

December 2018



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Revelation

Christmas Eve Service

Mark your calendar for our annual candlelit Christmas Eve Service on **December 24th at 5:30 pm**. If you would like to invite your friends and family, invitation cards are available in the church office!



Missions Tree

We will be collecting items for the CCRC Holiday Baskets and Concordia Elementary School on our Missions Tree this year!

Items for CCRC Holiday Baskets (collected through December 9th):

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Toys | Mashed Potato Flakes |
| Cranberry Sauce | Macaroni and Cheese |
| Canned Green beans or Corn | Boxed Dinners or Dry Pastas |
| Evaporated Milk | Cereal |
| Pumpkin Pie Filling | Biscuit, Bisquick or Pancake Mixes |
| Tuna or Canned Chicken | Spices or Baking Supplies |
| Boxed Stuffing Mixes | |

Donations of Frozen Turkey (including just breasts), Ham (including half hams), Hamburger, Bread, Pre-made Pie Crusts, and Whipped Topping are also needed and should be delivered directly to the CCRC (open 11 am – 1 pm, M/W/F).. Toys for Holiday Baskets can also be dropped off at the First Christian Church or Alliance Insurance. If you would like to buy items for a specific child, please consider selecting a child on the Angel Tree at Walmart.

Items for Concordia Elementary School (collected through January 6th):

- New and Gently Used Coats, Pants, and Sweatpants for boys and girls (sizes 5 – 12)
- New and Gently Used Shoes for boys
- New Underwear for boys and girls (sizes 5 – 12)
- New Socks for boys and girls

*a Place
for You*

BELONG • BELIEVE • BECOME

Our Purpose:

To provide a place for all to **BELONG** to our community, **BELIEVE** in and experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ, and **BECOME** his disciples.

**BELONG! BELIEVE!
BECOME!**

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

Office Info/UMW

Women's News

December

Altar Flowers- Poinsettias

Executive Meeting: as needed

General Meeting: December 6th @ 12:00 pm

Program: Social Action - Carol Ruud

Morning Cluster: No Meeting

Evening Cluster: No Meeting

HUGE THANKS
to everyone that has helped keep
the church clean during the
month of November!

Phil & Connie Bentz
Angie Gabel-McConkey
Christy Hasch

Jason Johnson
Randy & Marcy Johnson
Cindy Kocher

Jim & Ann Lanoue
Patty Mosher
Marvin & Eudora Petersen
Youth

Mark Your Calendar

Events:

December 1st: Cookie Day - 9:00 am

December 2nd: Christmas Vespers - 2:00 pm (Catholic Church)

Hanging of the Greens - 4:00 pm

December 9th: Christmas Caroling - 3:00 pm

December 16th: Christmas Program - 10:30 am

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - 12:00 - 6:00 pm

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service - 5:30 pm



Meetings:

December 4th - 7:00 pm Trustees

December 10th - 7:00 pm Finance

Christmas Caroling

Please plan to join us for Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 9th! We will meet in the upper parking lot at 3:00 pm. We will be going by car again this year.

Caroling will be followed by a soup supper at the home of Monte & Nancy Wentz. Please bring a finger food or dessert to share.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We will be ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Walmart on Sunday, December 16th. We need two volunteers for each time slot between noon – 6:00 pm. Why two volunteers? So there are two people to greet shoppers and spread Christmas Cheer! A sign-up list is on the Missions Bulletin Board.

90% of the funds collected stay in Cloud County and are used by the Resource Center to purchase food for the Food Bank and help people pay utility bills. During the time we rang the bells the past several years, \$700-\$800 was collected each year.

If you want to volunteer for an alternate time, contact Toby Nosker at (614-2070, tobynosker@yahoo.com) to volunteer.



Healthy Congregations

Angie Gabel, Christy Hasch, Monte Wentz, and Nancy Wentz all completed eight hours of training to be certified in the Health Congregations program in October! This program allows Concordia FUMC to apply for a \$1,000 annual grant as well as other one time grants. Watch for more information about more activities in early 2019!

Adult Table Talk News

November 28 - December 19

Advent Meditations for adults

Bring your own thoughts and questions, songs, pictures, stories, as we talk about....

November 28: Darkness. Winter

- What are your experiences with darkness? What does winter feel like? Where do you find hope? Promise? Where is God? - Read Isaiah 9:2-3; 6-7; John 8:12

December 5: Dawn, Spring

- Have there been dawn events in your life? What does spring feel like? What are you planting in your life? What is emerging, sprouting? Has God been calling to you, touching you? - Read John 1:14, 18; Luke 1:30-38

December 12: Sunshine. Summer. Incarnation- God is here.

