

First United Methodist Church

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Merry Christmas,

As we slip into the last few days of December 2016, I want to make you all aware of some exciting news coming for the beginning of the New Year. As you may be aware, the main worship space in our church facility is in need of some repair. Thanks to the Gratitude Offering received in November, and the hard work of the Trustees, we now have the funds to move forward with the sanctuary repair project. Beginning January 2, the work to repair plaster and then repaint our sanctuary will begin. This work is expected to be completed by the end of March so we can anticipate having our Holy Week and Easter services in a freshly repainted sanctuary.

During this time, we will not be able to worship in the main sanctuary, but we will continue to have regular worship services at our Rowley Street location. During January, February, and March, we will be holding our worship services in the Chapel of our facility. Because the chapel's seating capacity is less our sanctuary we will be offering some additional worship services in order to meet the needs of our growing church family.

Beginning January 1, 2017, we will be offering four worship services each week; three on Sunday mornings and one on Wednesday evenings. The Sunday morning schedule will involve worship services beginning at 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00. The 9:50 am service will be about 45 minutes in length. The Wednesday evening service will begin at 6:00 pm and end about 6:45 pm, in order for youth group and other groups to meet following the time of worship.

During this time when we will be out of the sanctuary provides us with a wonderful opportunity to try something different that might meet the needs of our church family or even those who are not yet connected with our church. I, and the leadership of our church, will be evaluating the level of participating at each of these different services. The four-service schedule is not permanent at this point, but the next few months has the potential to provide us with important information about the worshipping needs and desires of people in our church family and our community. We look forward to being back in our beautiful sanctuary, when the work in complete.

Please join us Christmas Weekend for Worship;

Acoustic Carols and Candle Light – Friday, December 23 at 5:30 – in the Chapel

Christmas Eve Candle Light & Carols – Saturday, December 24 at 4:30 – in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candle Light & Communion – Saturday December 24 at 6:30 – in the Sanctuary

Christmas Day Worship – Sunday, December 25 at 9:30 am – In the Sanctuary

Keep First United Methodist Church in mind as you make any year-end giving plans. Your tax-deductible gift will help our church finish the year financially strong and meeting all our financial commitments. Thank You!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith