



First United Methodist Church

12/1/24 1st Sunday of Advent & Series:
"On The Way to Bethlehem"
Romans 8:18-25 & Luke 2:1-3
Rome: A Place of Longing

12/8/24 2nd Sunday of Advent & Series:
"On the Way to Bethlehem"
Romans 12:9-18 & Luke 1:5-7
Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting

12/15/24 3rd Sun. of Advent & Series"
"On The Way to Bethlehem"
Romans 15:12-13 & Luke 1:26-38
Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity

12/22/24 4th Sunday of Advent & Series
"On The Way to Bethlehem"
Romans 13:8-11 & Luke 2:1-14
Bethlehem: A Place of Humility

Tuesday, December 24, at 8:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service

12/29/24
1st Sunday after Christmas
Matthew 2:1-12
Persia: A Place of Return

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

Cindy Helmker
Jerry Hitchingham

Larry Johnson
Emma Johnson
Rev. Mona Joslyn
Karin VanderMolen

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

DEC 2024

Greetings!

Poof, it's December! My one big concern about going on a journey that had me returning the week before Thanksgiving would be that I would not be ready for Advent! I had done a lot of prep work before leaving, but I still feel way behind now that I am back. It was a wonderful journey, and I am so glad I went, I learned so much.

Now we all are embarking on a journey. We don't have to leave Owosso. . . Physically, we need to be open to the journey spiritually. We are taking a journey to Bethlehem this December. We get the preview on December 7th with our participation and observation of the Living Nativity right here at FUMC! The sermon series for December is "**On The Way To Bethlehem.**" Each week, we will visit a different town in the birth story of Jesus. We begin in Rome, then we travel to Jerusalem, off to Nazareth, then Bethlehem, ending up in Persia.

Places shape us and they shape our stories as well, our hometowns, the high school we went to, the places we journey through, even if it is just a brief visit. We are changed as their stories become part of ours. As we focus on the places that shaped the path of Jesus' birth, we learn more about why his life, ministry, and death became one of the most significant stories in human history.

Rome's occupation shaped the context of the lives of those whom Jesus championed and to whom he gave hope. Jerusalem's religious practices shaped an alternative vision of the new Jerusalem--a place of peace--that Jesus would teach. Nazareth's simple and interdependent nature shaped Jesus' relationships and the joy of community. And Bethlehem's history connects the spirit of generosity in ways that underscore the gospel of love we have inherited.

Each week, we will journey to these places on our way to Bethlehem. Each place held a significant event that leads us ultimately to a stable in a manger. There will be road markers to point us in the right direction.

My hope is that at each stop on the journey you will pause, take the place and the story in and feel the Holy One also guiding you. There are daily devotionals to help you along the way, should you choose to take one. **Small groups will meet Sundays at 5:00 pm and Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. The study follows the book by Rev. Rob Fuquay titled "On The Way to Bethlehem" and you may purchase a copy from the church for \$13.00.**

I am looking forward to journeying with you. This will be my first Living Nativity, so I am very excited! There was a great spirit present as we put the buildings together. What a wonderful, wonderful time to be on this journey that will ultimately lead us to where the Savior of the world is wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

May your Advent Journey be filled with wonder and blessings.

Shalom,
Pastor Mona



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

First United
Methodist Church
1500 N. Water St.
Owosso, MI 48867
firstumc@owossofumc.org
owossofumc.org
989-725-2201

Sundays
9:30 am Café Open
10 am Worship

Office Hours
Mon-Fri
8 am -4 pm

Small Groups
Sundays @ 5pm
Tuesdays at 1pm

Newsletter articles
are due the 15th of
each month.

Tower Tidings - Dec. 2024
First United Methodist Church
1500 North Water Street
Owosso, MI 48867
Office Hours M-F @ 8-4
Sunday Worship 10 am

Return
Service
Requested

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



Men's Breakfast

Sat. Dec. 14,
@ 8:30 am

in the church Café.
All men are welcome.



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

Singles Over 60

Tues., Dec. 3
@ noon

Wrought Iron Grill



Marj Sutliff	2
Bill Lawson	3
Cathy Jo Hunter	4
Gaile Passmore	5
Emma Johnson	8
Justin Johnson	8
Nathan Grubb	9
Pat Pudvay	10
Olivia Cassing	12
Susan Weaver	13
Lucas Drake	17
Jackie Euper	18
Cody Baker	19
Rita Gill	19
Meredith Cassing	22
Lucas Messmer	22
Jameson Downing	23
Aaron Gillett	24
Jaclyn Nicholson	30



Fri. Dec. 13 @ 6:30pm

Noah's Ark

Not So Silent Night Christmas concert. All FUMC members are invited to attend! The concert usually lasts about an hour and is so adorable!

