



# First United Methodist Church

## Pastor's Preaching Schedule

Sun. 12/3 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Communion  
 Scripture: Luke 1:26-56  
 Sermon: "Nothing is Impossible, Even Peace"

Sun. 12/10 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
 Scripture: Matthew 8:18-25  
 Sermon: "Do Not Be Afraid, Be Joyful"

Sun. 12/17 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
 Scripture: Luke 2:1020  
 Sermon: "This Will Be A Sign—More Love"

Sunday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve  
 No Morning Service  
 Candlelight service at 8:00 p.m.

Sun. 12/31 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas Day  
 Pastor Mona on vacation

## 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

James Downing,  
 Chair

Sherry Elwell  
 Rebecca Gillett  
 Larry Johnson  
 Karolyn Dawley  
 Jeannette Gaitskill  
 Emma Johnson  
 Janet Wilt  
 Rev. Mona Joslyn  
 Cheryl Warren  
 Sharon Marsh  
 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 re-  
 spectful of ALL creation.



# Tower Tidings

First United  
Methodist Church

DEC 2023

## Pastor's Page

Greetings!

Why is it that every month seems to pass so quickly?! November came and went with the blink of an eye it seems. I don't know about you...but Thanksgiving sneaks up on me every year! Well, November is over, and the December rush is here...so here we go!

I was sitting in the office as Carolyn, Janet, Cindy, Ron, and Jon were working on getting some of the Christmas decorations out and ready to put up. I wasn't sure what they couldn't find until the email came out that the white Nativity set could not be found. I had a couple of ideas of where it might be, but it was not. The hunt for the Nativity set reminded me of a story I often share on Christmas Eve written by Quaker minister Philip Gulley in his book *Home Town Tales*. I'm not going to write the whole story here; I will share in a nut shell. Philip and his family spend Thanksgiving in a small town with his mother-in-law, the day after Thanksgiving they visit the local variety store to shop for a Nativity set. He tells the owner what he is looking for and the man goes off to find it. He looks everywhere in the store, in the lawn and garden section, in the kitchen department, around the hair care items...no Nativity set. Then he looks in the candy and there it is. The story goes on, but that part of the story really sticks with me, looking for Jesus.

Jesus knew that after his death, resurrection, and ascension people would continue to look for him, after all he said he would be coming back. He also knew that we humans would sometimes look in the wrong direction, **"Then if somebody says to you, 'Look, here's the Messiah,' or 'He's over here,' don't believe it. False Messiahs and false prophets will appear, and they will offer great signs and wonders in order to deceive, if possible, even those whom God has chosen. Look, I've told you ahead of time. So, if they say to you, 'Look, he's in the desert,' don't go out. And if they say, 'Look, he's in the rooms deep inside the house,' don't believe it. Just as the lightning flashes from the east to the west, so it will be with the coming of the Son of Man"** (Matthew 24:23-27 CEB).

So, as we look for Jesus, we don't need to be searching in forests, or deserts...Jesus is not hiding from us. Jesus says, **"Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks the door is open"** (Matthew 7:7-8 CEB). Jesus is right there next to each of us, all we must do is look into our hearts, to knock on the door of our hearts, then Jesus will open the door!

Paul in his letter to the Philippians, **"Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure"** (Philippians 2:12-13 NRSV). It is up to us to do the looking, the searching, the seeking, the knocking on the door. God is already at work in us and Jesus is waiting to be found at home in our hearts.

I pray that this Advent and Christmas season, you will know right where Jesus is. And if you are looking, know that he is waiting for you to find him. This baby that came into a tumultuous world that was waiting for the Messiah, longing for God to act by sending the Messiah to them, was greeted not by royalty, but by shepherds who found him lying in a manger. May you find that same Christ child just behind the door of your heart and may you swing that door wide open welcoming him into your life as he welcomes you into his.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,  
 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.

