



First United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday/Wesleyan Covenant Service/Communion
Scripture: Luke 2:25-38
Sermon: "Open Eyes"

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Baptism of The Lord
Scripture: Luke 3:15-17,21-22
Sermon: "Expectations"

Sunday, January 19, 2025

2nd Sunday After The Epiphany
Scripture: John 2:1-11
Sermon: "Believe"

Sunday, January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday After The Epiphany
Scripture: Luke 4:14-21
Sermon: "Today"

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

JAN 2025

Greetings!

It's a New Year! 2025 is here...although I think I am still stuck in 2024! Although we still have a few more days of celebrating the birth of the Savior. January 6 is Epiphany, the day that travelers from the East gazed upon the Savior of the world and recognized Jesus as the Son of God. Or if you read the Gospel of Luke, Epiphany is the day when Jesus is presented to the Lord for circumcision, named, and Mary and Joseph offer the sacrifice of dedication required by Jewish law. This is way some countries and some Christian faith traditions celebrate January 6th instead of December 25th.

Whenever we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate God breaking through the heavens, becoming human and bringing newness to humanity. So, we come into this New Year celebrating newness. The old year is gone, the new year is here, now is the time for us to put aside all the old stuff that happened in 2024 and look forward with anticipation and excitement for what God will be doing in this new year. This is what the prophet Isaiah tells us is God's plan for us, **"I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating. For I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight"** (Isaiah 65:17-18).

So you might be asking, "What does this mean for me? God is talking about Jerusalem." What it means for us is that God is always about new creation in ancient and in present times. You and I are changing every day, God is brining newness to each one. The question becomes are you and I looking for that newness? Are you and I anticipating God at work making you and I new humans? Not new bodies (that can be left to our New Year's resolutions), but new insights in mind and spirit.

How often do 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.

Once again we turn to the prophet Isaiah who spoke these word, **"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). And more than 2,000 years ago that light shone in the darkness of a manger, in the form of a baby--named Jesus.

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 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

Newsletter articles
are due the 15th of
each month.

Tower Tidings - Jan 2025
First United Methodist Church
1500 North Water Street
Owosso, MI 48867
Office Hours M-F @ 8-4
Sunday Worship 10 am

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

Return
Service
Requested



Men's Breakfast

Sat. Jan 4,
@ 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., Jan. 7
@ noon

Itsa Deli Thing



Owosso FUMC & Pastor Mona:

The East Winds District Lay Servant Ministries Team would like to thank you, the church, and the workers in the kitchen for your help, hospitality, kindness, and graciousness provided for our Lay Servant Ministries weekend session.

It was a joy being able to offer classes to the laity of the district and to be able to hold the event at Owosso FUMC. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all of you for helping make the event a success and a positive experience.

Peace and Hope in this Advent Season--
Pastor Kristen LePalm
Director EW LSM Team

Breakfast Bags for Homeless

Because of your continued generosity, we are still donating 20 breakfast bags per week to the Salvation Army for distribution.

Items you can donate:

- Oatmeal packets
- Small waters
- Fruit cups
- Juice boxes
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Cheese crackers
- Peanut butter crackers
- 1 gallon Ziploc bags with sliding closure

There is a collection basket in the foyer under the large bulletin board.

THANK YOU!!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Larry Alpert	3
Scott Clarke	10
Kelly Hollister	16
Dave Burkitt	17
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
Tim Allen	28
Ken Ardelean	29
Grace Lobb	29

Thank you for cooking all the wonderful food for Sherry Elwell's funeral service. She loved attending church because of all you kind ladies.
--Chris, David, Alyssa Barrett



Noah's Ark Children's Center & Preschool

Ideas to Keep Kids Active During Winter:

Outdoor Activities

- Go for a walk/jog and discuss what you see in nature
- Make a snowman, snow angel, throw snowballs, and/or go sledding
- Try a winter sport like skiing, snowboarding, or skating
- Shovel paths in the snow
- Make snow paint - Add food coloring to water and put it in a spray bottle
- Go on a treasure or scavenger hunt

Indoor Activities

- Put on music and dance
- Play games like Twister, Simon Says, or Charades
- Put up an obstacle course or jumping area with pillows
- Use tape to make a hopscotch pattern on the floor
- Do chores

What our Grandparents are saying: I love this day care. I know they take really good care of my grandson, Remi. He goes to PreK and he loves it. He never cries when he has to go, but sometimes he cries because he wants to stay there. Ms. Tami is a blessing. They have a great staff and it's at a church, so you're welcome to come on Sunday.