- Talk about summer. Where is God working? Look for God. Be God at work. Water and tend God's work. Smell the roses.

- Read Isaiah 40:9, Isaiah 7:14; Luke 2:1-14; Matthew 1:24

December 19: Harvest, Rejoice and Celebrate.

- Think about harvest, about sharing the crop. How can we share God's love? What about next year? - Read Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 2:1-3, 9-12; Philippians 2:5-11;

1 Corinthians 12:27

From Your Pastor

Who am I thankful for as our year draws to a close at FUMC?

I am thankful for each person, couple or family who contributed in 2018 to the life of the church by:

- *attending worship
- *singing in choir
- *playing an instrument
- *acting as an usher
- *reading scripture
- *filling in for the pastor
- *giving a Stewardship Moment, or personal testimony to God's presence in your life
- *leading worship
- *helping with sound and video in worship
- *singing a solo, singing in Praise Band
- *preparing and/or serving communion
- *talking with the children during children's time
- *sharing a prayer request in worship
- *attending a Sunday school class, Table Talk class, or other small group
- *teaching/leading a Sunday school class, Table Talk class, or other small group
- *working with the puppets team
- *being on the puppets team
- *playing bells or singing in the children's choir
- *leading the bells or children's choir
- *being part of IMPACT
- *leading/teaching IMPACT
- *going on the mission trip as a youth or as an adult leader
- *talking with any small group about yourself, or something you are good at doing
- *leading training for the defibrillator, attending training for the defibrillator
- *attending Sittin' with Jesus
- *leading Sittin' with Jesus
- *leading or attending the Life Changes support group
- *being a leader in United Methodist Women
- *being involved in United Methodist Women
- *putting food in the Little Free Pantry
- *maintaining the Little Free Pantry
- *helping with and/or organizing the commodities distributions
- *cooking meals for Table Talk and cleaning up
- *helping to serve, cook, or organizing the commodities meals
- *contributing in any way to any of our many mission projects
- *working on Super Mission Saturday or Change the World Sunday
- *preparing and serving funeral dinners and other meals
- *working to make the annual Thanksgiving Dinner a success
- *making noodles and other food items
- *making layette kits/other missions related items

From Your Pastor - Continued

- *cleaning rooms in the church
- *picking up trash, left-over bulletins
- *trimming trees and bushes
- *fixing broken things, painting walls, making our church look its best
- *being involved in the men's Ice Cream Social
- *filling the oil in the candles
- *pulling or spraying for weeds
- *working on staff here at FUMC
- *serving on any team or committee
- *working on those necessary reports we have to do
- *counting and depositing money
- *chairing/leading any team or committee
- *serving as treasurer or financial secretary
- *praying for our church, our denomination, our city, our country, the world
- *praying for individuals: including church friends, family, colleagues, your pastor, our staff, our leaders, and complete strangers, too.

I am thankful, indeed! Will you join me in offering prayers of thanks for our church this week?

Melanie

Thanksgiving Dinner



Huge thanks to all who helped!!

240 meals served
4 meals delivered
\$1,659.62 raised for church projects!!

Missions Super Saturday

More than 40 people participated in taking down the haunted house and sewing blankets for layette sets. A total of 26 layette sets were assembled and blessed for delivery to the Cloud County Health Department by Marvin and Eudora Petersen!



If you need something squared....
Phil Bentz is your man!!!



Financial Peace University

FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY

DEBT IS A THIEF!
TAKE BACK *Your life!*

GROUP STARTS: JANUARY 13, 2019 @ 5:00 PM
GROUP LINK: [HTTPS://FPU.COM/1076860](https://fpu.com/1076860)
CONTACT CHARITY BROWN TO REGISTER: 785-275-1086

CONCORDIA FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
740 W. 11TH

Are you or someone you know stressed about finances?

This 9 week class might be the answer to your prayers.

Commodities Day

Our Community came together on November 14th to help 108 people in need of food. The City Water Department Crew and the CCCC Soccer Team volunteered their time and muscles to help unload the truck. Thank you to Nonnie Steinert, Peggi Barrett, DuWayne Johnson, Cindy Kocher, Carol Ruud, Janice Swenson, Gene Saltzman, Lyn Saltzman, Samantha Terrill, Pam Campbell, Ashley Hutchinson, Kevin Ukens and Pastor Melanie for all the help. Many hands make light work. We appreciate you all. ~ Lisa Brewer and Lisa Valcoure



Boiler Update

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the fundraiser for the new boiler. As of November 26th, we have received or have pledged **\$41,074.42** which leaves us to raise **\$8,925.58**. Demolition of the old boiler started on November 12th, and the boilers were first fired up on November 21st.

There are several tasks yet to be done to complete the installation, but we have heat. As the Trustees, ADCO, and Finance committee discussed the boiler replacement, it was a difficult decision to replace a boiler that was still running even though we knew it had already outlived its expected life span. After the old boiler was demolished, we were told that the center of it was so plugged with rust that they didn't know how we were getting enough water through it to heat the building, and that they did not think it would have made it through the winter.



IMPACT News

Our youth are working hard and making a huge IMPACT in our church and around our community! Fall activities included the annual Hay Rack Ride, the Haunted House, Crunch for a Cause and a concession stand for the Saltzman's Auction. The Haunted House and concession stand were very successful fundraisers.

Why are we raising money? To help pay for our Mission Trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin in June 2019. We have 14 going on the trip.

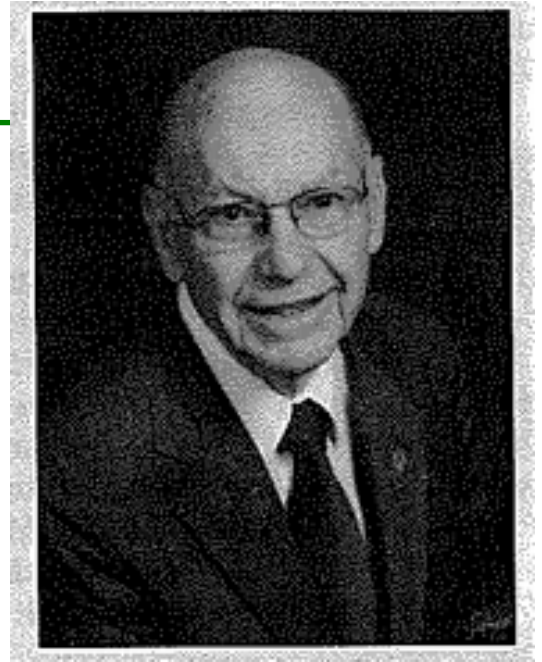
Sunday, December 2nd is IMPACT Sunday. Our youth will be in charge of the entire Worship Service. They have embraced this task with excitement and exuberance.

The youth are working on the Christmas Program which is December 16th during worship. Join us that Sunday and enjoy the talents of our youth.

During Christmas break we are planning a 30 Hour Famine to Fight World Hunger lock in at our church. More information to come regarding this event at a later date.



Spotlight on Gene Johnson



Gene was born September 6, 1928 on a farm in southern Cloud County, near the 81-24 junction. His parents, Perry and Anna (Forsling) Johnson were both born in Sweden. Perry immigrated with his family when he was 2 years old. Anna immigrated at the age of seventeen by herself on the maiden voyage of the ship , Lusitania. The ship later sank due to a torpedo fired by a German submarine during World War One. Gene's Mom didn't speak English and knew one person, a cousin, who lived in Delphos, Kansas. Anna took a housekeeping job at the Alvie Adams household. Alvie was the owner of the Delphos State Bank. Perry and Anna met and were married the year Anna turned 20.

Gene attended a one room country school for grades 1-8. He then attended Concordia High School, graduating in 1946.

Gene is the 6th of 8 children, 5 boys and 3 girls. Four of the five brothers served in the military during the same time frame. Gene served in the Army from 1951-1953. His time in the Army was mostly served in Germany as a Medic. Gene had turned in his rifle after basic training for a red cross arm patch which was supposed to protect him as he assisted U.S. troops.

Gene and Jean were married on September 6, 1953, which was Gene's 25th birthday. Jean was sure Gene never forget their anniversary by choosing that date. To this union 3 children were born, 2 girls and 1 boy. Their children gave them 4 grandchildren. Jean passed away from cancer in 2008 and daughter Lynnette passed away from cancer in 2018.

His first job, as a young boy, was delivering the daily Blade newspaper. Cloud County Bank was his place of employment for 41 years. Gene retired in 1990 as Senior Vice President. His wife Jean was Secretary to the President of the bank for 15 years. Gene also served as Treasurer of Cloud County Community College for 44 years. He started in 1972 during CCCC's infancy stages (the college was established in 1965).

After many years of attending church and Sunday school at Trinity United Methodist Church (Jean's home church), Gene transferred membership to Concordia First United Methodist in 2006. He found a home at FUMC with many great people.