Joshua Voorhies

You're invited!

Christmas Piano Concert

Sat. Dec. 21 @ 4:00 pm

Here at First UMC

Donations Accepted

From Janet & Larry Wilt: Thank you for the many cards, texts, phone calls, and ESPECIALLY for your many prayers during this unexpected and long journey we are on. Larry is in an acute care hospital within McLaren-Flint for the next few weeks. Please continue to pray that God's healing hands will touch him. Thank you!



Noah's Ark Children's Center & Preschool

For children, making friends is a vital part of growing up and an essential part of their social and emotional development. Friendships enable children to learn more about themselves and develop their own identity.

Just like adults, some children seem to make friends easily and get energy from being around lots of other people. Others can find this tiring and overwhelming while still others may be slower to warm up and need time to watch what happens before joining in with a group.

Whatever their personality type, children can learn skills early on in life that will help them make friends—and keep them. Communication skills, interpersonal skills and managing feelings are three key things parents can help children practice and master and that will serve them well as they grow into adults.

Communicate with their peers. Children learn communication skills by watching how you socialize with others—and how you interact with them. Making conversation with someone new involves both trading information as well as active listening (keeping eye contact, remaining quiet and responding verbally). When you do those things, children will follow your lead. During play dates or other social events, encourage your child to meet new people and practice these skills. You can also provide practice time at dinner or in the car through active conversation and sharing and listening.

Be "friendly." Encourage your child to take turns, use nice manners and respect the personal space of others. Playing board games with children can help them acquire and practice some of these early skills. For older children issues like keeping secrets, showing empathy and fitting in will become bigger issues. These issues can be best addressed through open conversation and role playing. Know who your child's friends are and when issues pop up, listen, get both sides of the story and provide guidance where you can—and when appropriate, let the kids try to work things out on their own.

Assist children in managing their feelings. Children who struggle to manage their emotions and actions may often be rejected by their peers. Many children will learn to cope from watching the adults in their life. Modeling appropriate ways to express anger and frustration are especially important as are learning cooperation. It's important that children's feelings are validated, so be sure to listen and give empathy when setting expectations for children's behavior.

Save the Dates: Murtle's Chocolate Fundraiser November 18-December 6. We have forms available for church members to order and/or pass around to family and friends.

Friday December 13: NACC's annual Not So Silent Night Christmas concert at 6:30pm. All FUMC members are invited to attend! The concert usually lasts about an hour and is so adorable!

Staff Birthdays: 12.09 Ms. Salena & 12.29 Ms. Terriana

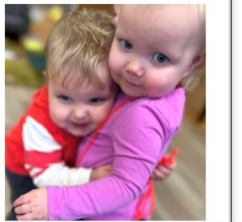
Wish List: Craft Supplies (new or left over from your projects), Facial Tissue (regular and/or travel size), Coffee K cups (any kind; for staff lounge), Bulk chocolate (individually wrapped; for staff lounge), Our classroom and center Amazon wish lists can be found on our website: www.naccpreschool.com/lists

-- 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 list

- Haiti, Israel / Palestine, Ukraine
- Sarah Finnen, stage 4 kidney disease
- Fred Finnen, broken foot
- Larry Wilt, acute care within McLaren-Flint
- Faith VanderMolen, health issues
- Diane Allen, surgery 12/7, chemo
- Janet Sutton, health issues
- Family of Cheryl Warren who passed away
- Family of Sherry Elwell who passed away
- Ed Payne, health issues
- Bob Marsh, Pleasant View, cancer
- Kay Champion, health issues
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Joann Goodson, recovering from surgery
- Vicki Retallack, stage 4 cancer (Josh Fagan's mother)
- Lynn Harris & Rev. Duane Harris & family, Lynn's mother passed
- Miranda Apsey, upcoming surgery (Marlene's granddaughter)
- Steffie Moore, motorcycle accident
- Rosie Tkaczyk, cancer
- Mike Bagwell (& Midge), ICU multiple health issues, their son Dustin died
- Peggy Davis, (neighbor of Don Horton)
- Jody Tyler, chemo (friend of Cindy Thompson)
- Robin Chandler cancer treatments (sister of Cindy Helmker)
- John Downing, poor circulation, health concerns (brother of Jim D.)
- Ken Smith, stage 4 kidney failure (friend of Frank & Diana Thaler)
- John Mullins, medical issues
- 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
- Todd Hofacker, California
- Kory Alliton, Marine, Camp LaJune, NC
- Yuka Peters, Washington State
- 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

Homebound

- Elaine Shepard, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 3-12, Owosso, 989-723-3074
- Gail Rheume, The Meadows, 245 Caledonia Dr., Owosso (989-720-8823)
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52 #221, Owosso (989-723-1044)
- 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

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office 989-725-2201 or email firstumc@owossofumc.org



Join a small group for the Advent Study "On the Way to Bethlehem" Sundays at 5:00 pm or Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Everyone welcome!