Staff Birthdays: 1/24 Ms. Mary Jo & 1/31 Ms. Whitney

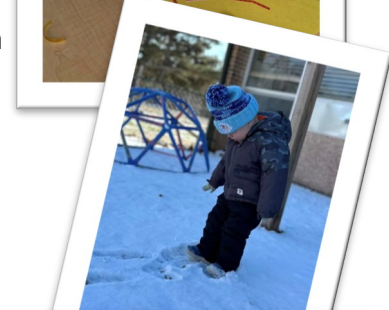
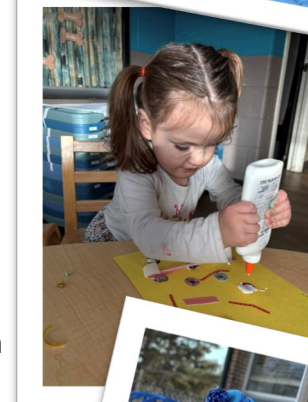
Wish List: Craft Supplies (new or left over from your projects) Facial Tissue (regular and/or travel size), Coffee K cups (any kind; for staff lounge), Bulk chocolate (individually wrapped; for staff lounge), Our classroom and center Amazon wish lists can be found on our website:

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





PRAYER list

- Haiti, Israel / Palestine, Ukraine
- Sharon Marsh & family Bob Marsh, passed away Nov. 30
- Sarah Finnen, stage 4 kidney disease
- Fred Finnen, broken foot
- Larry Wilt, acute care (McLaren-Flint)
- Faith VanderMolen, health issues
- Diane Allen, surgery 12/7, chemo
- Joshua Janes, hit by car frac. spine (son of Cathy Burkitt)
- Janet Sutton, health issues
- Family of Cheryl Warren who passed away
- Ed Payne, health issues
- Kay Champion, health issues
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Joann Goodson, recovering from surgery
- Vicki Retallack, stage 4 cancer (Josh Fagan's mother)
- 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)
- 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



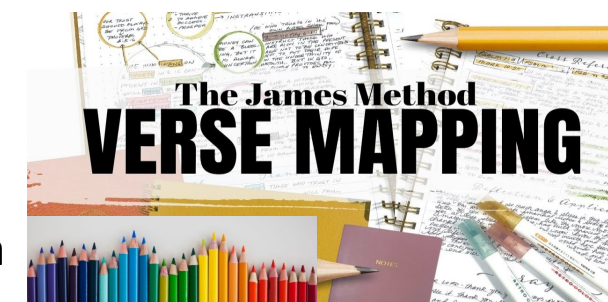
Yarn-spirations

Everyone is welcome to join us
Sunday, January 12 @ 3pm
in the Cafe

Bring your yarn/string project to work on while we fellowship and pray with each other.
Bring a snack/drink. Bring a friend, or two!

The James' Method Bible Study

Tuesday, January 28, at 6:30 pm



Everyone is welcome to meet in the Café on Jan 28 for Bible Study.

Bring: Bible (print or digital), pens, markers, highlighters, snack/drink, friends & family. Additional items if you have them: phone/tablet, washi tape, pencils, stickers.

Isaiah 43:18-19

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

Mapping sheets provided.
Limited pens and markers will be available to borrow.
Artistic talent is NOT required.

EVERYONE WELCOME!



THANK YOU !!!

Thanks for volunteering your TIME and TALENTS to the "Journey to Bethlehem"

Thanks for the many HELPING HANDS that built each scene on the road to the stable.

Thanks to the ACTORS that brought each scene to life, and to our tech team who installed a new system to bring joyous Christmas music to our ears.

Thanks for not saying NO! when asked for your help as we traveled together.

Thanks for your many acts of KINDNESS as our vision slowly became our reality on December 7.

Thanks for the brilliant STAR that led us to the STABLE where Jesus lay.

Our gift to the community was well received and would not have been possible without every one of you.

Thanks to all who made donations.

THANKS to all for making our 30th Anniversary Edition of "Journey to Bethlehem" a SUCCESS!!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year!!	2	3 7pm AA	4 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
			<div style="border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Closed December 31, January 1 & 2 </div>			
5 Epiphany Sunday 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	6 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS 7pm Missions / Zoom	7 12 - Singles Over 60 at It's A Deli Thing 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	8 8am-Coffee Club 10am-Noah's Ark Chapel Time	9 8:30-10:30 am Food Distribution 10:30 Older Adults	10 7pm AA	11 11 am Memorial Service - Bob Marsh
12 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 3 pm - YARNspirations	13 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS	14	15 8am-Coffee Club	16	17 7pm AA	18
19 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	20 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS 1pm JOYful Beginnings 6:30 Noah's Ark Board	21 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	22 8am-Coffee Club 10am-Noah's Ark Chapel Time 7pm Wor-ship Team	23	24 7pm AA	25
26 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	27 9-11 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS	28 6:30 pm The James' Method Bible Study	29 8am-Coffee Club 6pm - Lead-ership Board	30	31 7pm AA	