Mission Buckets

We will pass the missions buckets on December 2nd and 9th for the Cloud County Resource Center Holiday Baskets program. Our goal is to collect \$500 again this year! Each Holiday Basket costs \$35.00 to prepare and the CCRC does not have any grant funding to help with the expenses this year.

In November, we collected \$37.25 for the World Communion Sunday special offering. Learn more about this offering at <http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/united-methodist-student-day>.



Cloud County Resource Center Needs

There are several upcoming activities at the CCRC that need some helpers! To volunteer, contact Tonya Merrill at 243-1065 or ccrc@nckcn.com.

The annual Holiday Store will take place on **December 1st and 8th from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm** each day. Volunteers are needed to work two hour shifts helping children select gifts and helping wrap gifts. Donations of gift bags, men's socks, work gloves, fashion socks, hat/glove sets, winter scarves, small tool sets, potholders/kitchen towels, nail polish/makeup sets, lotion/soap sets, adult coloring books, puzzle books, marker sets, art sets, earbuds, science kits, handheld video games, new stuffed animals, and gently used kids toys are also needed. More than 2,000 packages were prepared during the 2017 event!

Help is needed packing Holiday Baskets on **December 11th and 13th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm** each day.

Help is needed with the monthly food truck delivery on **December 5th from 8:00 – 11:00 am**. Help is needed to unpack boxes, remove barcodes, and stock items.

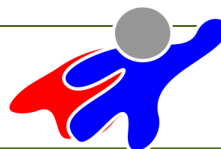
Little Pantry

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 extra items during the holiday season when families have children on school break and students who are staying in the dorms at CCCC may be in need of food.** If you have extra items, please place them in the food box in the church entry – these items will be used for the pantry and the CCRC Food Bank. If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to help purchase food for the pantry through the CCRC Food Bank.

December Heroes



Worship Volunteers	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
Greeters	Youth	Dave Brewer Lisa Brewer	Lyn Saltzman Gene Saltzman		Angie McConkey Christy Hasch
Media Sound	Lisa Brewer		Lisa Brewer		
Worship Leader	Youth	Jason Johnson			
Liturgist	Youth	Joyce Swenson	Sydney Conner	Kurt Kocher	Lynette Saltzman
Children's Moment	Youth	Mary Thoman	Christmas Program	Puppets	Angie Gabel-McConkey
Fellowship Hosts	Mike & Marsha Wentz	Wayne & Alberta	Angie Gabel-McConkey		Dave & Lisa Brewer
Fellowship Cookies (3 doz.)	Lori Raccagno	Mary Thoman	Lori Raccagno		
Fellowship Cookies (3 doz.)	Amy Gerber	Alberta Neel	Marcy Johnson		
Fellowship Cheese/Crackers	Linda Culley	Jean Wilcox	Peggy Nelson	Jackie Ramsey	

Area to Clean	Volunteers
Sanctuary	Marcy & Randy
Chapel/Entry/Balcony	Phil & Connie
Bathrooms	Marsha Wentz
Nursery	Lori Raccagno
Parlor & Kitchen	David & Judy Edwards
Classrooms/Choir Room	
Fellowship Hall	
Halls/Stairs	
Youth Room	Youth
Kitchen	Patty Mosher

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00 Cookie Day Conference Support Team in Parlor All Day
2 9:30 S/S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 4:00 Hanging of the Greens	3	4 7:00 pm Trustees	5 5:00 pm Sittin' with Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 5:45 TT Meal 6:30 TT Classes	6 12:00 pm UMW Potluck	7	8
9 9:30 Conf. Class 9:30 S/S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	10 7:00 pm Finance	11	12 5:00 pm Sittin' With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 5:45 TT Meal 6:30 TT Classes	13	14	15
16 9:30 S/S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	17	18	19 5:00 pm Sittin' With Jesus 5:30 Choir Pract. 5:45 TT Meal 6:30 TT Classes	20	21	22
23 9:30 S/S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26 No Table Talk 5:30 Choir ??	27	28	29
30 9:30 S/S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	31					

To A Friend of the Church



Return Service Requested
First United Methodist Church
740 West 11th Street
Concordia, KS 66901



Concordia First United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Melanie Adams

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Brewer

Christian Education Coordinator: Kathy Poore

Groundskeeper: Devin Pearson

Choir Director: Renata Knox

Organist: Pam Campbell

Nursery: Jan Novlan

Contact Information:

Email: concordia1umc@gmail.com

Pastor's Email: madams@greatplainsumc.org

Church Phone: 785-243-4560

Pastor's Cell: 308-920-0917

Parsonage: 785-262-4224

Website: www.concordiafumc.com