Tower Tidings - December 2023  
 First United Methodist Church  
 1500 North Water Street  
 Owosso, MI 48867

Return  
 Service  
 Requested

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



**Mondays at Owosso First at 6:30 pm  
Nov. 27 thru Dec. 18**

**Thursdays at Trinity at 1:00 pm  
Nov. 30-Dec. 21**

**Led by Pastor Mona. You are welcome to attend at either church.**

The Study goes along with the Sermon Series for Advent. We will look at the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus. We will begin with Zechariah, then we will look at Mary's encounter. The third week we will investigate the appearance of the Angel to Joseph, and the last week we will sit with the shepherds. My hope is that not only will we explore the visits and take a deeper look into the history of the angel Gabriel and other angels in the Bible, I also hope that as we hear the messages these angels gave to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds still have meaning for us today.



**Men's Breakfast Sat., Dec 2 @ 8:30 am** in the church Café.

All men are welcome.

Please RSVP to the church office by Nov 29. The cost is \$6. Thank you!

Collecting new and gently used coats for Owosso schools, especially Emerson school. 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 & Preschool

We are preparing for the holidays at Noah's Ark; especially Christmas! We love that we are able to talk about Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas here! This month the classrooms will be in full swing with our *Not So Silent Night Christmas Concert*, making gifts for parents, preparing for snow outside, making Christmas lists, having holiday parties, special holiday art, and so much more.



As a reminder, the best gift you can give your children is quality time with you!

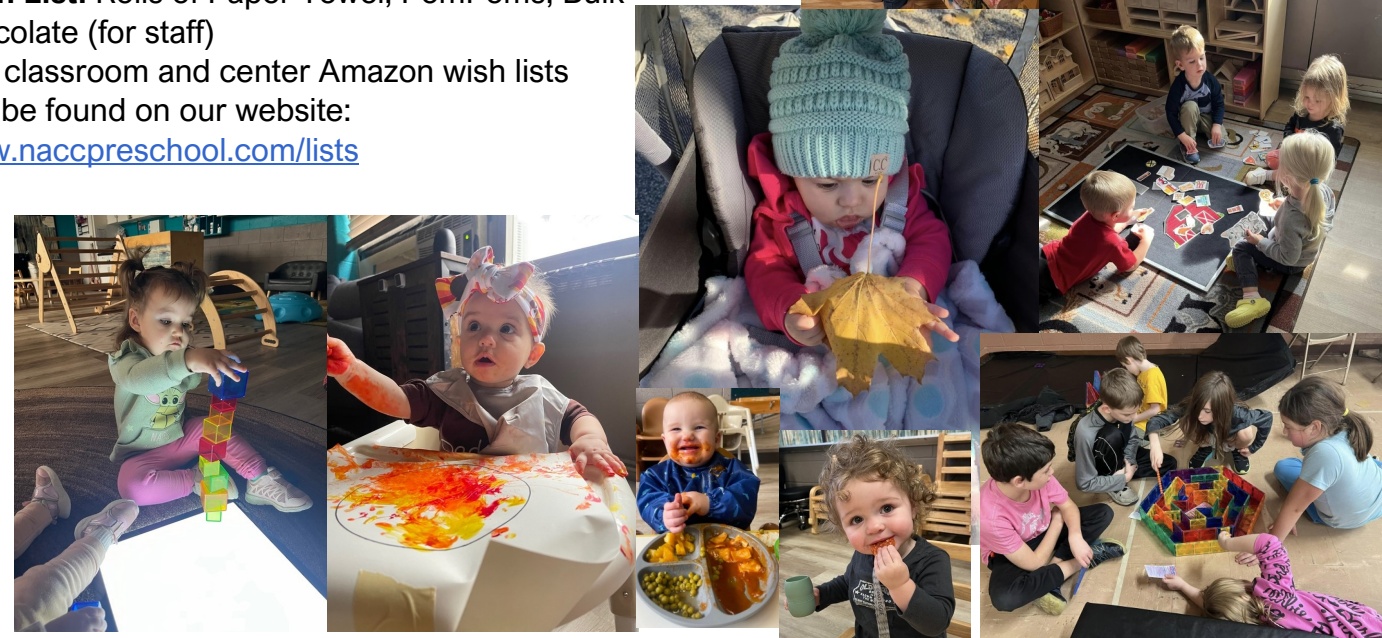
**Early Childhood Fun Fact:** Routines provide structure and a sense of safety and comfort. Basic routines need to be maintained throughout the year. However, holiday traditions are routines that occur in the same way from one year to the next. Some may assume that new and improved ideas to entertain children are needed every year, yet in reality, children want and need holiday traditions repeated year after year. Repetition in the order of events, the menu, the decorations, the stories told and the music played will help children establish memories associated with the holidays. That, more than gifts, is what will make this time of year feel special and treasured.

