

THE MESSENGER

WINNEMUCCA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission Statement: *"To be hospitable, to serve, and nurture the way Jesus did."*



December 2020 – Issue 49

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Service will once again be early at **5 PM on December 24th**. This allows you the opportunity to come and worship with your family before Christmas Eve dinner and family night. Bring your loved ones and experience an inspiring evening listening to the nativity story and message from Luke 2 and singing traditional carols. Of course we will be lighting individual candles and singing "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" at the close of the service!



Merry Christmas All! I hope this Season is Joyful for you. The UMW is in the midst of our "**No Craft, Craft Fair**" since we are not able to host our Annual Christmas Bazaar this year. If your so inclined, a donation in the amount of which you may have spent at the bazaar would be appreciated for the No Craft, Craft Fair. This runs through December 30th.

With the rise of COVID, the UMW is not having any in person gatherings through the remainder of 2020. We will look at **Prayer Pal Reveal** options as mid-January draws near. Please do remember your Prayer Pal this December. Please definitely join our [Winnemucca United Methodist Women Facebook page](#) if you haven't already, I have a couple fun online Christmas events planned for this month through that page! Please feel free to call or text if you need help with the page, or anything else pertaining to UMW @ 702-523-0586. Enjoy this Blessed Season and I look forward to seeing you all sometime in the New Year! Ann Harris

Pastors on Vacation

Pastors Judy and Gary will be on vacation Dec. 28th-Jan. 3rd, but they can be reached on their cell phones in case of emergencies. Rolly Rollison will lead worship on January 3rd, Epiphany Sunday.

Extra Christmas Greenery for Sale Now

The greenery orders arrived this past Thursday the 3rd and are ready to be picked-up at the church. There is an extra swag and 2 centerpieces for sale, as well as a 3 decorative reindeer sets. These are located on a table in the fellowship area with the prices marked on them. Please let Mary Agnes Boni know if you are interested in purchasing any of these items so she can put them aside for you.



Volunteers Needed every Sunday

Please sign up to be an **usher**, a **greeter**, the **liturgist**, or the **media tech** to run the Power-Point (training is available). We do not have all the liturgists we need for December, and we still need sign-ups for future months and the other important jobs. **Advent Candle Readers** are also needed for Dec. 13th, 20th and 24th. Sign-up in back of the church or call the church office to tell us when you can serve!

Thanksgiving Food Collection

Thank you to all who brought non-perishable food items for our church's emergency pantry on Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday. The pantry is now well stocked thanks to your generosity!

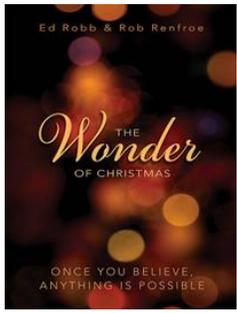


Confirmation Class – Spring 2021



One of our junior high youth has expressed an interested in attending a Confirmation Class in the spring. It would be wonderful if other youth could join the class so that there is more than 1 attending. Please inform Pastor Judy if you know a youth who is interested in attending the class.

Advent Study – Dec. 1st, 8th & 15th by Zoom



Our Advent Study, **The Wonder of Christmas** continues **Tuesdays at 12 noon and 6 PM** by Zoom video conferencing. Ten people (including 1 youth!) are participating in it and if you are interested in joining, let Pastor Judy know. Each session will feature a discussion of the

chapter as well as a short video clip loaded into the zoom conferencing. Here is a description of the study: The Christmas season is always filled with wonder, but this year rediscover the true wonder of Christmas by sharing the love of Christ with others. This study centers on looking to the Christmas story and the stories of real people today to find inspiration and ideas for reflecting the light of Jesus at Christmas time and throughout the entire year. Chapters include: The Wonder of a Name, The Wonder of a Star, The Wonder of a Manger, and The Wonder of a Promise.

Volunteers Needed for Cleaning the Church

Please sign-up on the sheet on the sanctuary ledge to clean the church! Although pews, the fellowship area and restrooms are regularly cleaned after use, a deep cleaning of our church (including mopping floors, dusting and polishing) is really needed at least once (and preferably twice) a month. You are kindly urged to please sign-up or call/text/email Pastor Judy or Gary to let them know when you can do this!

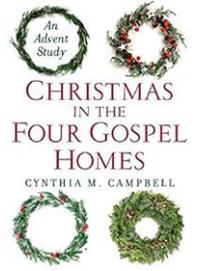


The NAMI ([National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)) **Family Support Group** is now meeting in-

person every **Thursday at 2 PM**. We have been using the fellowship area under the safety protocols (wearing masks, physical distancing, etc.) and sometimes using phone conference calling. This is a confidential support group for those with loved ones struggling with mental illness or issues requiring them to need psychiatric care. For more information speak to Pastor Judy.

In-Person Advent Study

The **6 AM Thursday morning Bible Study Group** is currently reading and discussing an Advent Study called **Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes** by Cynthia M. Campbell. Here is a description of the study: “How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In this book beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a ‘house’, which the church visits at Christmas. For each week of Advent, Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel.” This group meets in various participants’ homes, so contact Debbie Stone or Mary Agnes Boni if you are interested in joining the group to find out where they are meeting each week.



The **Winnemucca United Methodist Men** will be meeting until January due to the COVID situation. All are encouraged to call each other and stay in touch.



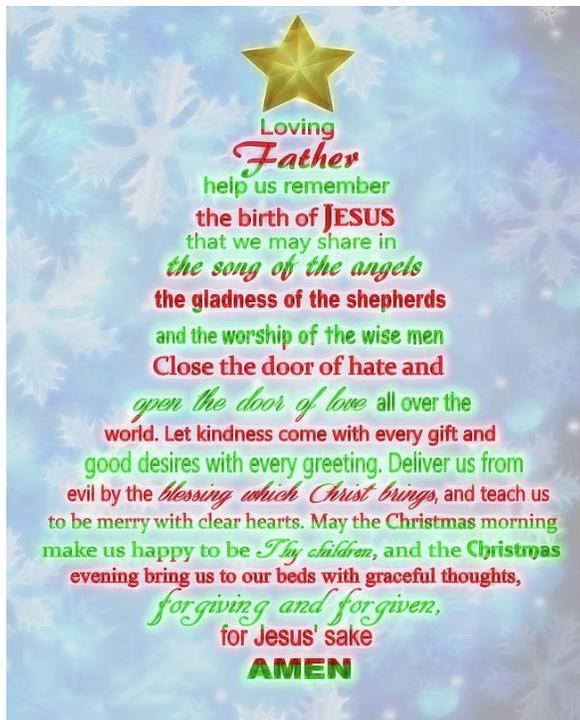
Want to join a **Prayer Text Group**? If you text on your phone and would like to be part of our church's prayer chain by text then please text Gail Andrews at 360-961-1742, tell her your name and let her know you'd like to be part of it. You can also call the church at 775-623-2814 if you are interested.

The **NAMI Warmline** is a stigma-free, non-crisis, phone service you can call or text at **775-241-4212** to speak one-on-one with a NAMI WNV CARES Operator. The Warmline is staffed by trained peers in recovery, who provide support to peers by telephone. All phone calls received are kept confidential and callers remain anonymous. Knowing someone cares can motivate us to carry on in recovery. The Warmline is not a crisis line. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis or emergency, please contact 911.



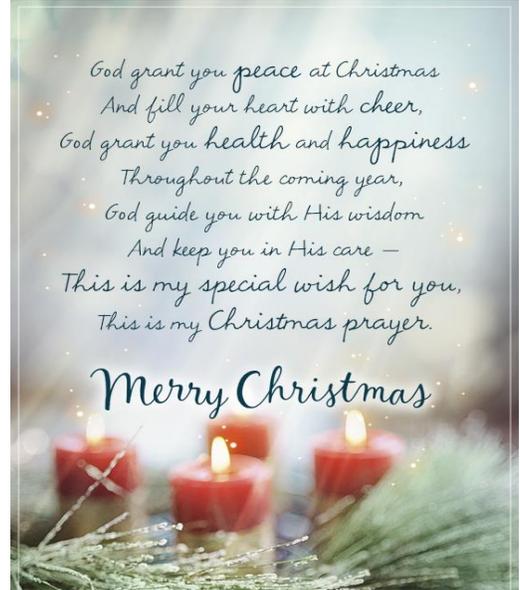
Birthdays for December 2020

- Maxine Borem – Dec 1st
- Mike Mavity – Dec 3rd
- Lauren Fentress – Dec 5th
- Ron Riggan – Dec 6th
- Michael Dittman – Dec 17th
- Savannah Rorex – Dec 18th
- Caden Rorex – Dec 20th
- Samantha Draper – Dec 22nd
- Heather Andrews – Dec 28th

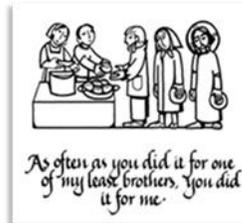


Wedding Anniversaries for December 2020

Ron & Jackie Riggan – Dec 22nd



Soup Kitchen Ministry Update



The Winnemucca Ministerial Association Soup Kitchen, which is housed in our downstairs social hall and kitchen, is open on **Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 PM,**

passing out free meals to any who attend. Various civic, school, and church groups come once a month to safely prepare and serve the meals. Currently meals are given as take-out meals only due to our COVID19 Safety Protocols. Pastor Judy has been contacting each group to make sure they understand these protocols. Our churches' monthly day for this vital ministry is the 4th Wednesday of the month. In December, our **UMC Soup Kitchen night is Wed. Dec. 23rd, 4:30-6:30 PM.**

Aluminum Can Recycling

The church collects aluminum cans for redemption to support the **pastor's discretionary fund.** Parishioners can bring



their bagged collections to the church or to the house of Ed & Gail Andrews at 5060 Palisade Drive, Winnemucca (775-623-5750 / 360-961-5881).

Also in December there's a different holiday schedule as there will be a **special Christmas meal** served on **Sun. Dec. 20th from 1:30 to 3:30 PM,** instead of 6 PM. Also the Soup Kitchen will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve. Please call or text Pastor Judy at (916) 718-3797 if you are interested in helping on Dec. 23rd.



December 2020 Worship Plans

Dec. 6th: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Message: "What Waiting Requires"

Theme: As we wait upon the Lord, let us allow Him to work within us to build our character.

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 and II Peter 3:8-15a

Key Verse: Isaiah 40:3

Holy Communion

Dec. 13th: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Message: "The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength"

Theme: Whatever dark times we go through in life, knowing that God is with us can fill us with joy, a joy that gives us renewed strength to face what lies ahead.

Scripture Readings: Philippians 4:4-8 and Luke 1:39-56

Key Verse: Nehemiah 8:10c "...do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Dec. 20th: 4th Sunday of Advent

Message: "Lovingly Proclaim the Gospel"

Theme: We are called to speak the truth in love, to lovingly share with others how God sent His Son Jesus to be our Savior.

Scripture Readings: I John 1:5-9 and Luke 3:1-16

Key Verse: I Peter 3:15-16

Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve (5 PM Service)

Message: "Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All"

Theme: When we accept Christ as Savior and Lord we receive every bit of God's mercy, grace and love.

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:1-7 and Luke 2:1-20

Key Verse: Isaiah 9:6

Dec. 27th: 1st Sunday after Christmas

Message: "The Word Became Flesh to Make Us His Heirs"

Theme: God took on flesh in Jesus in order to claim us and restore us, because He loves us.

Scripture Readings: Galatians 4:4-7 and John 1:1-14

Key Verse: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

Please lift up in prayer those listed here

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you. Thank you, my Lord. Amen.***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)

Robin Riggan

Dawn Burger / Soledad Grey

Erica Ellefson / Brenda Todd

Oliver Stone & Parents
(Mark & Marie Stone)

