



# First United Methodist Church

## Pastor's Preaching Schedule

1/7/24: Baptism of The Lord/Remembering our Baptisms/Wesleyan Covenant/Communion  
Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5  
Sermon: "Beginnings"

1/14/24: Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-20  
Sermon: "Tough News"

1/21/24: Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5,10 and Mark 1:14-20  
Sermon: "Answering the Call"

1/28/24: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Scripture: Mark 1:21-28  
Sermon: "What Is This?"

## Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Mona Joslyn,  
Pastor

Karin VanderMolen,  
Admin. Asst. &  
Bookkeeper

Jon Carroll,  
Building Supervisor

James Mullins,  
Music & Audio/Visual  
Coordinator

Mary Jo Pouillon,  
Noah's Ark Director

## Leadership Team

Diane Allen  
Karolyn Dawley  
Fred Delcamp  
James Downing,  
Chair

Sherry Elwell  
Cindy Helmker  
Larry Johnson  
Rev. Mona Joslyn  
Karin VanderMolen

Noah's Ark President  
Youth Rep.

The MISSION of Owosso First United Methodist Church is to live out our faith in Jesus Christ through acts of love with honesty, integrity, and respect.

The VISION of Owosso First United Methodist Church is to be Christ-centered, a welcome and loving environment, service-oriented, and respectful of ALL creation.



# Tower Tidings

First United  
Methodist Church

JAN 2024

## Pastor's Page

Happy New Year!

I first want to thank you for your support of the Open House, and the many cards and gifts. I am humbled and privileged to be your pastor! I have been truly blessed by God through all of you. As we begin this New Year together, I look forward to all the possibilities that lie ahead!

As I think about beginning a New Year, I think about words from the prophet Isaiah, **"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert"** (Isaiah 43:19). The old year has passed and none of us can change what happened in the past (at least I cannot), so we put the past behind us. We listen and watch for all the new things that God is going to have spring up for us out of his love. Of course, that means that we have to pay attention to what God's call is for us as individuals and as a church! For me, that takes some patience and some listening to all of God's creation. **"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being"** (Job 12:7-10). God will use every part of creation...including humans to speak to us.

So, we all need to listen for God, for the new thing that he has for us to do or to receive. Sometimes it may be a difficult task, other times it may be receiving a blessing. This being the season of Epiphany, the time when after Jesus was born God made his presence known to three Magi, and Simeon and Anna, two elderly people who had waited and listened for the Lord to do "a new thing". For the Lord to allow them to see the Messiah, and their wait was over. Both Simeon and Anna didn't just see the Messiah, they held him and blessed him.

How often to we wait and prepare for God's new thing that is going to happen? If we are paying attention, the Holy Spirit is constantly working to lead us to those moments where we experience God, or hear that still small voice that God speaks to us in. It may be in a baby's cry, a conversation with a youth, or adult...after all we are each created in God's image. God could also be appearing to us in the world around us, through animals, birds, flowers, trees, and yes maybe even in the quick moving moment of a single snowflake falling on your windshield.

God sprang something new over 2,000 years ago when Isaiah's words, **"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn"** (Isaiah 60:1-3).

May the New Year bring you new visions of God and may we all listen for that still small voice of God, in whatever part of creation it comes to you. May the New Year continue to bring God's new things to us as individuals and as a congregation all year long.

Shalom,  
Pastor Mona



Rev. Dr. Mona K. Joslyn  
drmjoslyn@owossofumc.org

First United  
Methodist Church  
1500 N. Water Street  
Owosso, MI 48867  
firstumc@owossofumc.org  
owossofumc.org

## Sundays

9:30 am Café Open  
10 am Worship

## Office

8am-4pm Mon-Fri

Newsletter  
articles are  
due the 15th  
of each  
month.

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Owosso, MI  
48867  
Permit # 18

Return  
Service  
Requested

Tower Tidings - January 2024  
First United Methodist Church  
1500 North Water Street  
Owosso, MI 48867



Everyone is welcome to meet in the Café on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30 pm for Bible Study.

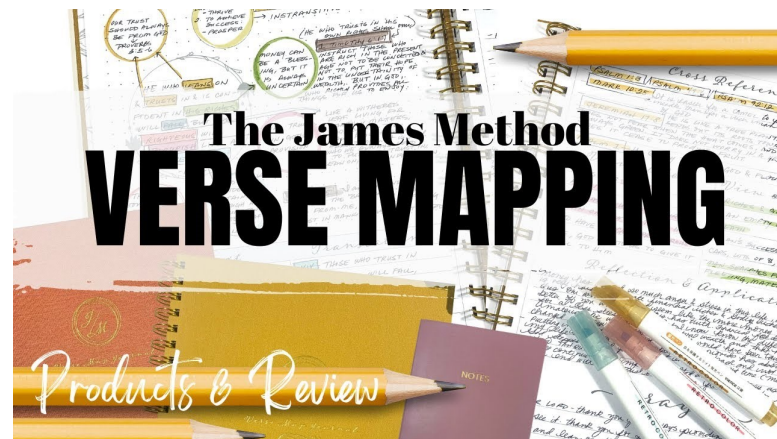
Anyone 16 & older are welcome (no childcare provided at this time).

Bring: Bible (print or digital), pens, markers, highlighters, snack/drink, friends & family.

Additional items if you have them: phone/tablet, washi tape, pencils, stickers.

Mapping sheets provided. Limited pens/markers will be available to borrow. Artistic talent is NOT required. EVERYONE WELCOME!

*Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. - Psalm 27:13 NLT*



Men's Breakfast Sat., Jan. 6 @ 8:30 am in the church Café.

All men are welcome.

Please RSVP to the church office by Jan 3. The cost is \$6. Thank you!



MEN'S GROUP

Collecting new and gently used coats for Owosso schools.

Other winter gear appreciated too: hats, gloves, snowpants in all children's sizes. There is a red box in the foyer for your donations.

Thank you!



Noah's Ark Children's Center

Creating Routines for Love and Learning

Routines provide the two key ingredients necessary for learning: relationships and repetition. For most of us, our lives involve a series of patterns—routines we perform almost every day, like stopping at the same place each day for coffee on the way to work. This is also very true for babies and toddlers. While we play a part in creating routines in our children's lives, we may not fully realize the role they play in young children's development.

Routines help children learn self-control. Consistent routines, activities that happen at about the same time and in about the same way each day, provide comfort and a sense of safety to young children. It helps them learn to trust that caring adults will provide what they need. When children feel this sense of trust and safety, they are free to do their "work," which is to play, explore, and learn.

Routines can bring you and your child closer together and reduce power struggles. Stable routines allow babies and toddlers to anticipate what will happen next. This gives young children confidence, and also a sense of control, such as when parents say: "It is bedtime. Would you like to brush teeth now or after we get your pajamas on?" Routines can also limit the amount of "no's" and behavior corrections you need to give a toddler throughout the day, since your child can better predict what should happen next: "I know you want a cracker. But it is clean-up time now. Remember, after clean-up, it is snack-time."

Routines guide positive behavior and safety. Routines are like instructions—they guide children's actions toward a specific goal. Routines can be used for many reasons, but two of the most important are ensuring children's health and safety, and helping children learn positive, responsible behavior. For example, children wash hands before they have snack, or must hold an adult's hand when crossing the street.

Routines support & develop children's social skills. As children grow, they come into contact with more people and begin to learn patterns and routines for social interaction. Greetings, good-byes, and chatting with others are examples of routine interactions that

teach social skills. Play-time and mealtime are two routines that are very social times for children. Through talking, taking turns, sharing toys, learning to wait, and helping others during these activities, young children learn important social skills that will help them later on in school.

