



From the Pastor's Desk

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

Join us on
Facebook Live at
9:00 am for Sunday
Worship together.



Merry Christmas to all in Christ Jesus!

“O Come All Ye Faithful” as we continue in worship through this Advent season together! May the Lord aid us to remind each other why it is so essential that we come together and adore Him! We’ve already talked about how important it is to gather our families (both literal and extended) to worship together as we lit the Candle of Family. December 6th, we’ll light the Candle of Humility, as we come to the stable and remember Jesus’ humble beginnings on earth. Next, we’ll light the Candle of Light, celebrating Christ’s incarnation: the light in our darkness! And finally, December 20th, we’ll light the Candle of Beholding, and kneel before our Lord Jesus as we come and behold Him.

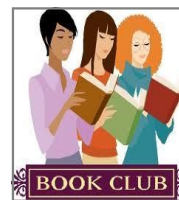
As I’m sure you know, we are currently directed by our bishop to shut down our facilities (except for Sunday worship preparation and recording) and offices through Dec 13th. Our fervent prayer is that the Conference will allow us to gather again by the 4th Sunday of Advent (December 20th). They plan to update us by December 9th to let us know how we may proceed. Christmas Eve is a very important time of family worship and celebration for us all each year, and we will do all we can to have a special time of worship and festive music ready at 5PM and 7PM December 24th. We pray we’ll be allowed to do so in person, where our theme will be, “T’was the Night Before,” and all we do will focus on the True story of Jesus and what His coming means for us all!

As we move into the New Year together, our January series will be called, “Turning the Page.” I think we’re all ready for the now infamous ‘2020’ to be over, but how is God calling us to turn the page? We don’t want to dwell on the pain and the negative that we’ve been through, but would it be helpful or right to just try to forget? What has God shown us this last year? What lessons ought we to carry into 2021 moving forward? And what burdens ought we to shed at the foot of the cross before we do? Whatever 2021 brings, we’ll face it together. When the going gets tough, God’s people lean on Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church!

“Best of all, God is with us!”
Blessings to all,
Pastor Danny



MUMC
Saturday
Morning



The Saturday Book Club

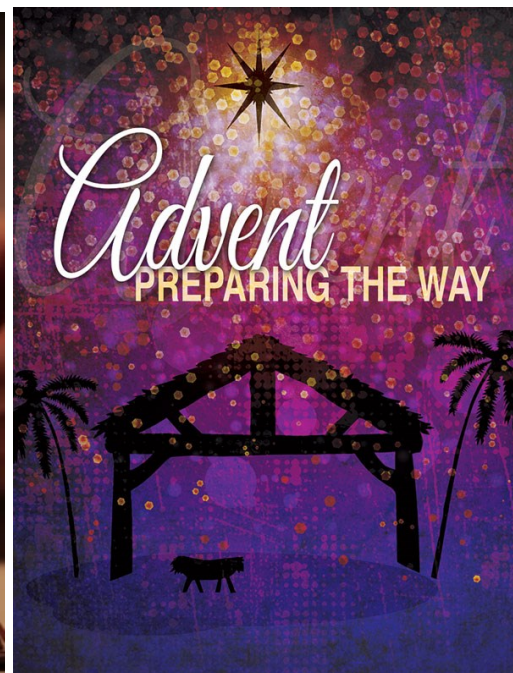
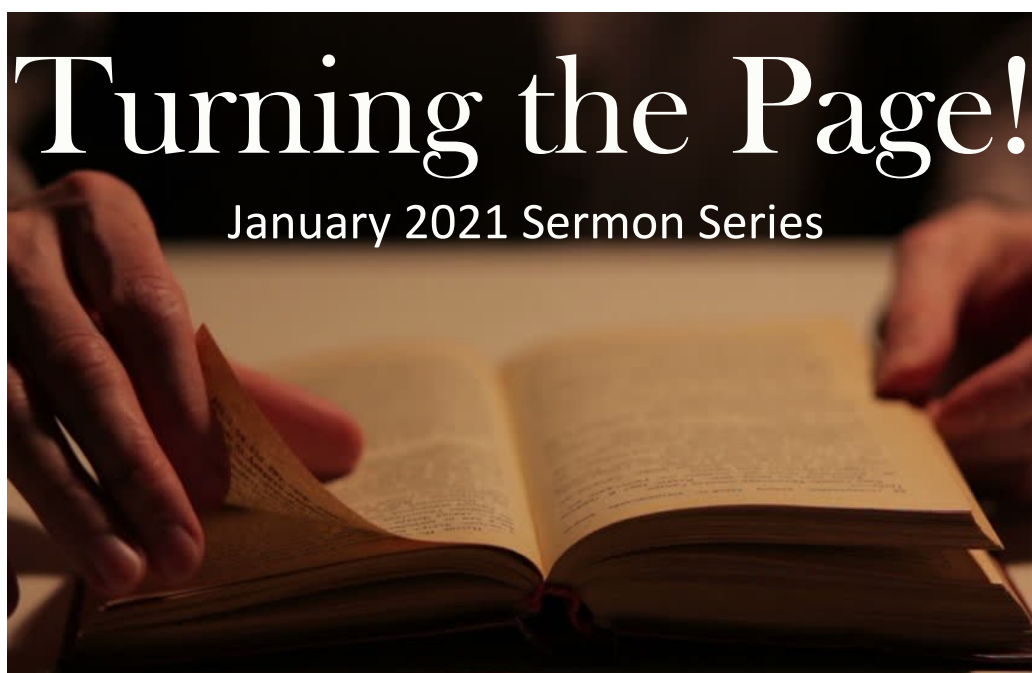
Now meeting via Zoom. Each of us in our own living space, but all meeting in a common space to talk about books. There will be no December meeting. Next Meeting:

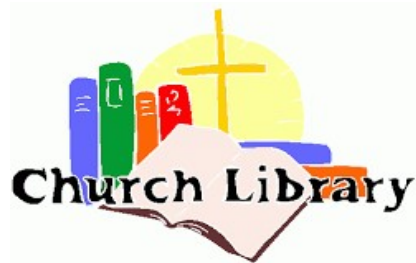
January 16th at 10:30
The Woman in the Moonlight
By Patricia Morrisroe

A stirring and romantic historical novel about nineteenth-century Vienna and the tragedy and dynamic passion that inspired Ludwig van Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. Vienna, 1800. Countess Julie Guicciardi's life is about to change forever. The spirited eighteen-year-old is taking piano lessons with Ludwig van Beethoven, the most talented piano virtuoso in the musical capital of Europe. She is captivated by his volatile genius, while he is drawn to her curiosity and disarming candor. Between them, a unique romance. But Beethoven has a secret he's yet to share, and Julie is harboring a secret of her own, one so scandalous it could destroy their perfect love story. When Beethoven discovers the truth, he sets his emotions to music, composing a mournful opus that will become the Moonlight Sonata. The haunting refrain will follow Julie for the rest of her life. Set against the rich backdrop of nineteenth-century Vienna, The Woman in the Moonlight is an epic tale of love, loss, rivalry, and political intrigue.

Read Ahead Book for February:
The Secret to Hummingbird Cake by Celeste Fletcher McHale

If you are not on the Zoom invitation list you can join by contacting: susan.patterson37@yahoo.com or laverne_cline@yahoo.com





The Library Corner: You Can Get It: IGRC/UMRC Resources

Say what? The above title must be one of the most non-understandable article headings ever! Here is a quick interpretation: our church belongs to IGRC—that is, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church. The

UMRC—that is the United Media Resource Center-- is located at IGRC's headquarters in Springfield. It is a lending library of Christian books and other materials. And what is it you can get there? Quite a lot—and it can be delivered straight to your door!

