

December 2019



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Revelation

From Your Pastor

Dear congregation,

I am excited to share with you about our emphasis for Advent this year. It is called, **“Come Home for Christmas.”** When you come to worship during the month of December you will be given a ribbon on which to write your name (or your family’s name). The ribbon will be placed on a special tree outside of the sanctuary. By Christmas Eve, the tree will be covered with ribbons of all those who have come home for Christmas. It will be a visible sign of our faith!

I can’t wait to see how it turns out! Then, after Christmas, you may take your ribbon home with you to remind you of Christ’s light in our midst and to encourage you to return to your church home often throughout the new year.

With love and blessings ~ Pastor Melanie

P.S.....

I have some good news! Your faithful giving to our church budget in 2019, along with the money we’ve saved from putting in new insulation and the new boiler, has helped us remain strong financially.

Another factor that has helped our financial health is becoming part of a “two-point charge” with Trinity UMC. That means that you share a pastor and the financial responsibilities of that pastor (me).

If we continue at the rate we have been giving, we will finish the year strong! Thank you!

Additionally: We are hoping to pay our mission shares in full this year, and are working toward that goal. Our mission shares are part of being a “connectional denomination.” We work together to help feed, educate, provide spiritual support, disaster relief, medical help and so on, all around the world! This last year our own area (The Great Plains Conference) has benefited from funds to help flooded areas recover. This is the church at work! And our mission shares are one way we can be involved in the work of Christ in our world.

If you would like to make an extra gift towards our mission shares, please write on your check in the memo portion that it is for Mission Shares. Cash is welcome, too. Just label the envelope in which the cash is enclosed.

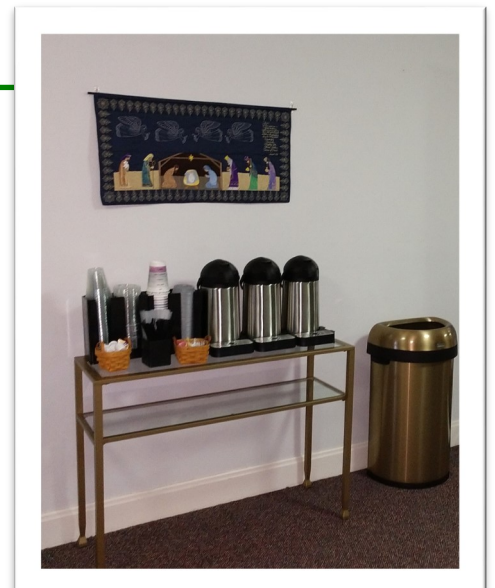
God is good! And I thank God for each and every one of you!

Pastor Melanie

New Coffee Bar

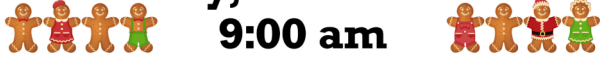
Our new COFFEE BAR is gorgeous and ready to go!!!

Starting Sunday, December 1st we will be having Coffee Time at 10:00 am. Join us for coffee, hot cocoa or ice tea before worship.



Upcoming Events

ANNUAL COOKIE DAY Saturday, December 7



9:00 am

COOKIES ARE NEEDED!!

WE ARE ASKING EACH FAMILY TO
PROVIDE **8 DOZEN**.

DECORATED...NOT DECORATED...

WHATEVER WORKS FOR YOU!!

Worship
Training
for Children's
Moment,
Greeters,
Liturgist,
Media, Sound,
Ushers,
Worship
Leaders



Worship Boot Camp

We are having a "Boot Camp" for Worship Volunteers!!!! This training session is designed to help our Worship time flow more smoothly, answer your questions about your duties and to help us move forward in our journey to rework how we worship. Join us on December 8th at 11:30 am in room 203.

The training is for Children's Moment presenters, Greeters, Liturgists, Media Techs, Sound Techs, Ushers and Worship Leaders!!

Christmas Caroling



Please plan to join us for Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 15th!

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.

Missions Super Sunday Update



**MISSIONS
SUPER
SUNDAY
HAUNTED
HOUSE**



**35 volunteers
One Haunted House
disassembled
65 Layettes Assembled
Copious amounts
of fun,
laughter and pizza!!**



**MISSIONS
SUPER SUNDAY
65 LAYETTES**



Meetings and Office News

Trustees: December 3rd @ 7:00 pm

Finance: December 9th @ 7:00 pm



UMW News

Altar Flowers- Poinsettias

Executive Meeting: December 5th @ 12:15 pm

General Meeting: December 5th @ 1:00 pm

Morning Cluster: No Meeting

Evening Cluster: No Meeting

We are searching for volunteers to help keep our church clean. Please see the December volunteer sign-up sheet located on the hallway bulletin board.