Routines help children cope with transitions. Depending on your child's temperament, transitions between activities may be easy or more difficult. Routines (like bedtime routines) can help make transitions easier. Some parents use a timer or a "5-minute warning" to prepare their toddlers for a change in activity. Others use a book, song, or special game. Special rituals can also help transition a child from one caregiver to the next, such as this routine:

Routines are an important opportunity for learning. Daily routines are often thought of as just "maintenance" activities: meal time, running errands, getting ready for bed, taking baths. But these everyday actions are rich opportunities to support your child's learning and development, while having fun. Routines offer the chance to build self-confidence, curiosity, social skills, self-control, communication skills, and more. Take grocery shopping:

Early Childhood Fun Fact: Music naturally makes people happy but it also helps fuel healthy learning. Singing along, playing an instrument or just listening to music all help boost spatial orientation as well as mathematical thinking.

Staff Birthdays: 1/6 Ms. Shianne; 1/10 Ms. Heather; 1/24 Ms. Mary Jo; 1/31 Ms. Whitney

Wish List: Rolls of Paper Towel, Scrapbook paper (pref 8.5x11, but will take 12x12), Bulk chocolate (for staff), Our classroom and center Amazon wish lists can be found on our website: www.naccpreschool.com/lists

Mary Jo Pouillon, Director Noah's Ark Children's Center 989-725-2202 Work 989-666-1352 Cell 989-729-1721 Fax www.naccpreschool.com

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." ~Albert Einstein





# Prayer Requests

- Pray for peace Israel / Palestine
- Holly Hunter Crawford, cancer
- Trish Agle, procedure at U of M
- Linda Wightman, heart problems (neighbor of Darlene Ustynek)
- Deb Bendall & family, her mom passed
- David Grant, critical, car accident
- Jody Tyler, chemo (friend of Cindy Thompson)
- Bob Marsh, bladder cancer surgery went well
- Bill & Judy Norman, health issues
- Family of Sharon Kinsey who died Dec. 14
- Kay Champion, undergoing procedures for balance
- Delores Simpson, femur surgery
- Greg Huckins major heart surgery
- Robin Chandler cancer treatments (sister of Cindy Helmker)
- Michael Wozniak (friend of Alperets)
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Janet Sutton, inoperable cancer, no treatments
- Bob Davis, cancer free !!!
- Blake King, bad motorcycle accident (great nephew of Diane Allen)
- John Downing, poor circulation, health concerns (brother of Jim D.)
- Ken Smith, stage 4 kidney failure (friend of Frank & Diana Thaler)
- Dorothy Woodworth, mass on brain
- John Mullins, medical issues
- Trista Thompson, home, leukemia (niece of Kathy Watson)
- Scott Hancock, home, multiple serious health issues (nephew of Wilt's)
- Todd Cohoon, end stage ALS, (son of Bonnie Cohoon)
- Ken & Pat Beebe, Ken new diagnosis pending for stroke-like symptoms (friends of Wilts)
- Cody Wheeler, rec. critical car accident (Bob & Sharon Marsh's nephew)

## Military

- T Sgt Tyler Ardelean, Idaho
- Staff Sergeant Audrey, DC
- SFC David Santana, DC
- Todd Hofacker, California
- Kory Alliton, Marine, Camp LaJune, NC
- Yuka Peters, Ft. Bliss, TX
- Corp. Jonathan Clarke, Marines, CA
- SPC Brady Watts, Ft. Campbell, KY
- Cody Rozell, home fm Syria w/ new baby
- Kamerin DeWulf, Air Force
- Corp. Jonathan Heath, Ft. Wainwright, AK
- SGT Joseph Heath, Wahiawa, HI
- John Schlaud, Marines, 5th
- Ryan Weaver, Army Reserve
- MSG Jason Cassing

## Shut-Ins

- Elaine Shepard, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 3-12, Owosso, 989-723-3074
- Gail Rheaume, The Meadows, 245 Caledonia Dr., Owosso (989-720-8823)
- **Helen Stanton, cancer, HOSPICE Owl's Nest, 3837 S. M52, Owosso (989-723-6378)**
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52 #221, Owosso (989-723-1044)
- Genny Jennings, The Meadows, 245 Caledonia Dr. #110, Owosso (989-277-3695)
- Billie Sisson, c/o Peggy Johnson, 37054 Millstone Tr. Lenox Twp, MI 48048
- Gaile Passmore, Memorial Healthcare, LTC 826 W. King St. 5th Floor, #578-1 Owosso
- Ann Ferden, The Woodlands, 910 Woodlands Dr. DeWitt, MI 48820 (517-668-6559)
- Terry Gulick, 6410 Simpson Rd., Ovid, MI 48866



A few pictures from Christmas Eve Service.