Yarnspirations



Sunday

Dec. 15

@ 3pm

All welcome to bring your project for fellowship and prayer.



Donations of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, etc. can be placed on the mitten tree in the foyer.

They will be shared with those in the community who need them.

Adult and children's sizes. Thank you!

PARISH POST OFFICE

We have decided to resume the Parish Post Office this year--until Dec. 22.

You can bring Christmas cards for your friends who you KNOW attend in-person worship.

We will put them in alphabet mailboxes to be picked up.

Do not bring cards for people that do not attend in person. We will not mail them.

You can donate what you would have paid in postage to support missions. Also, please mail Christmas cards to homebound and others who are not getting to church in person. It would mean a lot to them.

-- Karolyn Dawley, Missions Team



COMPASSIONATE CHRISTMAS FAIR

See the enclosed brochure for this year's *Compassionate Christmas Fair*. If you want to give a gift to someone who just doesn't need anything, consider giving to one of the projects listed in the brochure, and letting that person know you have donated in their honor.

Give a gift to help someone in need for Jesus' birthday.

The brochure and donations can be returned anytime until December 15.



“Journey to Bethlehem” December 7, 2024

Looking to experience the true meaning of Christmas? Load the family into the car and come experience Christmas through the “Journey to Bethlehem,” the 9-scene, drive-through living nativity presented at First United Methodist Church Owosso on **December 7, 2024, 5:30-9:00pm.**



Marking its 30th anniversary, the nativity depicts events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ using live animals and costumed actors, sets and lighting. It's an adaptation of the Stations of the Cross, set on a candlelit path which winds around the perimeter of the church. The iconic 8' Star of Bethlehem, mounted on the front of the church

above the manger scene, has been refurbished and will shine again over the journey.



Travel on the “Journey” is limited to car or personal size van only. The narrow path, lined with thousands of luminaries, will not accommodate larger vehicles or buses. Traffic routes and entry points will be marked from M-52



and M-21. Owosso Police and Community Radio Watch will assist in monitoring and directing traffic to keep cars moving at a reasonable pace and prevent traffic jams.

There is no admission charge for the Journey. Free will donations will be accepted. If you would like more information, or to volunteer to participate, call the church office at 989-725-2201.

*Manger photo dedicated to memory of FUMC participants who have passed to eternal rest: David Shepard and Tom Harkema.



Sunday, December 15, 2-4 pm
Hope you can come and join in the fellowship and eat some appetizers and sweets. -- Pastor Mona
(Pastor's house, 1415 N. Water St.)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday Advent 9:00 am Adult SS 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship 5 pm Small Group	2 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS Sanctuary Reserved / Video System Upgrade Work	3 12-Singles Over Sixty at WIG 1pm Small Grp 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	4 8am-Coffee Club 7pm AA	5 6:30 pm Journey Rehearsal	6 7pm AA	7 5:30 - 9 pm Journey to Bethlehem Living Nativity
8 2nd Sunday Advent 9:00 am Adult SS 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship 5 pm Small Group	9 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS	10 1pm Small Grp	11 8am-Coffee Club 7pm Missions Team	12 8:30-10:30 am Food Distribution 10:30 Older Adults	13 6:30 pm Noah's Ark Christmas Concert 7pm AA	14 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
15 3rd Sunday Advent 9:00 am Adult SS 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship 2 - 4pm OPEN HOUSE 3 pm -YARNspirations 5 pm Small Group	16 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS 1 pm JOYful Beginnings	17 1pm Small Grp 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	18 8am-Coffee Club 6pm Leadership Board	19	20 7pm AA	21 4pm Christmas Piano Concert Joshua Voorhies
22 4th Sunday Advent 9:00 am Adult SS 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship 5 pm Small Group	23 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS	24 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 7pm AA	28
29 9:00 am Adult SS 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship	30 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS	31				