

FURLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 2023



From the
Pastor

Everyone A Winner

As we plan for the holidays, we must plan for special times with families, with friends, and for events at church. In the last planning session that I participated in I observed that not everyone was going to have things go exactly as they wished they would go. In fact for one thing, opposites were proposed.

In our families, we have to find out who is available on what day, at what time, in what state of the United States and if they will be in a good mood. Well, the mood part may come later if they get their way. It was the in-laws turn for Christmas last year, so maybe, just maybe, it will be our time this year. Oh, but for two of the grandchildren and their families, the opposite turns happened.

I could go on and on with these complications, but I hope you are ready to get to the point. Not everyone is going to be a winner. It will not always seem fair. So, do we followers with the gifts of the Spirit just let our kindness and humility cave at every turn of scheduling? How about our self-control? Other core values are that we are honest, true, and never lie. So, when it is your turn to cook the turkey and they say, "Is it alright if I cook the goose this year, I know it is your year, but...?"

It is perfectly correct for you to say, "No, it is not alright, I have already bought the turkey and all of that goes with it, maybe your goose can get cooked next year." I shifted to goose at this point because right outside of my office window are some geese. In the church there are often times when there are differing opinions and desires about things. Perhaps a helpful position is to figure out which things are really important and to whom.

Maybe no one is a winner. Perhaps it is the win/lose mentality that causes a few of our differences. I propose that we test out being open and honest about how we feel. If we respect the needs of others, perhaps they will return that respect, listen, and we can move in a loving relationship so that we are all happy.

Advent Study

We have planned a different Advent study this year. Our goal is to attract some of the persons in the community that have questions about the United Methodist Church, or have been given false information or heard rumors about some of our issues. In order to open this up to persons that may not be willing to come on a Sunday morning, we have scheduled the sessions for Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. on December 7, 14, and 21.

The agenda for the sessions will be primarily directed by questions from those who attend. The first session will start with the United Methodist Quadrilateral, and the first of these four parts is the Bible. Please share the information about this study with friends and neighbors in the community.

GOOD WORDS

Jesus Children

“We Wait”

It is the time of Advent when we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Jesus, born over 2,000 years ago, later was crucified and died and rose from the dead. Jesus has been with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit for a very long time.

Later in his life, Jesus describes a time in which he will return to earth. He says, “the Son of Man (will come) in clouds’ with great power and glory.” So Advent reminds us, we wait, that Jesus loved, died, and was raised from the dead a long time ago. Jesus lives forever as God. Jesus was, Jesus is, Jesus is to come. So what are we supposed to do about the fact that Jesus was, Jesus is, and Jesus is to come? We are to be prepared the Bible tells us.

We must be aware as Jesus taught us. When someone says or does something kind, we are hearing and seeing Jesus, that spark of Jesus Christ shining through them. When you walk outside and feel the warmth of the sun on your skin, or hear the song of birds, or see the colorful sky of sunset, you can thank God for all of that beauty and wonder. You’re honoring Jesus, during Advent, by being prepared and aware.

What do preparation and awareness have to do with waiting during Advent? We’re waiting for Jesus. We are waiting in awe because Advent shows us just how much God loves us all. As soon as the earth could support human life, God made human beings. God knew a lot about human beings. God knew that humans have a range of emotions. God knew that humans need food every day to survive. God knew that humans need each other to thrive. But God didn't know what it was like to be a human person. God loved people so much, He decided to become one of us. So God had Mary give birth to Jesus. God became human in Jesus, so God could know firsthand what it’s like to be cold or warm; hungry or full; happy or sad. Jesus was both a person and God, fully human and fully divine. So Jesus know what we feel because he felt those feelings too.

So now we wait for Jesus to be born on December 25. And while we wait we stay aware preparing our hearts to celebrate the love of God as Jesus. We celebrate His arrival in the people around us and in ourselves. Jesus is in all of us! Praise be to God!. (adapted from <https://www.towergrovechurch.org/blog>)

North Butler October 2023 4-H Meeting

Julia Amend, Reporter

The North Butler 4-H Club’s monthly meeting was held on 10/9/23 at Emmaus Church. The night began with the Installation of Officers for the new 4-H year. Each new officer was given a candy to represent their office and their assigned duties. The meeting was called to order by our new president, Caleb Klingenberg. Dovon Brewer and Carson Brackenridge led the 4-H Pledge and Flag Salute. Roll call was answered by “My name is” by 17 members and one leader. Secretary, Hope McLaughlin, read the minutes of the previous month’s meeting. No treasurer’s report was given. Debora Claassen, community leader, gave the leader’s report. She reminded the members to turn in their activity sheets, about the upcoming Achievement Banquet, and the Whitewater parade float. Kate Klingenberg and Garrett Regier were recognized for their October birthdays. There was no old or new business. Bonnie Brewer gave a talk about how to say the Flag Salute the right way. She said when you state “one nation under God’ there is no comma in between “nation” and “under.” so do not pause when saying it. Recreation was led by Julia Amend. We played a three-legged, red light, green light game. Refreshments we served by the Goebel family. To conclude the night, Debora led the members in club officer training after the meeting.





Thank you so very much for your generosity and donations. They are greatly appreciated. Have a wonderful and blessed day.

Ronnie & Nancy Jackson
Bread of Life Pantry

I just wanted to convey my appreciation to the ladies at Furley Church for putting forth the effort and work to hold and promote the 1st Friday community gatherings. I know it involves a lot of dedication to hold these monthly gatherings.

It seems there is so much isolation in the world these days. I was thinking about the monthly gatherings and how nice it is for people to look forward to seeing friends and making new friends. I feel sure that many would not otherwise have that opportunity.

So many THANKS to all.

Laveta Horner



A car load full of food was delivered Tuesday to Open Door Food Ministry. I want to thank all of you at FUMC for giving me the privilege of dropping it off. They were super busy distributing foods this am. (about 30 cars in the parking lot) so staff were not available for pictures. But I assure you it is all greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generous hearts. Kim Hague

Makenzie Creekmore delivered a car load full to Bread of Life in Potwin. This was greatly appreciated by them. Thank you for letter Makenzie deliver the food as a Community Service for Remington High School credit.

**COME
LET'S JOURNEY TOGETHER
LIVING LIFE,
LOVING JESUS**

Let's Play...



Advent Mission Project

Let's Play the Match Game to provide staff at Wheat State Manor with a Christmas gift card!



Please select one or more "Match Game Cards" from the board, use the envelope on the back to write your name and then insert your donation into the envelope. Put the card/envelope into the offering plate.

Your donation will be matched by funds already donated and designated for this mission project.

You may select a "Match Game" playing card(s) from the board as many times as you like starting Sunday, Nov. 19th through Dec. 10th. WSM has 60-64 permanent staff members and M&O has set a goal of a \$40 gift card per staff member as a Christmas "Thank You".

M&O appreciates your support!



SRC post season awards are in! Please join us congratulating Freshman OH Lyric Edgerle! She was named all Conference as well as 2nd Team All Region. Lyric finished the season with 464 kills, 34 assists, 36 aces, 322 digs, 28 block assists, and 12 solo blocks. Congratulations on these well deserved honors. Lyric is the granddaughter of Gary & Lamoyne Eilert.



Makenzie had a great time in Oklahoma City at the Pow-Wow. She is proud of her heritage and loves to go to Pow-Wows. The Regalia of some of the dancers is beautiful and the feathers on the (men) Fancy Dancers.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

FURLEY CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**Sunday, December 10th
Following Worship**

Menu:

**Soups, Salads, Breads
And
Desserts**

**Sign-up sheet available at the
church.**

**Please sign your name for your
contributions.**

**Enjoy warm soups, homemade
delights to eat and joyful
fellowship with our church
family as we celebrate the
coming birth of the Christ child.**

GREETERS

December 3rd
Ron & Karen Buss

December 10th
Gary & Lamoyne Eilert

December 17th
Doug & Kim Hague

December 24th
Denny & Carolyn Hill

December 31st
Ron & Karen Buss

USHERS

December 3rd
Doug Hague & Ron Buss

December 10th
Gary Eilert & John Horner

December 17th
Doug Hague & Keith Slater

December 24th
Randey Koehn & Gary Eilert

December 31st
John Horner & Keith Slater

OFFERING COUNTERS

December 3rd
Keith Slater & Pam Horner

December 10th
Ron Buss & Randey Koehn

December 17th
Jan Lane & Karen Buss

December 24th
Pam Horner & Jan Lane

December 31st
Keith Slater & Ron Buss

Thanks, everyone, for your faithful
attention to this necessary task.