**Staff Birthdays:** None in December

**Wish List:** Rolls of Paper Towel, PomPoms, Bulk chocolate (for staff)

Our classroom and center Amazon wish lists can be found on our website:

[www.naccpreschool.com/lists](http://www.naccpreschool.com/lists)





# Prayer Requests

## Church Family & Friends

- Israel
- David Grant, critical, car accident
- Jeremy Lawson fell 20 ft, wife Emily preg. with twins, other small kids
- Sandy Horton passed away 10/26
- Jody, cancer surgery went well, rec. at home (friend of Cindy Thompson)
- Bob Marsh, home from hosp, bladder cancer surgery in 2 weeks
- Bill & Judy Norman, health issues
- Sharon Kinsey, at home, Hospice
- Kay Champion, undergoing procedures for balance
- Delores Simpson, fell broke femur, surgery
- Greg Huckins major heart surgery
- Robin Chandler cancer treatments (sister of Cindy Helmker)
- Michael Wozniak (friend of Alpert's)
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Janet Sutton, cancer of blood
- Bob Davis, lymphoma, started chemo
- Family of Cathy Clapp, died of cancer
- 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 (James' son)
- Trista Thompson, home, leukemia (niece of Kathy Watson)
- Scott Hancock, home from hosp., multiple serious health issues (nephew of Wilt's)
- Todd Cohoon, end stage ALS, (son of Bonnie Cohoon)
- Kole Scarrow, 5 yrs, brain tumor
- 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, Owl's Nest, 3837 S. M52, Owosso (989-723-6378)
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52 #221, Owosso (989-723-1044)
- Genny Jennings, fell, crushed vertebrae, in brace @ The Meadows, 245 Caledonia Dr. #110, Owosso (989-277-3695)
- Billie Sisson, c/o Peggy Johnson, 37054 Millstone Tr. Lenox Twp, MI 48048
- Gail 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



You are invited to an Advent/ Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Sunday, December 17th from 3-5pm. Come and enjoy some appetizers, cookies, and other treats! Come eat, share some relaxing time with each other. I hope you will come! I cannot buy each of you a gift (I don't know what is on everyone's list), so I hope you will accept this Christmas gift from me to you. Come and enjoy! Come early, stay late, come for a few minutes, come when you can! Hope to see you!

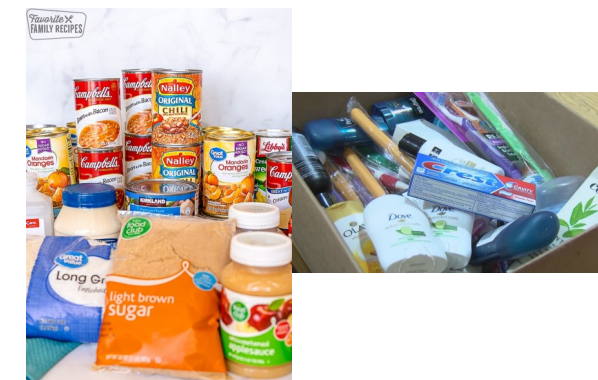
Family Ministries/Outreach delivered 10 trays of cookies to the Owosso Township Responders and the City of Owosso Police and Fire Department for First Responders' Day. We are grateful to the congregation for providing a variety of cookies.



*In November & December we are collecting non-perishable food items for The Salvation Army.*

Also this year, we will be collecting personal care items for the Food Pantry at Trinity United Methodist Church. They would appreciate:

- Toothpaste (no toothbrushes needed)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Deodorant (men & women)
- Shampoo (men & women)
- Bar soap
- Shaving items
- Laundry soap
- Shower gel (men & women)



### The Compassionate Christmas Fair

brochures are available on the check-in table. Projects to choose from are:

- Angels Hands, Owosso
- Red Bird Mission, Appalachia
- Homeless Angels, Owosso
- United Methodist Conference Ministry Shares.