It hurts not be able to put on display our own Church Library's stock of Advent studies, Christmas related books, and DVDs, but the Resource Center can fill part of that gap. If you would just like some study or reading to help center your mind on the arrival of the Christ child, and what that means in our world, the UMRC has a lot to offer. Here are some examples:

Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World? This is a four session DVD study. **Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience** by Magrey de Veda and others. This is modeled from Wesley's sermon about "Almost Christians" needing to become wholehearted Christians. Four to five DVD sessions.

Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado. Four session DVD study with study guide.

Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton. Five session DVD study with leader guide and book.

Under Wraps: The Gift We Never Expected by LaGrone, Renfroe and others. Five session DVD study plus guide and participant book.

Here are a few others that are not DVD studies:

Let Us Go Now to Bethlehem: Daily Devotions for Advent and Christmas by Todd Outcalt. Devotions for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Taste and See: Experiencing the Stories of Advent and Christmas by Jan Johnson. She invites the reader to become part of the Christmas story, featuring daily readings and suggestions for family use.

Behold: Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent by Pamela Hawkins. Daily meditations and a weekly prayer practice.

This article features Christmas materials, but the UMRC has a variety of resources for everyone—pastors, Sunday school classes, small groups, youth groups, and children's ministries as well as resources for personal spiritual growth.

There is no rental fee to borrow resources; you will pay only the postage it costs to return materials to the Center. (Hint: tell the postal worker that it is media mail—which it is--and the charge will be less). To find out more about the United Media Resource Center, including its e-newsletter and the online searchable catalog, go to the UMRC website, www.igrc.org/UMRC. If you have questions after visiting the website don't hesitate to e-mail the Director, Jill Stone, at umrc@igrc.org. She will be happy to answer your questions!

Happy reading! And Merry Christmas!



How does your family celebrate Advent?

This year we started Advent in November! But not because we are in a mad rush to get those Christmas trees up. Occasionally, Advent begins in November depending on when the four Sundays leading up to Christmas fall on the calendar. Advent is a time where Christians expectantly wait and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' birth. It is so easy for families to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season that we may even forget who and why we are celebrating.

Every year beginning December 1st our family reads "The Advent Book" by Jack and Kathy Stockman. It has been a great book to have over the years because it has helped Danny and I to slow down each December evening to connect with our children and hopefully help them connect with Jesus. Even though our children are not so little anymore, we still carry on this tradition. Without this book, our family might otherwise just carry on frantically through the Advent season and not take the time to really reflect on what the Lord has given us in His son's birth. Here is where I was going to put the Amazon link just in case you would like to purchase this book, but it seems that over the years the book's price has gone up substantially and I can't in good conscience recommend purchasing it. But I will link down below several others that I think are fantastic for families.

Also, I have created two simple but fun Advent Calendars for you to use with your children or grand children this Advent season. One is a ***Coloring Christmas Countdown of the Holy Family and Nativity***. The other is a ***Scripture Advent Calendar*** that gives a daily short scripture reading and a follow-up question. The hope is that these two resources will help your family slow down and have holy conversations around the true meaning of Christmas.

Many blessings to you and your family this Advent Season!
Karen Motta

Family Advent Devotions:

The Way to the Manger: A Family Advent Devotional. By Jeff and Abbey Land <https://www.amazon.com/Way-Manger-Family-Advent-Devotional>

Countdown to Christmas: 25 Stories and Family Activities for Advent. By Carol Garborg <https://www.amazon.com/Countdown-Christmas-Stories-Family-Activities>

The Wonder of the Greatest Gift: An Interactive Family Celebration of Advent. By Ann Voskamp <https://www.amazon.com/Wonder-Greatest-Gift-Interactive-Celebration>