RECYCLING MINISTRY @ FURLEY CHURCH

Last names beginning...
A thru K = December 19th
L thru Z = December 5th
Recycling reminders:

- ◆ Remove all labels and tape from cardboard boxes, then flatten before placing them in the cart.
- ◆ Plastic bags are not allowed in the recycle cart.
- ◆ Prescription bottles can be recycled. Labels do not need to be removed. Caps may remain on the bottles. It is suggested to black out personal information.
- ◆ All tin cans and other items that have contained food must be washed before recycling.

More details on what can and cannot go in the recycle cart are found at www.wm.com.

Thank YOU for recycling often and right! Our small actions count for BIG impact as we care for creation.

COMMUNITY LUNCH BLESSINGS

To everyone in the church and Furley community who gave of their time and talent for the Thanksgiving luncheon on November 3rd...praise the Lord for your gifts, hard work, and servant attitude. Approximately 160 meals were served at this final FFL for 2023. Furley Church was filled with great fellowship!

The Community Lunch Oversight Team met on November 17th to review lunch fund finances. After budgeting for carpet cleaning and seed money for 2024, the lunch fund will provide the following:

- ◆ Funds to assist with payment of the 2024 building insurance premium.
- ◆ Funds to cover trash and water used for this ministry.
- ◆ Two 6' tables.
- ◆ Share dollars with the Food Drive.
- ◆ Gift cards for Butler and Sedgwick County Law Enforcement to help car for citizens in crisis.
- ◆ Share dollar's with the Furley UMC Good Samaritan fund.

Other actions are under consideration and will be reported on later.

The generosity of our community is incredible! The number of people being served grew steadily in 2023, with new attendees almost every month. PTL for His spirit of hospitality that fills Furley Church every First Friday.

Blessings to all this Advent season! Mark your calendars for FRIDAY, MARCH 1st to once again "do lunch" with friends and neighbors at Furley Church.



Taking advantage of a warm fall day to refurbish our church Bell and Bell Tower. Thank you. Ryan, Keith and Randey. It really looks nice.

YEAR END REMINDERS FROM YOUR TREASURER

First, what an amazing year Furley Church has had with support of our General Budget, special offerings, and mission activities. Your faithfulness blesses God, the Church and community!

December 31st is a Sunday. End of year gifts placed in the mail must be postmarked by December 30th (even if dated December 31st) to count as 2023 donations. The best practice is to mail gifts before December 28th to ensure receipt of and timely deposit of your gift. Gifts that are postmarked in 2024, though dated 2023, will be counted as 2024 donations.

Individual donation reports will be prepared after the December financial statements are completed. If you have questions about your 2023 giving, please speak to our Financial Secretary, Carolyn Hill.

Serving Him together
Cheryl B. Slater, Treasurer

Some pictures from First Friday
November Lunch.





December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent Deloris Ewing	4 KK Denny & Carolyn Hill (A) 63 yrs.	5 L-Z Recycle	6	7 Advent Study 10:00 am	8 Makenzie Creekmore	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Christmas Dinner following worship service	11	12	13	14 Advent Study 10:00 am	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Prepare Sandwiches for Open Door 9:15 am	18 KK Administrative Council 7:00 pm	19 Birthday Cakes for WSM 4 frosted & 1 angel food no frosting 3:00 pm A-K Recycle	20	21 Advent Study 10:00 am	22 Doug & Kim Hague (A)	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY		27	28	29	30
31 Debbie Creekmore						