



# From the Pastor's Desk

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A little over a year ago, God opened a new door of ministry to our church in the village of DeSoto. For much of our congregation walking through this door has brought little change to your worship life, but for some the change has been dramatic and transformational.

Currently the major ministry emphasis at DeSoto is a Wednesday evening program for children, youth and adults. Within just a few weeks God has brought to this site well over 30 children and youth who attend regularly. Many of these young people are in trouble at home, in trouble at school, and a few have been in trouble with the authorities. To those who work weekly in this program, the calling from God is clear and concise - love on them and make a difference in their lives.

The program begins at 5:30 with a meal and it is not unusual to have children on our parking lot as early as 4 o'clock playing ball games like basketball and four square. While they are there we require them to respect each other in word and action and participate in all aspects of the evening program, which consists of a meal, devotion, recreation time, and some type of bible lesson time, but most importantly to love on them in the name of Christ.

Upon my recommendation, the Finance committee has approved this year's Christmas offering to support this ministry project of our church, to invest in the children and youth of DeSoto and the families they represent. Funds will be used to make some improvements to the building, provide additional equipment, and generally help to supplement the grant funds from the annual conference.

I know some may wonder why in the world we are involved in DeSoto. Well, I feel the answer is quite simple: to make a difference in the lives of children, youth, and adults by inviting them to faith in Jesus Christ. Or maybe better said: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Pastor Larry A. Gilbert



**WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**DEADLINE**  
 is Wednesday  
 at  
 10:00 a.m.




January *Compass*  
 Deadline is  
 December 16th  
 THANKS

**NOISY MISSION OFFERING**  
 In December is  
 going to the  
**COMMUNITY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**DINNER**



- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1 6:00 pm Scout Round Table</p> <p>2 8:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation</p> <p>3 9:00 am Handbells<br/>10:00 am AA</p> <p>5 6:30 pm Children Youth Spiritual Formation<br/>7:00 pm AA Big Book</p> <p>6 6:00 pm Cub Scouts<br/>6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p> <p>7 6:00 pm Boy Scouts<br/>Choir Practice<br/>7:00 pm AA<br/>Al-Anon</p> <p>8 5:30 pm Daisies &amp; Brownies<br/>6:45 pm Girl Scout Jrs</p> <p>9 10:00 am Feeder of the Pack</p> <p>10 7:30 am United Methodist Men<br/>9:00 am Handbell Practice<br/>Christmas PJ Party/Babysitting</p> <p>11 10:00 am AA<br/>2:00 pm Christmas Cantata<br/>5:00 pm Youth Christmas Party</p> <p>12 7:00 pm AA Big Book</p> <p>13 12:00 pm Young at Heart<br/>6:00 pm Board of Trustees<br/>Cub Scouts<br/>6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal<br/>7:00 pm Finance Committee</p> | <p>14 6:00 pm Boy Scouts<br/>Choir Practice</p> <p>6:30 pm Publicity &amp; Promotions<br/>7:00 pm AA<br/>Al-Anon</p> <p>17 9:00 am Handbell Practice<br/>10:00 am AA<br/>7:00 pm Community Christmas Concert</p> <p>18 2:00 pm DS Progress Meeting</p> <p>19 Meals on Wheels Week<br/>7:00 pm AA Big Book</p> <p>20 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p> <p>21 9:00 am Nurture and Care Team<br/>6:00 pm Boy Scouts<br/>Choir Practice<br/>7:00 pm Staff Parish Relations<br/>AA<br/>Al-Anon</p> | <p>22 5:30 pm Troop Christmas Party</p> <p>24 10:00 am AA<br/>5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship-Praise Music<br/>7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship-Traditional Music</p> <p>25 9:00 am Traditional Service<br/>11:15 am Praise Service<br/>12:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner-KC Hall</p> <p>26 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Team<br/>7:00 pm AA Big Book</p> <p>27 6:30 pm Hospitality Team<br/>Praise Team Rehearsal</p> <p>28 9:00 am Holy Folders<br/>6:00 pm Boy Scouts<br/>Choir Practice<br/>7:00 pm AA<br/>Al-Anon</p> <p>31 10:00 am AA</p> |
|---|---|---|




*Thank you for the cards, prayers, memorials and words of encouragement on the recent passing of my mother. I am grateful for the support of this loving congregation.*

*Deb Severa*



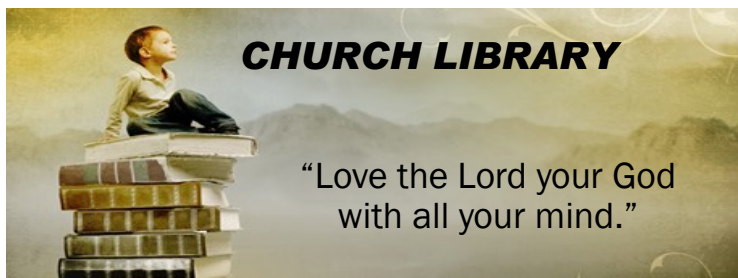
1 Janis Crews	12 Brandon Graeff	22 Todd Sievert	
2 Charlie McNitt	Connor Graeff	24 Bob Hall	
3 Kaitlyn Bitner	Lee Sullivan	Carrie Schwebel	
4 Rene' Doody	Rosie Wece	Jon Lough	
Rosalie Winters	13 Holly Fletcher	25 Samuel Sievert	
6 Jerry Crews	Kathy Ripley	Terrin Thies	
7 Kellie Ellis	14 Gloria Barker	Travis Shands	
Mary Slider	John Vallino	Virginia Bowers	
8 Nancy Tillett	Mike Clark	27 George Dietz	
11 Derrick Hamilton	15 Cindy Presley	Lisa Bustos	
Myrrl Burroughs	17 Teri Yates	Nancy McNitt	
	20 Mark Twenhafel	29 John Mills	
	21 Carol Dreith	30 Trina Eaton	
	Sylvia Carvell		

**The combined choirs of Murphysboro United Methodist and First Presbyterian of Carbondale** under the direction of Carlyn Zimmerman will present **A Night of Rejoicing** by Lee Dengler and Susan Naus Dengler. This Christmas Cantata tells the age old story of Jesus coming to earth. Sunday, December 11th at 2pm at MUMC.





15	Sandy & Jack Herring
17	Connie & James Boucher
24	Dianna & Nathan Smith
25	Susan & Cloyd Karnes



### The Library Corner:

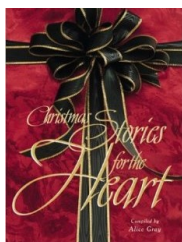
#### Gifts of Inspiration, Entertainment, and Laughter

Think of the Church Library as a place full of gifts. You borrow a book or DVD, and if chosen well it will give you a gift -- and it will be just what you need -- perhaps a little rest and entertainment, or laughter, or inspiration and encouragement. And then you can return it, and not have an extra "something" just taking up shelf space. Excellent!

Here are a few of the items available from the library:

#### Books:

**Christmas Stories for the Heart.** Short and touching reflections, stories, and memories from a variety of authors you will recognize.



**The Case for Christmas: A Journalist Investigates the Identity of the Child in the Manger** by Lee Strobel. Strobel, once a skeptic and now a believer, lays out the results of his research.

**Christmas in Harmony** by Phillip Gulley. It's just where you want to be.

**The Bridge** by Karen Kingsbury. Christmas, a bookstore, and a romance make a good holiday combination.

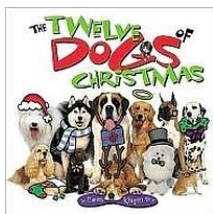
**Christmas Cake** by Lynn Hinton. It has a story to tell! It has recipes! What more do you need?

#### DVDs:

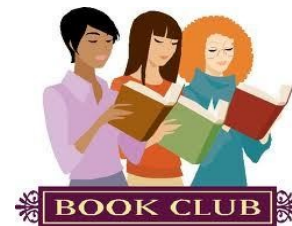
**The Nativity Story.** An inspirational film for the whole family.

**Christmas Child.** A story by Max Lucado with a cast that includes musician Steven Curtis Chapman.

**12 Dogs of Christmas.** A fun family film that involves a young girl, a lot of dogs, and Christmas.



MUMC  
Saturday  
Mornings



### Book club will not meet in December.

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For the January 21st meeting everyone read a book of your own choosing to share with the group.

READ AHEAD: February's Book is:  
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

#### For the Kids:

**Christmas in the Big Woods**, is one of the "First Little House Books" for younger children. Laura, Mary, and family in their log cabin enjoy a pioneer's Christmas celebration. Beautifully illustrated.

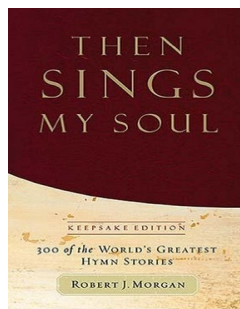
#### Veggie Tales 25 Favorite Christmas Songs CD.

You and the kids will recognize many of the songs, but what are "The 8 Polish Foods of Christmas?" **Great Joy** by Kate DiCamillo. It is a joy just to read this story of a young girl and her concern for an organ grinder and his monkey.

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#### Special Gift in Memory of LEE RENDLEMAN:

Lee loved reading and she loved singing. What better book to remember her by than a special edition of **Then Sings My Soul** by Robert J. Morgan, donated to the library by Mary Ellen Brown?



Morgan gives us 300 of the world's greatest hymns -- music, words, and fascinating stories about each hymn and its composer. The pages are spiral bound, which makes it easy to take home to play the songs. And read some of the stories--like the one about Charles Wesley and "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (p. 75). Charles' changed life after conversion led to a very welcome cessation of his drinking. It also led him to preach to people on coaches. The latter habit apparently was not always appreciated! Lee would have enjoyed that story and many others. We hope you do too!

December 13th  
 CHRISTMAS  
 12:00 pm NOON  
 Fellowship Hall



**Menu:**  
 Ham w/Pineapple  
 Sweet Potatoes  
 Peas  
 Ambrosia Salad  
 Bread  
*Everyone bring a Dessert*

friends, fellowship, faith.

**Meals are \$5 a plate**  
**Donnie Rush Falknor will perform a variety of Christmas musical selections**

Please sign up on the attendance pad. If plans change and you cannot attend, please contact the church office by the Monday before. Otherwise YAH members must pay for the meal that was ordered for you. Thanks.  
*Young at Heart is a group of senior adults, that meet monthly, on the second Tuesday, for food, fellowship and a program.*

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and any number of other human situations, make the holiday season painful for many people in our congregations and communities. Recognizing this fact, we are revisiting the Blue Christmas/ Longest Night Worship Service this year. Blue Christmas Services are commonly held on or near the winter solstice, which is the longest night of the year. In following that tradition, we will be holding our Blue Christmas Service on December 21, 2016, at 6:30 pm at the Desoto United Methodist Church. This will be a service of music, words of encouragement, a candle lighting ceremony, and a time of fellowship.

We encourage members of the congregation to invite family members, friends, and members of the surrounding communities who may be lonely or hurting during this season of the year. Through this service our desire is to share the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters, so that they may feel comfort in their pain and hope for the future.



**2nd Annual Christmas Pajama Party**

*Kids of all ages* are invited to attend the Second Annual MUMC Christmas Pajama Party on Saturday Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Attendees will enjoy Christmas themed games, crafts, lunch & fun!



This is a perfect opportunity for parents to go Christmas shopping! Register children by completing a registration form found on the youth bulletin board. Then drop the completed form and \$25 into the youth drop box on the bulletin board. Children can wear their favorite Christmas pajamas and be ready for a good time!

*\*All proceeds go to the Youth Mission fund*

**YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR**

**Dec 11th: 5:00—6:30 pm Youth Meetings**  
*The youth are having a Christmas party. Don't forget to bring a \$5 White Elephant Santa gift.*

**Dec 25th: No meeting - Merry Christmas**

- \*CYF: Children's Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)
- \*JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)
- \*SYF: Senior High Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)

\*Youth meetings are the 2nd and 4th Sundays September through April with monthly events in the summer months.

**FOOD, FUN, and GAMES!!**  
**BRING A FRIEND!!**



**Community Christmas Dinner**

## DeSoto UMC Updates

It's not unusual for someone to ask me about what's going on at DeSoto when they see me at church. When they do, I'm always inclined to talk about the people that we are meeting there. Especially the children who have come into my life and are changing my heart.

I have taken to lovingly referring to the kids we serve on Wednesday nights as our "holy monsters." Many of them struggle in school, at home, and with the life cards they have been dealt. They are not easy children to keep quiet, keep in line, or keep on track. But they are easy children to love. At times I look into their stubborn faces and their defensive eyes and I see myself. I see the way that I have stared back at God with defiance when He has offered nothing but love for me. I am reminded of the time it has taken God to soften my heart towards Him and I pray to be more like Him so that they may see His love in me.

A student in my bible study class recently talked about God's *relentless* efforts to communicate His deep and abiding love for us. I pray that we might pursue these children with the same passion.

Come join us some Wednesday night and see for yourself what God is doing. Please consider being a part of this ministry with your time, talents, gifts, service and prayer. Thank you!

