youth lead you into the season of Christmas.

****Dec. 14 John 1:10-1 "Receiving the King" 3rd Sunday of Advent**
 The reaction that is needed from the world in the coming of Jesus is simply to receive Him. To accept what God is offering to us in the gift of the Son is all that is needed. Yet so often we miss the gift and we refuse to claim it.

****Saturday, Dec. 20 Luke 1:26-38 "God Intervenes"**
 As we hear the Christmas story we realize that God comes into human history and intervenes. His reaches down with His arm of love as a deliverer and one who comes in the midst of our darkness and trouble. So He also does "intervene" even today in your life and mine.

****Sunday, Dec. 21 "The Christmas Cantata" 4th Sunday of Advent**
 Our Chancel Choir will lead us into the Presence of Christ on the Sunday in the ministry of music and love.

****Wednesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve, 4 and 7 pm John 1:1-5; 14 "The Word Became Flesh"**
 Jesus (Son of God) became human (flesh) for us. The gift of God in a human package. It was the only way that God could save us. Jesus understands us in our needs, our pains, and our darkness. He carries our sins to the cross and He relates to us as a Savior and a Friend.

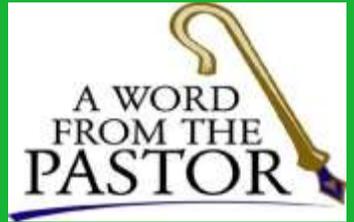
Dec. 28 Matthew 2:7-11 "Bowing Down and Worshiping Him"
 The last weekend of the year we will follow the Wise Men as they find Jesus, bow down and worship Him, and give Him gifts. May we also today and the days to come be "worshippers of the Lord".



The Christmas tree in the back of the Sanctuary is our "Giving Tree". Please feel free to leave scarves, mittens, hats, and boots for school children as we have done in the past. Snow pants, new tennis shoes and socks are also needed. If you wish to leave gift cards or gas cards, please put them in envelopes and tie them to the tree. The gift cards will be removed daily for safe keeping. They will be given to families in need, used to purchase items for families in need, or used by Pastor Bailey for the "Special Needs" fund.



If you would like to buy a poinsettia plant for Christmas, they are a \$10 donation. You may give them in honor of...in memory of...or just because! Please mark your donations as such. Thank you.



"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2)

The boxes of Christmas decorations waited as one man came home for dinner early to help the family decorate their home. He was greeted by his wife and the aroma of dinner and realized that his little 5 year old, Lauren, had put a nativity piece on each of the plates around the table. Shepherds, wise-men, cows, and sheep would be joining them for supper.

But suddenly Lauren raced into the kitchen. "Oh Daddy, Daddy!" Her voice was panicked. "Jesus is missing! We've looked everywhere and can't find Him!" But dad assured her that they would look after dinner and Jesus would be found.

After dinner they looked everywhere and finally Jesus was found. Much like her older sisters Lauren carried her backpack everywhere she goes - filled with stuffed toys, a plastic wallet, gummy bears, hair bows, and other treasures. At the bottom of the backpack there was Jesus. She was taking him with her wherever she went.

In some ways little Lauren had the right idea. She had Jesus with her wherever she went. This Christmas let each of us be careful that we forget to have Jesus in the midst of all that we do. With holiday busyness we just might find Jesus missing. And if we do haven't we missed the whole point of the season and life in general? Keep Jesus close!

**May God keep you in His perfect Peace,
- Pastor Dennis Bailey**



In our Thoughts and Prayers

- Todd & Nancy Jansontus in the death of his father
- Dave Holdsworth & family in the death of his mother
- Marsha Nuckels and family in the death of her brother

Congratulations to Dave and Ann Slecta on the birth of twins - a boy, Drew McKillop, and a girl, Ellie Bailey!



The "Jesus Followers" (Duke's Sunday School class) will meet at Nuckel's home (1321 N. Carroll) on Sunday, Dec 14th at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, study, and fellowship. Bring your appetite!



Jan Sanford is now at Carroll Health Center

Donations For Staff Appreciation -
 It is the time of year to show your appreciation to the staff for their continued support and work for the church. Donations may be left at the church, in the offering, or with Jody. Just be sure they are marked as such. **Thank you!**

Can't attend church but still want to be a part of the worship? Download a free App from the App Store called: Livestream. Then look for FUMC Carroll and you can see the Sunday service as it happens!

MINISTRY OF PRESENCE	
Saturday, Nov 15	13
Sunday, Nov 16	149
Saturday, Nov 22	46
Sundav. Nov 23	128

WEteam will be bagging fruit, candies, and a Christmas book to take to Fairview Apartments on Wed., Dec. 3rd at 1:00. If you would like to help bag the fruit, etc. or help deliver the bags, you are welcome to join us!

LOST BOOK - "A Promise Kept" by Robin Lee Hatcher. One of the Book Study Club books - if you know who has it, please return it to Suzi, it is overdue.

All Church Pork Chop Dinner Results - We served about 400 dinners. Our profits were \$2,798.14 and it will be divided between our local Food Pantry and World Hunger. Thank you to everyone for your help and contributions to the annual supper.

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) & 1:00 to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday

NOTE: Our Sunday services are now shown on Mediacom Channel 6 at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, 11:00 AM on Thursday and 5:00 PM on Saturday.

