

Events this Week:

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:00am Choir Practice
9:30am Crusaders
9:30am Searchers
10:30am Worship

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Walmart
5:30pm Advent Bible Study

Monday, December 18, 2023

5:30pm M&M's meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

5:00pm Sitting with Jesus
5:30pm Advent Bible Study

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

9:30am Crusaders
9:30am Searchers
10:30am Worship
5:30pm Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 25, 2023

Merry Christmas!!!



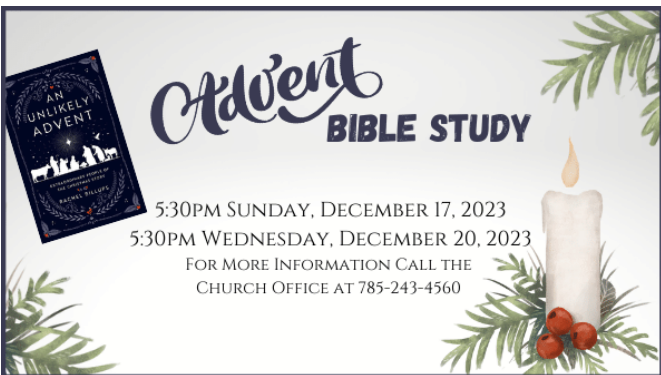
Happy BIRTHDAY
18~Alex Johnson
19~Marlene Parker
19~ Karter Steinle
19~Charity Brown



Prayer Requests
AMANDA WATERMAN
LAURA CHRISTENSEN
TRISH & DAN WATERMAN
HARLEY & DARLA ADAMS
BETH WHISLER



First United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2023
5:30pm
A PLACE FOR YOU THIS CHRISTMAS



Advent BIBLE STUDY
5:30PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
5:30PM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE AT 785-243-4560




"The Lord does great things for us, and we rejoice"
~ Psalm 126:3



December 17, 2023
First United Methodist Church
740 West 11th St, Concordia, KS 66901
Church (785) 243-4560

Office Hours:
Monday — Thursday
9:00-4:00pm
Friday
Closed

Pastor E-mail: rev.mark.crist74@gmail.com
E-mail: concordia1umc@gmail.com
Website: www.concordiafumc.com
Rev. Mark Crist, Pastor



Welcome to our guests! We are glad you are here. We hope you were blessed by your experience at First United Methodist Church this morning and will tell a friend.

Do No Harm ~ Do Good ~ Stay in Love With God.
John Wesley



The Community Gathers

PRELUDE, CHIMES AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST	Pam Campbell
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Loren Swenson
PASSING THE PEACE	
OPENING HYMN	"Holy, Holy, Holy" #64
CALL TO WORSHIP	
LEADER: Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.	
PEOPLE: We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.	
LEADER: You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.	
PEOPLE: We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.	
LEADER: Beloved, listen. God is calling you. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.	
PEOPLE: We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.	
LEADER: So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.	
PEOPLE: We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah.	
SONG OF PRAISE	"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #196
OPENING PRAYER	
Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And so we give you our thanks and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.	
JOYS, CONCERNS AND GOD SIGHTINGS	
PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY	
ADVENT SONG	Light the Advent Candle Song (third stanza only) #2090



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Thanksgiving

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE	"The Lord does great things for us, and we rejoice." ~ Psalm 126:3
TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS	
DOXOLOGY	#94
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	
God of hope and compassion: Just as John the Baptist long ago witnessed to your light, we remember that light he heralds is the light of hope. Sometimes it seems our world is determined to extinguish hope and light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, and hope is just wishful thinking. May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair but fierce joy, hope, and compassion. May we also witness through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.	

Hearing and Responding to the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
HYMN	"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" #2193
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	Cindy Kocher
GOSPEL LESSON	John 1:6-8, 19-28
MESSAGE	"A Matter of Perspective" Pastor Mark Crist
PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER	

Going into the World to Serve

SENDING SONG	"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #240
BENEDICTION	
BENEDICTION RESPONSE	"Let there be Peace on Earth" #431
POSTLUDE AND TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD	