

From Pastor Melanie

January 2018



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Revelation

Dear congregation,

Hospitality to guests is an important part of having a vital congregation of maturing disciples of Christ. There are things that many churches do that can actually scare guests away; but there are also things that congregations can do that will help make guests feel welcome, but not overwhelmed. Here are a few things for us to consider:

1. We might consider dispensing with the greeting time in worship. The greeting time makes many people uncomfortable and actually can drive away first time guests. There is plenty of time before and after worship for greeting friends and guests.
2. Do not ask guests to stand and/or introduce themselves. Many people (especially younger folks) want to attend anonymously. They want to have a chance to check us out without us embarrassing them by pointing out to everyone that they are new. **HOWEVER**, if no one talks to them at all, that too, is a put off. Show genuine interest in our guests. Introduce yourself to them.
3. Remember their name. If you greet guests one Sunday and they return another week, it is so helpful if you can then greet them by name.
4. Be prepared to be helpful. If you see a guest looking lost, ask if you can help them with directions, finding a seat, getting a bulletin, or what have you.
5. Invite a guest who is sitting near you to join you at fellowship time. But if you do that, be prepared to sit with them during fellowship time and introduce them to a few people. Don't invite and then ignore. If the guest says "no thanks," accept that and say, *"I understand. I look forward to seeing you again soon!"* And when you **DO** see them again on a subsequent Sunday, be sure to greet them, and if it feels right, offer the invitation to fellowship time again.
6. Don't smother! Sometimes we nearly suffocate new guests with friendliness. If we sense that someone is uncomfortable, they probably are.

And don't ask a guest to jump right in and do a job in the church. *"Oh, so you played drums in your previous church? Well, we need a drummer! You should be our new drummer!"* That might work with a few people, but remember guests are still deciding if they want to return at all. If you learn of a particular talent of a guest, you might say, *"If you are looking for a place to be involved and use your talents, you would be most welcome to do so here; but you are ALSO welcome whether that is your desire or not. We are just glad you are here."*

7. Do not use the term "visitor," instead, use the term "guest." This may not seem like a big deal, but the difference is notable. If we have a "visitor" to our home, that usually means that we were not prepared for them or expecting them. They are seen as outsiders and the feeling can be that we can't get back to "normal" when they leave.

If we receive a "guest" to our home, that means we have prepared for them and we are eagerly anticipating their presence among us. It means we feel honored that they are our guests. ~ Pastor Melanie

We come to experience Christ's Love and work together to live it out.

All are Welcome at FUMC Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 am -Nursery opens
- 9:30 am -Adult Sunday School & Living Church
- 10:30 am -Sunday Worship
- 11:30 am-Fellowship

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Office Info/UMW

Women's News January

Altar Flowers- Morning
General Meeting: January 18 @ 1:00 pm
Hostess: Morning Cluster
Program: Mem. Nurture & Outreach
Executive Meeting - January 18 @ 12:15 pm
Morning Cluster: Kristy's
Evening Cluster: Beth Whisler

HUGE THANKS
to everyone that has helped
keep the church clean during
the month of December!
Randy & Marcy Johnson
Mary Thoman
Marsha Wentz
Gary & Cynthia Strait
Marvin & Eudora Pe-
tersen
Phil & Connie Bentz
Youth
Lisa Valcoure



Meetings this Month

January 8th - 7:00pm Finance
January 9th - 7:00pm Trustees
January 12th - 10:00am Marketing Task Force
January 14th - 11:45am Discipleship Team
January 15th - 5:30pm ADCO
January 21st - 11:30am Missions

Unhanging of the Greens

What: Taking down the Christmas Decorations

When: 11:30 am, January 7th after Worship

Please help us as we take down the beautiful decorations and tidy up for the start of 2018.



Secret Prayer Sister

It's SECRET PRAYER SISTER time again!!

We will be meeting on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 9:30am in the Crusader's Room.

I will be turning this fun project over to Donna Reedy. If you would like to help Donna in any aspect, please get in touch with her before February 20th.

Please encourage your FUMC women friends to participate in this program. The more women we have participate the more likely you are to get a different sister each year.

This is an opportunity to focus on brightening someone's day. Be creative!! Send a card, acknowledge her birthday, wish her a speedy recovery, or a sympathy card because her pet passed away. This is as fun as you want to make it. Be a bright light in someone's day.

So fill out a SECRET PRAYER SISTER CARD located on the table outside the sanctuary and bring it with you on Saturday, February 24th.

Get ready for a fun year ~ Wendy Holt

Marketing Team

Marketing Task Force

Are you interested in helping develop a plan for marketing and advertising our church? Contact the church office to join the team. The first meeting will be on January 12th at 10:00 am and the time commitment will be minimal – just a few work sessions to develop and implement a plan.

Cookie Day



Thank you to all who donated cookies, bought cookies and helped with set up and tear down.

We raised approximately \$852 and helped a lot of people with their "Holiday Baking".



Sermon & Scriptures for January

January 7: Communion Sunday. We will be observing The Baptism of the Lord, which is one of the observances of the historic church. You will have a chance to renew your baptism as part of the service, and to celebrate the baptisms of two of our children in our congregation.

January 14: Sermon title: "Chippie Doesn't Sing Much Anymore." A humorous look at finding joy.
John 1:43-51

January 21: Sermon will tentatively focus on Mark 1:14-20.

January 28: Sermon will focus on Mark 1:21-28. Praise Band Sunday!

Coming up in February: We will begin a sermon series entitled, "A Disciple Is...". I am really excited about this series whose goal will be to help each of us on our journey to being a mature disciple of Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year

Wishing you a year filled with love, laughter, fabulous friends, health, happiness, bountiful blessings and a renewed sense of Joy!!

Thank you for all you do to make FUMC Great!!!

Happy New Year ~

Pastor Melanie & Lisa

Little Free Pantry



Winter is coming! Please do not leave items in the pantry that could freeze when the weather is predicted to be extremely cold. In particular, canned goods can freeze and spoil.

The pantry continues to experience high traffic flow with multiple visits each day to both add and take items. Please consider leaving an extra items during the holiday season when families have children on school break and college students who are staying in the dorms at CCCC may be in need of food.

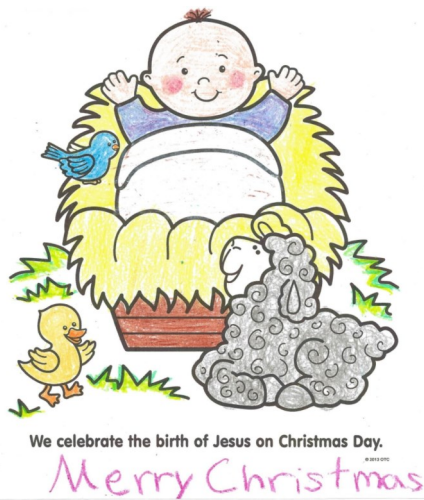
Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We had 15 volunteers who rang the Salvation Army Bells at Walmart! During the weekend of December 16th – 17th, we helped collect \$1272.76 – the best weekend of collections ever in Concordia!



Christmas Caroling

We had 32 members participate in Christmas Caroling! We visited 23 members and distributed more than 120 cards. We ended our evening with a delicious soup supper at the home of Monte & Nancy Wentz.



Mission Buckets

In December, we collected \$400.00 for the Cloud County Resource Center Holiday Baskets! We will pass the Missions Buckets on January 21st for the Human Relations Day Special Offering.

Your gift strengthens community outreach and empowers at-risk youth.

The Human Relations Day offering makes a difference for God's children everywhere. Thank you for your generous gift.



Commodities Distribution

Commodities will be distributed to residents of Cloud County on **January 17th**.

Lisa Valcoure and Lisa Brewer would appreciate help setting up the day of distribution. Please contact the church office if you would like to help with the distribution.

Volunteers will be needed Wednesday, January 17th from 9:30am to 12:15pm.

Cloud County Resource Center Needs

Help is needed with the monthly food truck delivery on January 10th from 8:00 – 11:00 am. Help is needed to unpack boxes, remove barcodes, and stock items. To volunteer, contact Tonya Merrill at 243-1065 or ccrc@nckcn.com.

Concordia Senior Center Needs

The Concordia Senior Center is in need of helpers to deliver Meals on Wheels! The deliveries start at 10:45 am and take about an hour to deliver to 6-8 people. If you are interested in helping out, contact Teddy Lineberry at 243-1872.

Missions Tree

Thanks for your donations of 120 food items and 10 toys for the
CCRC Holiday Baskets!

We are still collecting donations of the following items through January 7th:

Items for Concordia Elementary School
New and Gently Used Coats (sizes Pre-K through 4th Grade)
Underwear (sizes Pre-K through 4th Grade)

Items for Health Department
Hats, Scarves, and Gloves (all ages)



Care Portal

The Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) is scheduled for January 15th, 10:00 am – 1:30 pm at the Valley Rental Center. When Tonya Merrill visited us for the Little Free Pantry dedication last summer, we played a very brief version of this simulation of what it is like to live in poverty for a month. The event is free but is limited to 50 participants. Register at www.eventbrite.com or contact Jen Warkentin at jen.wrKentin@goproject.org. Snacks and drinks will be provided, but participants should bring a brown bag lunch.

Christian Education

Table Talk

Wednesdays at 5:45pm

Menu:

January 3rd: No Table Talk

January 10th: Breakfast

January 17th: Meatloaf

January 24th: Pulled Pork Sandwiches

January 31st: Pizza Burgers

Living Church Schedule

January 7th: Nursing Home Visitation

January 14th: Bells & Puppets

Bells Perform during Worship

January 21st: Valentine Crafts

January 28th: Bells & Puppets

Puppets Perform during Worship

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's
Christmas Program a huge success!!

January Volunteers

Worship Volunteers	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Greeters - Upstairs				
Media				
Worship Leader	Angie McConkey	Loren Swenson		
Liturgist	Marcy Johnson	Susie Haver	Maddie Johnson	Harry Adams
Children's Moment	Pastor Melanie	Mary Thoman	Angie McConkey	Puppets
Nursery Helpers				
Fellowship Hosts	Swenson's	Mallory & Marge		
Fellowship Cookies (3 doz.)				
Fellowship Cookies (3 doz.)				
Fellowship Cheese/Crackers				

Area to Clean	Volunteers
Sanctuary	Randy & Marcy Johnson
Chapel/Entry/Balcony	
Bathrooms	Marsha Wentz
Nursery	
Parlor & Kitchen	
Classrooms/Choir Room	
Fellowship Hall	
Halls/Stairs	
Youth Room	Youth
Kitchen	

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2	3 5:45pm Table Talk Movie Night	4	5	6
7 9:30am Sunday School/Living Church 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship	8 7pm Finance	9 7pm Trustees	10 5:15pm Hospitality 5:45pm Table Talk	11	12 10am Marketing	13
14 9:30am Sunday School/Living Church 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship 11:45 Discipleship	15 5:30pm ADCO	16	17 11:30am Commodities 5:45pm Table Talk	18 1:00pm UMW General	19	20
21 9:30am Sunday School/Living Church 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship 11:30am Missions	22	23	24 5:45pm Table Talk	25	26	27
28 9:30am Sunday School/Living Church 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship	29	30	31 5:45pm Table Talk			