Ruthann Foppiano

Steve & Vicki Nye / Jeff Johnson

Family of Sally Porter

Suzan Hanel / Nyree Martinez

Cody Bengoa / Sandi Robbins

Sande Olson / Alicia Sandbak

Marie Carver / Marina Gomez

Denise Dolphin's
brother-in-law Randy

Shawn Ferguson & Family

Bonnie May Keel

Shelia Bunch's daughter Shauna

Curtis Sandbak / Barbara Sealy

Helen Burnett / Betty Steinhauer

Mary Laub / Sheilah McKinney

Sibyl & Wilbur Carlton

Carl Weber / Marilyn Draper

Johaunna Maloon

Family of Amar Singh

Blake Family / Sexton Family

Lorraine Poukish

Amity Robbins

Local Teachers & Students



“...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Advent is a season of hope and a season of waiting. I think “waiting” has been quite a descriptive word for 2020! We are all waiting for things to get better, to get back to normal because of the threat of COVID19. And there have been frustrations and heartaches because so many of our plans and usual ways of doing things have been altered due to the threat. For example, it’s difficult not being able to have Bible Studies in person, and having to rely on the uncertain stability of your internet connection for video conferencing because you are trying to be safe. And, for the meetings that are being held “in-person”, everyone has to be extra cautious about using safe practices so germs aren’t spread.

It’s difficult to wait when loved ones and others you know test positive for COVID19 and you have to isolate for a certain time to make sure you haven’t gotten it. And there’s uncertainty and anxiety that goes along with a positive test result, especially if you or a loved one is hospitalized as a result. But this is exactly where our hope and faith are so important; we must trust God to get us through whatever we face in life! You are not alone, because He is Emmanuel, “God with us”. Jesus said he’d be with us always! And you are not alone because you have a church family that cares for you! I know that many people hesitate to tell their pastor, or their church friends about the struggles they are going through because they are private and they just don’t want people to know. And because of that they fail to receive the comfort and prayers their church family can provide.

I do think it’s important for pastor’s and church friends to be told when someone needs prayer, but that doesn’t mean they need to know all the details of the situation. If someone simply wants it said on a prayer chain “I need prayer (or so and so needs prayer) for a health issue” that is sufficient, or even, “I (he/she/they) really need prayer right now” (without explaining why) that should be enough for people to pray for whatever the struggle is that their friend is facing. As we pray, respecting the boundaries of the information given, we are helping private matters to stay private and encouraging other private individuals, who need prayer, to not be so reluctant to ask for it in the future. We certainly all need each other in the Body of Christ, especially when we go through trying times!

We renew our strength when we “wait upon the Lord”. As we wait for this COVID19 crisis to be over, we can pour our hearts out to the Lord in prayer, read words of comfort from the Bible, and practice the presence of Christ through meditation. It also helps to listen to Christian music and sing along. As we turn to God in praise and thanksgiving our spirits are lifted and joy bubbles up within; the Joy of the Lord is our strength! My friends, throughout this Advent and into Christmas, may you spend time pondering the hope we have in Christ’s coming, find peace through times of meaningful prayer, be filled with joy as you lift praises to God, and lovingly tell others what knowing and following Jesus means to you.

-Judy Robbins



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1. Advent Bible Study 12 Noon & 6 PM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	2. RAA Meeting 10:30 Am Soup Kitchen 6 PM	3. NAMI Support Group 2 PM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	4.	5.
6. Second Sunday of Advent Worship 10 AM Holy Communion Soup Kitchen 6 PM	7.	8. Advent Bible Study 12 Noon & 6 PM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	9. RAA Meeting 10:30 Am Soup Kitchen 6 PM	10. NAMI Support Group 2 PM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	11.	12.
13. Third Sunday Of Advent Worship 10 AM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	14.	15. Advent Bible Study 12 Noon & 6 PM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	16. RAA Meeting 10:30 Am Soup Kitchen 6 PM	17. NAMI Support Group 2 PM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	18.	19.
20. Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship 10 AM Community Christmas Dinner 1:30-3:30 PM	21.	22. Soup Kitchen 6 PM	23. RAA Meeting 10:30 Am WUMC Serves Soup Kitchen 4:30-6:30 PM	24. Christmas Eve Worship Service 5 PM	25. Merry Christmas	26.
27. Worship 10 AM Soup Kitchen 6 PM	28. <i>Pastor Judy and Gary on vacation thru Jan 3rd</i>	29. <i>Pastor Judy and Gary on vacation thru Jan 3rd</i> Soup Kitchen 6 PM	30. RAA Meeting 10:30 Am <i>Pastor Judy and Gary on vacation thru Jan 3rd</i> Soup Kitchen 6 PM	31. New Years Eve <i>Pastor Judy and Gary on vacation thru Jan 3rd</i> Soup Kitchen 6 PM		