**Wed. Jan. 10**  
**“Funny Fellowship”**  
**1:30 or 6:30 in the Café**

**A time for fellowship and laughter!**  
**Watch the late humorist Jeannie Robertson share her “Flat-out Funny”, provoking laughter at the things that happen in everyday life.**  
**Bring a friend, enjoy cookies and coffee!**



### Women's Circle

Thank you to all who donated items to the Mitten Tree. 81 hats, gloves, mittens and other items were delivered to the Salvation Army for families in need.

On Dec. 9, 13 women attended the year-end brunch, and filled and delivered 18 gift bags to our home-bound members and friends. The women voted to "empty the treasury" by distributing over \$2,400 to various ministries and programs throughout the community, including adopting a family for Christmas and donating 24 gift cards to Owosso Schools to help meet basic needs of children and youth.



The Circle continues to sponsor the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight quilt project, with a goal of delivering at least 12 patriotic lap quilts by the end of Feb. More details and quilt specs are on the Women's section of the foyer bulletin board. Please contact Janet Wilt if you are willing to help.

The next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the Café. ALL women are invited to attend as Janet Drake and Sherry Elwell lead the planning for the Spring rummage sale and discuss other activities for the year.

**Mission Statement of the Women's Circle:** Christian women who worship and serve God, serve the community through mission-giving, and serve one another through prayer and fellowship.

- Larry Alpert 3
- Ryan Weaver 3
- Scott Clarke 10
- Kelly Hollister 16
- Diane Allen 19
- Elaine Doan 20
- Zach Downing 21
- Rhonda Mullins 21
- Judy Helmker 22
- Emily Lobb 24
- Marsha Lyttle 24
- Mary Jo Pouillon 24
- Paul Herron 25



- Tim Allen 28
- Ken Ardelean 29
- Kim Kuhlman 29
- Grace Lobb 29

### Breakfast Bags for the Homeless

Family Ministry/Outreach are continuing to provide 20 breakfast bags every week to the Salvation Army. Suggested items to donate: instant oatmeal packets, peanut butter/cracker packs, breakfast bars, granola bars, pop tarts, small waters, juice boxes. There is a box in the foyer for your donations. Thank you!



**Pickleball returns to its regular schedule (Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – noon) on Jan. 4. Those who wish to participate on the first Wed. each month (7:00 – 8:30 pm), please contact the church office by noon that day.**

**"Funny Fellowship" will return on Wed. Jan. 10, at 1:30 or 6:30 p.m. in the Café. (See the page 3 for details.)**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year! Church Office & Noah's Ark closed	2 12-Singles Over 60 at It's a Deli Thing	3 8 am - Coffee/Chat 7-8:30 Pickleball	4	5	6 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
7 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary	8 10-12 Pickleball 11:30 Tops 2:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Fam Min / Outreach 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry / Zoom	9	10 8 am - Coffee/Chat 10 - Noah's Ark Chapel Time 1:30 & 6:30 Funny Fellowship / Café	11 AM - Rm I Vision/Hearing Testing 9 am Food Bank for Seniors 10-12 Pickleball	12	13
14 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary	15 10-12 Pickleball 11:30 TOPS 2:30 Bell Choir 6:00 pm Noah's Ark Board	16	17 8 am - Coffee/Chat 7 pm - Worship Team	18 10-12 Pickleball	19	20
21 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary	22 10-12 Pickleball 11:30 TOPS 2:30 Bell Choir 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry / Zoom	23	24 8 am - Coffee/Chat 10 am - Noah's Ark Chapel Time 11 am - Staff Mtg. 7 pm - Leadership Board Meeting	25 10-12 Pickleball	26	27
28 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary	29 10-12 Pickleball 11:30 TOPS 2:30 Bell Choir	30 6:30 pm The James Method Bible Study - Café	31			