Christmas



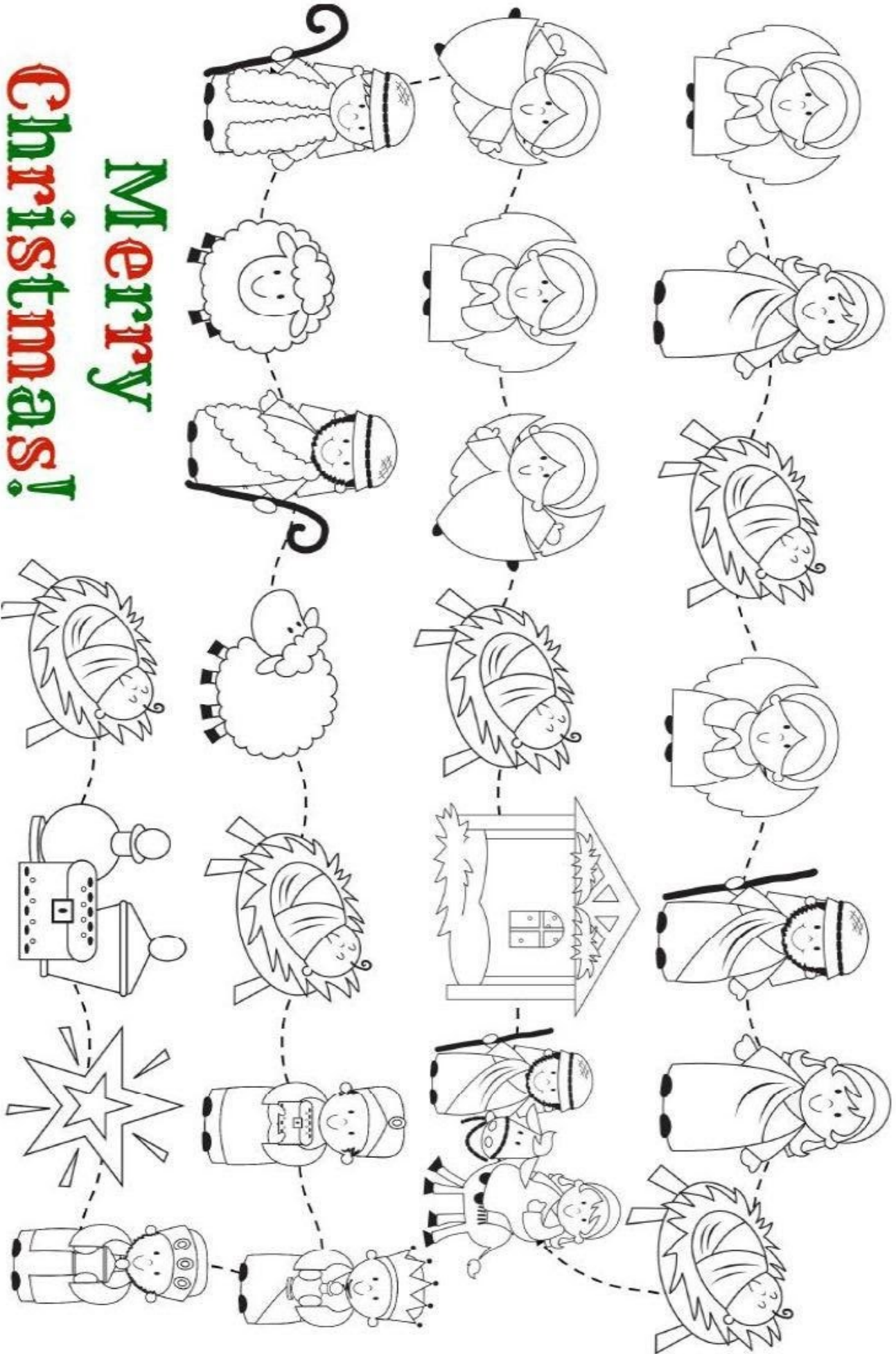
Scripture Advent Calendar

- Dec. 1 Luke 1:26-33** Who told Mary that she would have a baby?
- Dec. 2 Luke 1:26-27** Where was Mary living?
- Dec. 3 Luke 1:39** Where did Mary go for a visit?
- Dec. 4 Luke 1:57-63** Who was Elizabeth's son?
- Dec. 5 Luke 2:4-5** Where did Mary and Joseph go on their journey?
- Dec. 6 Luke 2: 3-5** Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
- Dec. 7 Luke 22:1** Who gave the order for Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
- Dec. 8 Luke 2:4** What is another name for Bethlehem?
- Dec. 9 Luke 2:4** Where is Bethlehem?
- Dec. 10 Luke 2:7** Why didn't Mary and Joseph stay at the inn?
- Dec. 11 Luke 2:7** Where was Jesus laid?
- Dec. 12 Luke 2:8-12** Who heard about Jesus first?
- Dec. 13 Luke 2:9-12** Who told the shepherds about Jesus?
- Dec. 14 Luke 2:12** How was the baby Jesus dressed?
- Dec. 15 Luke 2:15-20** What did the shepherds do when they heard the good news?
- Dec. 16 Luke 2:21-39** What happened when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple?
- Dec. 17 Matthew 2:1** What king ruled Judea when Jesus was born?
- Dec. 18 Matthew 2:7-8** Who did the king send to find Jesus?
- Dec. 19 Matthew 2:9** What was the wise men's guide to the child Jesus?
- Dec. 20 Matthew 2:11** What gifts did the wise men bring Jesus?
- Dec. 21 Matthew 2:12** What did the dream tell the wise men not to do?
- Dec. 22 Matthew 2:13** Who spoke to Joseph in a dream and what was he directed to do?
- Dec. 23 Matthew 2:15** How long did they stay in Egypt?
- Dec. 24 John 3:16** How did God show his love for you and me?

"But first and forever there was just a little family,