Give a gift at Christmas in honor of a loved one and support missions.



## Women's Circle

All women are invited to the Women's Circle Christmas Brunch / meeting on Sat. Dec. 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cafe. Please sign-up on the foyer bulletin board if you plan to attend, and if you can bring items for the brunch and/or for the 16+ homebound gift bags. Year-end business will include designating funds for selected community ministries and programs and planning events for 2024.



Sewers and quilters are invited to help create patriotic lap quilts for veterans on 2024 Mid-Michigan Honor Flights to Washington D.C. Specifications and details are available on the foyer bulletin board. One of our members is donating embroidered labels so each quilt can be personalized. We hope to create 12-15 quilts to deliver by Feb. 15. Don't sew? Donations of red, white, or blue fabric (or funds for supplies) are gladly welcomed! Questions? See Janet Wilt.



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
Destiny King	12
Susan Weaver	13
Lewis Helmker	14
Jackie Euper	18



Cody Baker	19
Rita Bill	19
Meredith Cassing	22
Lucas Messmer	22
Jameson Downing	23
Aaron Gillett	24
Jackie Nicholson	30

## 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!



*As Christmas approaches, you might be wondering how to remember the homebound. Because everyone is so busy in December, the challenge can be daunting.*

*Perhaps you can organize a card shower so active church members adopt one or two people to remember with Christmas card greetings. Carolers can sing for them. The team can also organize a Christmas basket of gifts or goodies. And a personal visit from a team member is critical during December. For some homebound people, that may be the only visit they receive.*

*Many people dread the holidays, unfortunately. The season brings many responsibilities and expectations, with gifts to buy, rehearsals and functions to attend, food to bake, and on and on. For some, it's almost too much. But other people experience great joy and anticipation! Their spirits lift at the sound of carols, their eyes widen as they view lights and joyous decorations. They love Christmas because it's a season of hope, love, joy, and peace.*

*I sincerely pray these emotions flood your heart and soul in the next few weeks!*

*Timothy Merrill,  
Editor, HomeTouch Ministry*



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<h1>December</h1>				Noah's Ark Closed 12/1	1 6:30 pm Noah's Ark Children's Christmas Program	2 8:30 am Men's Breakfast-\$6 (please RSVP)
3 9:30 am Café open 10 am Worship in Sanctuary	4 10-12 Pickleball in FH 11:30 TOPS 2:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Advent Study	5 12- Singles Over Sixty at Wrought Iron Grill	6 8 am Coffee/Chat 7-8:30 Pickleball	7 10-12 Pickleball in FH 1pm Advent study at Trinity UMC	8	9 10 am Women's Christmas Brunch
10 9:30 am Café open 10 am Worship in Sanctuary	11 10-12 Pickleball in FH 11:30 TOPS 1-JOYful Beginnings 2:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Advent Study	12 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	13 8 am Coffee/Chat 10 am Noah's Ark Chapel Time 7 - Worship Team	14 10-12 Pickleball in FH 1pm Advent study at Trinity UMC	15	16
17 9:30 am Café open 10 am Worship in Sanctuary 3-5 pm Parsonage Open House	18 10-12 Pickleball in FH 11:30 TOPS 2:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Advent Study	19	20 8 am Coffee/Chat	21 10-12 Pickleball in FH 1pm Advent study at Trinity UMC	22 Noah's Ark Closed	23
24 No morning service 8pm - Christmas Eve celebration worship	25 	26 Noah's Ark Closed	27 10 am Noah's Ark Chapel Time 11 am Staff Mtg. 7:00 pm ? Leadership Board Meeting	28 10-12 Pickleball in FH	29	30
31 9:30 am Café open 10 am Worship in Sanctuary	Jan 1, 2024 Happy New Year! Church Office & Noah's Ark Closed	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4 10-12 Pickleball in FH	Jan 5	Jan 6