Calendar for Nov 29th - Dec 31st

SATURDAY Nov. 29
First week of Advent - Hope
 6:00 p.m. Saturday Worship - Communion

SUNDAY Nov. 30
First Sunday of Advent - Hope
 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Communion

TUESDAY Dec. 2
 6:30 a.m. Prayer Walkers

WEDNESDAY Dec. 3
 11:30 a.m. UMW lunch at the Family Table
 1:00 p.m. WEteam makes fruit bags for the apartments
 3:30 p.m. UM Kids
 4:30 p.m. Confirmation
 5:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth, K-Mart
 6:30 p.m. Staff-Parish

THURSDAY Dec. 4
 9:30 a.m. Friends Breakfast at the Family Table

SATURDAY Dec. 6
2nd week of Advent - Peace
 6:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

SUNDAY Dec. 7
2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace
 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
 Children's Christmas program

TUESDAY Dec. 9
 6:30 a.m. Prayer Walkers

WEDNESDAY Dec. 10
 4:30 p.m. Confirmation
 5:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth, Swan House
 6:30 p.m. Finance meeting
 7:30 p.m. Ad Council

FRIDAY Dec. 12
 6:00 p.m. Staff Supper

SATURDAY Dec. 13
3rd week of Advent - Joy
 6:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

SUNDAY Dec. 14
3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy
 8:30 a.m. The Jesus Followers (Duke's SS class) will meet at Nuckel's
 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
 3:00 p.m. Community Chorus at Holy Spirit

MONDAY Dec. 15
 12:15 p.m. Bloodmobile

TUESDAY Dec. 16
 6:30 a.m. Prayer Walkers
 11:00 a.m. Heavenly Bound Book Club at Queen Beans
 5:30 p.m. Mini-Methodists

WEDNESDAY Dec. 17
 3:30 p.m. UM Kids
 4:30 p.m. Confirmation
 5:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth

THURSDAY Dec. 18
 Noon Heavenly Bound Book Club at Queen Beans

SATURDAY Dec. 20
 6:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

SUNDAY Dec. 21
 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
 Choir Cantata

TUESDAY Dec. 23
 6:30 a.m. Prayer Walkers

WEDNESDAY Dec. 24
 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

THURSDAY Dec. 25
Merry Christmas

SATURDAY Dec. 27
 6:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

SUNDAY Dec. 28
 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

TUESDAY Dec. 30
 6:30 a.m. Prayer Walkers

WEDNESDAY Dec. 31
 No Youth
New Year's Eve

Youth Group Update

Well I must admit that the year is off to a wonderful start with our Youth Group. What a wonderful group of kids I am blessed to work with! They are truly amazing. Each week it seems like they invite more and more friends! How awesome is our God! These kids truly know what it means to spread the Good News! As the Advent Season approaches, I wanted to let you all know what our youth will be doing the next few Wednesdays.

Wednesday December 3rd

The youth group has decided to collect money so that we can go to K-Mart and adopt a child and provide some Christmas presents for them. We will have a Christmas Jar set out at the church office for anyone who would like to help the youth with collecting money for their cause. High school group will join the Junior High at 5:30 we will be back at the church by 6:30 to share in a meal.

Wednesday December 10th

We will plan on heading to Swan House at 5:30 and will share in a pizza meal with the residents first. After that we will decorate some Christmas cookies with the residents and then play games with the residents. We will plan on being done by 7:30. Youth will need to be picked up at Swan House.

Wednesday December 17th

We will have our Christmas Party. We will be watching Pay It Forward and plan on getting together from 5:30-8:00.

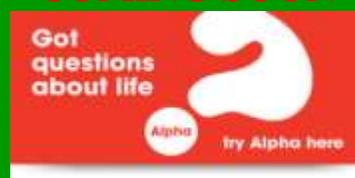
Christmas Break

After the 17th of December we will be on break until we come back together to meet on January 7th with our normal 5:30-6:30 Junior High get together and High School from 7:00-8:00. I pray that each of you has a wonderful Christmas with your families!

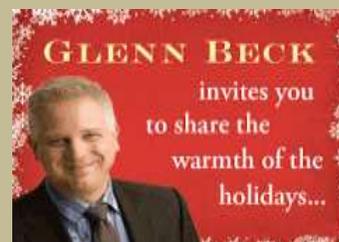
Wishing you a blessed Christmas! Jason



COMING SOON



Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course is offered in churches and other venues around the world. Alpha typically meets once per week for 10 weeks including a shared dinner, and included a one day retreat. At each session, people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile. For more information about Alpha contact Suzi Olberding.



The December dates for the Heavenly Bound Book Club are Tuesday the 18th at 11:00 AM OR come Thursday (the 20th) at noon. Both dates are held at Queen Beans. We often have a private room and always great food. It is Dutch treat. The December book is called:

The Christmas Sweater by Glenn Beck.

Based on a deeply personal true story, Glenn Beck's bittersweet tale of boyhood memories, wrenching life lessons, and the true meaning of the giving season has touched the hearts of readers everywhere.

Teaser: If you could change your life by reversing your biggest regrets, sorrows, and mistakes . . . would you?



will be Dec. 7th during the 10:30 service. Please contact Suzi or Kelli Bush if you have questions.

Adult Advent Bible Study

Adult Bible Study begins on November 23rd and will run through December 21st. We meet each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 in the Confirmation Room upstairs just off of the elevator. Please contact me for child care. This is a video based study based on the book, "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton. Please give prayerful consideration of joining us whenever you have the chance as each week we look at a different part of the Christmas story and its characters. This is a simple group discussion where we watch a short video and have some open discussion on what it means to each of us. This is truly an amazing time for all. I hope you will consider checking it out!!

God Bless, Jason

THE MESSENGER

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Connecting people with God through Worship, Witness, Service, and Sharing



WORSHIP

10:30 a.m.
 Sundays

6:00 p.m.
 Saturdays