without toys or trees or tinsel. With a baby--
that's how Christmas began."

Christmas Countdown

Merry Christmas!





Advent Materials

Our Advent Materials are now available on the front porch of the Annex.



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

A CHILD
HAS BEEN
BORN FOR US,
A SON IS GIVEN
TO US;
AUTHORITY RESTS
UPON HIM; AND
HE IS NAMED
JESUS.
ISAIAH 9:6



1	Janis Crews	14	John Vallino
1	Cheryl Smith	15	Cindy Presley
2	Charlie McNitt	17	Terri Yates
3	Kaitlyn Bitner	19	Madison Jacobs
4	Rene Doody	20	Mark Twenhafel
4	Rosalie Winters	21	Sylvia Carvell
6	Jerry Crews	21	Carol Dreith
7	Kellie Ellis	22	Todd Sievert
8	Mary Slider	24	Bob Hall
8	Elisabeth Stewart	24	Jon Lough
11	Nancy Tillett	24	Carrie Schwoerer
11	Myrrl Burroughs	25	Virginia Bowers
12	Derrick Hamilton	25	Travis Shands
12	Brandon Graeff	25	Samuel Sievert
12	Connor Graeff	25	Terrin Thies
12	Lee Sullivan	27	George Dietz
12	Rosie Wece	27	Lisa Huppert
13	Holly Fletcher	27	Aiden Jacobs
13	Kathy Ripley	27	Nancy McNitt
14	Gloria Baker	29	John Mills
14	Mike Clark	30	Trina Eaton



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
MUMC:
Sunday Facebook Live
9:00am
Thursday Prayer Service
5:15 p.m.

Cross and Flame Staff

Ministers The Congregation
Pastor Danny Motta
Minister of Visitation..... Michelle Parker-Clark
Financial Secretary..... Christine Nolan
Custodian Pat Sullivan

MUMC Site Staff

Ministry Director Michelle Parker-Clark
Church Secretary Melba Ziegler
Pianist/Organist..... Cameron Taylor
Choir Director Elaina Crenshaw
Nursery Attendant Ashlee Sanders/Leah Wachtel

Agape House Staff:
Children/Youth Ministry..... Vacant
Caretakers.....Mike & Casey Johnstone

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