Expressing Gratitude to everyone that helped keep the church clean during the month of October:

**Phil & Connie Bentz
Jason Johnson
Randy & Marsha Johnson
Cindy Kocher
Marvin & Eudora Petersen
Gary & Cynthia Strait
Marsha Wentz
Youth**

We have T-Shirts available for purchase.

Upcoming events where you could wear your new shirt:

1. Caroling

See Lisa in the church office to purchase yours.



CHRISTMAS WEEK OFFICE HOURS:

The church office will be closed from 12:00 pm Tuesday, December 24th through Friday, December 27th.

If there is an emergency, Pastor Melanie can be reached at 308-920-0917.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas,

Pastor Melanie & Lisa

Fall Happenings

Haunted House Build



350 brave souls walked the Hallowed Halls of the FUMC MPACT Haunted House.

Thanksgiving Dinner



300 Meals Served
Dozens of Volunteers
11 Meals Delivered
Tons of Fun & Fellowship
Thanks to everyone who helped!!

IMPACT UPDATE



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the IMPACT youth! We find it hard to believe that 2019 is almost over. The fall semester of school is coming to a close and it seems like just yesterday we were frantically running every direction preparing for our Mission Trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin.

If we take a moment to reflect on this year our reaction is “Wow, what a year it has been!!” Highlights of the year include: raising almost \$8,000 to take 12 people on the Mission Trip, graduating 9 seniors, driving 13 hours straight to get home from Green Bay, welcoming 8 new 7th graders into our group, assembling and disassembling the Haunted House which raised \$1,000 this year.....the list goes on and on. We are a group blessed by God and by this Church!!

December will be a busy time for us as we say goodbye to 2019. Cookie decorating for the Cookie Day event, practicing and performing the Christmas Program, finishing our first book in our new “Fathom” bible series and having our Christmas party are some of the activities we have planned.

This year’s IMPACT group has changed and evolved so much over the last six months. We have loved every minute of the changing dynamics of this adventure and remain thankful for another year of your support and prayers. Every time we hear something positive about our youth and/or one of our activities, it gives us the energy we need to keep going.

Looking forward to next year with 2020 vision ~ Jason & Kathy

Mission Buckets

In November, we collected \$69.24 for the United Methodist Student Day special offering. Learn more about this offering at <http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/united-methodist-student-day>.

Mission Buckets will be passed December 1st and 8th for CCRC Holiday Baskets.

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.

Cloud County Resource Center Needs

Help is needed with the monthly food truck delivery on December 4th. Help is needed to unpack boxes, remove barcodes, and stock items. **For more information, contact Tonya Merrill at 243-1065 or ccrc@nckcn.com.**

Healthy Congregations

Yoga Classes

December Yoga Classes will be held on:

Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 22nd at 5:00 pm



Classes are held in the Fellowship Hall. Participants of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate (including beginners). Bring a mat or towel for the floor; you may want to bring a small pillow or towel to sit on.

Quarterly Tip

Stay Hydrated in the Winter

It is important to stay hydrated in the winter. At a minimum, dehydration can make us feel foggy, tired or fatigued, and irritable. While it can be hard staying motivated to drink all the water your body needs, try the following tricks to keep you hydrated through this winter.



- 1. SKIP THE ICE CUBES** Skip the ice and drink your water room temperature or slightly warm to make it more manageable when it's cold outside.
- 2. SIP HOT FLAVORED WATER** Most of us reach for hot coffee/tea in the winter. Holding a hot mug between your fingers and sipping on a steamy beverage when it's freezing out just feels so right. Take a break from your third cup of coffee and give hot flavored water a try. Try adding these flavor combinations to your hot water: lemon slices, lemon slices + ginger, fresh mint leaves, raspberries + fresh rosemary sprigs, pear slices + cinnamon, apple slices + cinnamon.
- 3. EAT MORE SOUP** Eating soup is a sneaky way to get more water into your winter diet. Since broths are water based, soups can add an additional cup or two of water to your daily intake. Loading up on healthy, low sodium soups is a great way to stay hydrated and feel full at the same time.
- 4. DRINK WATER WITH YOUR COFFEE OR TEA** Drink 16 oz of water BEFORE your cup of coffee/tea and 16 oz of water AFTER your coffee/tea to make sure you are getting enough water to stay hydrated.

Holiday Missions

How can we help others in
Cloud County during the
holiday season?
Here are some ideas!



Bring these items to the Concordia 1st UMC Missions Tree by December 8th for use in Holiday Baskets prepared by the Cloud County Resource Center (CCRC) and the Girl Scouts/Toy Run:



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.

Bring Hats, Scarves, and Gloves for all ages items to the Concordia 1st UMC Missions Tree by January 5th:

These items will be delivered to the Cloud County Resource Center.

Select an Angel from the Angel Tree at Walmart! These items are included in the Holiday Baskets prepared by the Girl Scouts/Toy Run!



Give money for CCRC Holiday Baskets!

We will pass the Missions Buckets on **December 1st and 8th** and all money will be used to help families in need. You can also make a donation or adopt a family directly by contacting Tonya Merrill at the CCRC (243-1065, ccrcc@nckcn.com). Each basket costs \$35.00 to prepare; the CCRC does not have grant money this year to with the expenses.

Volunteer to help with the following activities:

- ★ Holiday Store on **December 5th (5—7 pm) and December 14th (9—2 pm)**. Volunteers are needed to help children select gifts and to wrap gifts. Donations of gift bags and items to use in the store are also needed. See our web site (www.concordiafumc.com) or the missions bulletin board for more details. In 2018 volunteers wrapped more than 2,000 packages at the Holiday Store! In 2019, 160 children were served.
- ★ Help pack Holiday Baskets on **December 16th (5-7 pm) and December 17th (1-4 pm)**.



Contact Tonya Merrill at the CCRC (243-1065, ccrcc@nckcn.com) to volunteer.



Volunteer to help ring the Salvation Army Bells at Walmart on Sunday, December 22nd from 12:00—6:00 pm!

A sign-up list is on the Missions Bulletin Board. 90% of the funds collected stay in Cloud County to purchase food for the food bank and provide people in need with assistance in paying utility bills. In past years, \$800+ was raised during the time Concordia 1st UMC was ringing the bells! If you aren't available on the 22nd, contact Toby Nosker (614-2070, tobynosker@yahoo.com) to volunteer for another time.

Hanging of the Greens



**1 church
decorated
by
26 volunteers
in
2 1/2 hours!!**



December Heroes

Worship Volunteers	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
Greeters	Lori Raccagno	Dave Brewer Lisa Brewer	Julie Cory Lori Raccagno	Judy Edwards David Edwards	Dave Brewer Lisa Brewer
Media Sound	Janice Swenson Monte Wentz	Lisa Brewer	Jason Johnson	Lisa Brewer Mark McConkey	Janice Swenson
Worship Leader	Amanda Morgan	Jason Johnson	Angie Gable-McConkey	Susie Haver	Loren Swenson
Liturgist	Bailey Conner	Tyler Knox	Joyce Swenson	David Edwards	Nevaeh Valcoure
Children's Moment	Jason Johnson	Mary Thoman	Christmas Program	Angie-Gable McConkey	Loren Swenson
Fellowship Hosts	Angie Gable-McConkey	Alberta Neel	Joyce Swenson	Lori Raccagno	Lisa Brewer



Area to Clean	Volunteers
Sanctuary	Randy & Marcy Johnson
Chapel/Entry/Balcony	Phil & Connie Bentz
Bathrooms	Marsha Wentz
Nursery	Jim & Ann Lanoue
Parlor & Kitchen	
Classrooms/Choir Room	
Fellowship Hall	Jason Johnson
Halls/Stairs	Mary Thoman
Youth Room	Youth
Kitchen	Lisa Valcoure

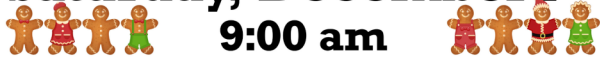
December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 am S/S 10:00 am Coffee Time 10:30 am Worship	2	3 7:00 pm Trustees	4 5:00 pm SWJ 5:30 pm Choir 5:45 pm Meal 6:30 pm TT Classes	5	6	7 9:00 am Cookie Day
8 Mission Bucket 9:15 am S/S 10:00 am Coffee Time 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Boot Camp	9 7:00 pm Finance	10	11 5:00 pm SWJ 5:30 pm Choir 5:45 pm Meal 6:30 pm TT Classes	12	13	14
15 9:15 am S/S 10:00 am Coffee Time 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Caroling	16	17	18 5:00 pm SWJ 5:30 pm Choir 5:45 pm Meal 6:30 pm TT Classes	19	20	21
22 9:15 am S/S 10:00 am Coffee Time 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Bell Ringing	23	24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:15am S/S 10:00 am Coffee Time 10:30 am Worship	30	31				



Return Service Requested
 First United Methodist
 Church
 740 West 11th Street

ANNUAL COOKIE DAY
Saturday, December 7



9:00 am

COOKIES ARE NEEDED!!

WE ARE ASKING EACH FAMILY TO
 PROVIDE **8 DOZEN**.

DECORATED...NOT DECORATED...

WHATEVER WORKS FOR YOU!!

To A Friend of the Church

Table Talk every Wednesday Evening (during the school year)

Dinner at 6:00 pm
 Classes for all ages at 6:30 pm

Sunday Services
 Adult & Youth Sunday School at 9:30 am
 Worship at 10:30 am

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: concordiafumc@gmailcom

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

Concordia First United Methodist Church

Belong | Believe | Become