~ Angie Baughman, DeSoto Merger Coordinator



### Upcoming Activities:

- Progress Meeting**  
Sun, Dec 18 at 2:00 pm
- Blue Christmas Service**  
Wed, Dec 21 at 6:30 pm



### October Update:

**Family Night Average for October:**  
27 children; 14 adults

**Trunk or Treat** at DeUMC was a huge success! We met over 300 people on our church parking lot and handed out loads of candy and about 100 hot dogs. Thank you to all who partnered with us and made the evening so much fun.



## DECEMBER 2016

| SUN                          | MON | TUE | WED                                | THU | FRI | SAT |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
|                              |     |     |                                    | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4                            | 5   | 6   | 7<br>5:30pm<br>Family<br>Night     | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11                           | 12  | 13  | 14<br>5:30pm<br>Family<br>Night    | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18<br>2pm<br>Info<br>Meeting | 19  | 20  | 21<br>6:30 pm<br>Blue<br>Christmas | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25                           | 26  | 27  | 28<br>Not<br>meeting<br>Holiday    | 29  | 30  | 31  |

## JANUARY 2017

| SUN                       | MON | TUE | WED                             | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1                         | 2   | 3   | 4<br>5:30pm<br>Family<br>Night  | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8                         | 9   | 10  | 11<br>5:30pm<br>Family<br>Night | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15<br>10:15am.<br>Worship | 16  | 17  | 18<br>5:30pm<br>Family<br>Night | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22                        | 23  | 24  | 25<br>5:30pm<br>Family<br>Night | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29                        | 30  | 31  |                                 |     |     |     |

**Financial Peace University**

Dave Ramsey and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future, and much more.



One Financial Peace University membership per family is all you need to get started in a class. Cost of a membership kit is \$110.00. The deadline for signing up and paying the fee is December 11th.

**Begins January 5th for 10 weeks.**

**Child Care Available upon request**

Troy Brown, Church Contact/Leader  
618-713-3447 or laceywasright@gmail.com.

**March to the Manger**

...will begin on Christmas Eve and continue on Christmas morning. A new nativity drama was written especially for this year. The March to the Manger offering will be collected on Christmas morning. We hope you get an opportunity to join us Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!



The drama will be featured during both services on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm and Christmas morning at 9:00 am and 11:15 am

**Advent 2016 SERMON SERIES**

*"Waiting"*



During Advent, Pastor Larry will explore statements Jesus made to demonstrate that waiting for the Messiah was over because He was already present. In what ways are we still waiting for the Messiah today because we do not recognize and receive His presence?

Sun, Dec 4 - Advent 2  
**Waiting to Be Set Free**

Sun, Dec 11 - Advent 3  
**Waiting to Have the Vision**

Sun, Dec 18 - Advent 4  
**Waiting to Overcome**

Sat, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve  
**Waiting to Know God's Blessing**

**The Community Christmas Dinner is in its 23rd year.**

This meal was started as an Eagle Scout project. It has moved locations over the years but the focus is still the same: to bring the community together for a Christmas celebration that includes everyone. There is turkey and dressing and all the trimmings. There are gifts and decorations. Santa comes and has his picture taken with smiling boys and girls. Young and old alike take in the festive feeling of the day. Those that are honored to serve at the dinner leave with way more than they give.

If you haven't had the opportunity to work with the Community Christmas Dinner and would like to, please contact Jennifer or Ed O'Donnell at 618-534-3822 or eod@edodonnell.com. There are many parts to play before, during and after the event. You should be proud that your church and community has supported the Murphysboro Community Christmas Dinner for so many years.



The next monthly breakfast meeting will be held Saturday, December 10th, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30am.

We will elect officers and collect dues for 2017. After the meeting, we will set up the nativity scene on the front lawn of the annex.

Please contact Jay Graff at 618-967-9848 if you have any questions.

You are invited to this year's **Celebration Sunday** on January 1, 2017

9:00 am & 11:15 am

MUMC Worship Services



CELEBRATION SUNDAY

*Come join us for a video presentation of the many ways God was evident at MUMC during 2016.*

| DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS                                              |                                     |                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| TRADITIONAL                                                                |                                     | PRAISE                          |
| <u>Worship Leaders</u><br>mumcministries@gmail.com                         |                                     |                                 |
|                                                                            | Jennifer Watson                     | Kristi Miller                   |
| <b>DEC</b>                                                                 | <u>Welcome Hostesses</u>            |                                 |
| 4                                                                          | Marcia Butler and Barb Hughes       |                                 |
| 11                                                                         | Thelma Pierson and Terri Yates      |                                 |
| 18                                                                         | Thelma Pierson and Terri Yates      |                                 |
| 25                                                                         | To be named                         |                                 |
| <b>DEC</b>                                                                 | <u>Acolytes</u>                     |                                 |
| 4                                                                          | Harper Geis and Maggie Jenkins      |                                 |
| 11                                                                         | Wesley Graham and Harper Ellermeyer |                                 |
| 18                                                                         | Conner Twenhafel and Maya Jenkins   |                                 |
| 25                                                                         | Caroline Guthman and Brianna Carnes |                                 |
| <b>DEC</b>                                                                 | <u>Prayer Request Reader</u>        |                                 |
| 4                                                                          | Wilma Westerfield                   | Kristi Miller                   |
| 11                                                                         | Gay Auxier                          | Kristi Miller                   |
| 18                                                                         | Lou Ann Lough                       | Kristi Miller                   |
| 25                                                                         | Stephanie Finke                     | Kristi Miller                   |
| <b>DEC</b>                                                                 | <u>Children's Church Leaders</u>    |                                 |
| 4                                                                          | Jennifer O'Donnell                  | Katie Stewart & Julie Wachtel   |
| 11                                                                         | Jennifer O'Donnell                  | Jennie & Ben Snyder             |
| 18                                                                         | Lacey Brown & Rene' Doody           | Scarlett & Rick Pierson         |
| 25                                                                         | No Children's Church                | No Children's Church            |
| <b>DEC</b>                                                                 | <u>Liturgists</u>                   | <u>Music Leaders</u>            |
| 4                                                                          | Asia Watson                         | Dennis Goforth                  |
| 11                                                                         | Mary Jane Williams                  | Kim Goforth                     |
| 18                                                                         | Bob Hall                            | Brian Vincent                   |
| 25                                                                         | Richard Tierney                     | Angie Baughman                  |
| <u>Ushers</u>                                                              |                                     |                                 |
| Rick Runge, Kyle Quigley, Jim Hughes, Bob Eaton, Trina Eaton and Jay Graff |                                     | Matt Baughman and Don Abbadusky |
| <u>Stewards</u>                                                            |                                     |                                 |
| Bob Eaton, Jay Graff and Ron Moutardier                                    |                                     |                                 |

# WELCOME



Malcom and Casey Johnstone were recently baptized, and Mike and Casey joined MUMC on the same Sunday. Mike and Casey are the caretakers at the DeSoto site. Also pictured is Mike's daughter Addy. Please be sure and welcome the Johnstone family when you see them.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL

If you wish to order a poinsettia for our church sanctuary, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office or mail it to the church. Orders must be received by noon on Monday, December 12. Please enclose payment with your order. Please make checks payable to MUMC. The cost of each is \$10.00.

## IN MEMORY OF:

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## IN HONOR OF:

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## FROM:

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---

Enclosed is: \_\_\_\_\_.

Yes, I would like a poinsettia

No poinsettia, donation only



**MURPHYSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**1500 Pine Street**  
**Murphysboro, IL 62966**



**CROSS & FLAME**  
**MINISTRIES**  
DESOTO • MURPHYSBORO

**MUMC OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-687-2317 Fax: 618-687-2604

E-Mail: [murphysboroumc@gmail.com](mailto:murphysboroumc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.murphysboroumc.com](http://www.murphysboroumc.com)



**SUNDAY**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:10 a.m.

Praise Service: 11:15 a.m.

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|                                |                       |                                  |                           |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ministers .....                | The Congregation      | Ministry Support Assistant ..... | Lacey Brown               |
| Pastor .....                   | Larry A. Gilbert      | Merger Project Coordinator.....  | Angie Baughman            |
| Minister of Visitation.....    | Michelle Parker-Clark | Child/Youth Ministry Coord ..... | Jennifer O'Donnell        |
| Discipleship Coordinator ..... | Teresa Gilbert        | Technology Coord .....           | Anne Miller Johnson       |
| Financial Secretary .....      | Christine Nolan       | Pianist/Organist .....           | Jenny Kirby               |
| Church Secretary .....         | Deb Severa            | Choir Director .....             | Joseph Ryker              |
| Custodian.....                 | Pat Sullivan          | Nursery Attendants.....          | Caitlyn Boyd & Megan Gale |

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*Return Service Requested*

**Murphysboro United Methodist Church**  
1500 Pine Street  
Murphysboro, IL 62966

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