



Staves Memorial United Methodist Church

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December 1, 2022

The First to Know

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Whenever we think about the shepherds, who were the first to know about the birth of Jesus, we always imagine grown men with beards. But remember, it was at night, the worst shift to work. The task of watching the sheep at night would have fallen to the younger members of the family. These shepherds would have been the older boys and girls of the family between the ages of 10 & 12. The other thing to remember is that shepherds were not respected members of society. On the contrary, they were considered a necessary evil. Shepherds were not allowed to give testimony in court nor were they allowed to worship in the temple because they were considered permanently unclean. Yet these were the people God chose to give the good news to first.

Why? I believe for two reasons. First, the ages of 10 to 12 are the last years of childhood and they were still very impressionable. In other words they would have been more likely to believe what their eyes were seeing. Whereas, older people would have tried to explain it away as a dream or a group hallucination. Remember, later in Jesus' ministry he asked adults to have the faith of children.

The second reason is because the shepherds were so low on the social scale. It is this kind of person who truly understands their need for help. And these were the very people Jesus would minister to. As it says in our communion liturgy, "**He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and ate with sinners.**" In other words, the people who knew they needed help.

The implications for us as a Church are 2-fold. First our ministry needs the focus on children and those who are most aware of their need for a savior – the last, the least, and the lost. Secondly it has implications for our own faith. Are we willing to accept Jesus' teachings with the simple faith of a child? And are we willing to receive His teachings as one who is aware of the fact that we are needy sinners in need of a savior ourselves?



December Birthdays

December

Rick Atterbury	12/02
Thomas Atterbury	12/02
Edna Rinard	12/02
Karen Beukema	12/27
Emelia Peters	12/03
Linda Gundlach	12/04
Jazlynn Shabazz	12/07
Pastor Tim Walker	12/07
Bev Dowis	12/10
Melissa Peters	12/13
Reta Robey	12/15
Jennifer McDonald	12/19
Rose Tenwah	12/20
Sue Hood	12/23
Ruth Evans	12/30

December Calendar

1 st	Craft Group	5:00 p.m.
2 nd	No China Painters	
	Hispanic Worship (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
3 rd	Nativity Experience	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
4 th	Communion Sunday	
	Second Sunday of Advent	
	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
	Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
	Fellowship Time	11:00 a.m.
	Hispanic Worship Service (chapel)	1:00 p.m.
5 th	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	TOPS Group	5:15 p.m.
	UW Faith Meeting	6:00 p.m.
7 th	Dorcas Circle	10:00 a.m.
	No Confirmation Class	
	Bells	5:30 p.m.
	Choir/Cantata Practice	6:30 p.m.
	Hispanic Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

8 th	Craft Group	5:00 p.m.
9 th	Hispanic Worship Service (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
10 th	Sandy McNamar Food Pantry	2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
11 th	Third Sunday of Advent	
	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
	Christmas Choir Cantata	10:00 a.m.
	Fellowship Time	11:00 a.m.
	Hispanic Worship Service (chapel)	1:00 p.m.
12 th	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	TOPS Group	5:15 p.m.
	Trustees Meeting	7:00 p.m.
13 th	Covenant Group	1:00 p.m.
	SPRC Meeting	6:30 p.m.
14 th	Esther Circle	9:30 p.m.
	Confirmation Class	4:00 p.m.
	Bells	5:30 p.m.
	Choir/Cantata Practice	6:30 p.m.
	Ad Council	7:15 p.m.
	Hispanic Bible Study (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
15 th	Craft Group	5:00 p.m.
	Blue Christmas Service (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
16 th	Hispanic Worship (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
17 th	All Church Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
18 th	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
	Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
	Fellowship Time	11:00 a.m.
	Hispanic Worship Service (chapel)	1:00 p.m.
19 st	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
	Church Women United Board Meeting	
		11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
	TOPS Group	5:15 p.m.
	NO Education Meeting	
21 st	Confirmation Class	4:00 p.m.
	Bell Choir	5:30 p.m.
	Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
	Hispanic Bible Study (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
22 nd	Craft Group	5:00 p.m.
23 rd	Hispanic Worship (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
24 th	No Eve Circle	
	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	7:00 p.m.
25 th	Communion	
	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
	Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
	Community Christmas Dinner	11:00 a.m.
	Hispanic Worship Service (chapel)	1:00 p.m.
26 th	NO Bible Study	
	TOPS Group	5:15 p.m.
27 th	Covenant Group	1:00 p.m.
28 th	NO Confirmation Class	
	Bells	5:30 p.m.
	Choir	6:30 p.m.
	Hispanic Bible Study (chapel)	7:00 p.m.
29 th	Craft Group	5:00 p.m.
30 th	Hispanic Worship (chapel)	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
31 st	Sandy McNamar Food Pantry	2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
	Community Meal	5:00 p.m.

Crafts, Conversation & Chow

Come join other women for a night of Crafting, Conversation, and Chow—*Free of Charge*.

Bring a project to work on and a dish to share, or simply come to connect with other women. We meet at the church every Thursday starting at 5 p.m. If you have a craft you'd like to learn, let us know so we can find the right person to help you learn.

If you have further questions, please contact *Jennifer McDonald* at 515-314-4761,

For the Lions Club, Save your Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, Postage Stamps and Can Tabs

SAVE YOUR USED EYEGLASSES AND HEARING AIDS

The Lion's Club collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids. Even if the hearing aid doesn't work, they can use it for parts. Bring these items anytime during the year to the church.

You may place them in the designated basket marked "Used Eyeglasses," located by the mailboxes in the narthex.

POSTAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

The Postal History Foundation is an educational program where a group of volunteers collect stamps for teachers and students nationwide.

Please continue to place any stamps you may have in the basket by the mailboxes in the narthex.

SAVE YOUR ALUMINUM CAN TABS:

The Lion's Club is collecting tabs off of all aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald House. Save your can tabs and put them in an envelope or baggie marked "Tabs" and put in the same white basket in the narthex marked "Postage Stamps."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVE CIRCLE WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.

Dorcas Circle is delivering lap robes to Accura Health Care Center in Pleasantville, Iowa on December 7th. We will have lunch at Smokey Rowe Coffee. Everyone is welcome.

Darlene Fitzgerald 515-262-9182

Thank You from Jean Miles for all the birthday wishes and cards. Also, a big thank you for the recognition pin.

Bible Study Monday mornings 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. No Bible Study December 26th.

MISSION FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

For December we are doing two missions to benefit two different but equally necessary groups.

The first is a toy drive for Bidwell Christmas giving. Gifts are needed for children and youth from the ages of 0-16. These families are those who use the largest food pantry in Iowa-Bidwell Riverside. Each family is given a voucher for a toy, stuffed animal, blanket, books and stocking stuffer for each child. I have helped families pick out gifts for their children, sometimes with children in tow because there is no one to watch them. There is wrapping paper available to take to wrap the gifts. If you can help, it would be much appreciated.

You may place the toys under the giving tree in the narthex. They will be taken to Bidwell on December 12th to be given away the following weekend.

Starting December 12th, we will be taking stocking caps, new gloves, warm heavy socks, AA and AAA batteries. All of these will be given to Urban Bike Food Ministries for their mission to help the homeless survive on the streets. Robby will take these on December 29th to the weekly UBFM session burrito run. If you want to join them, they are now using cars and will be happy to have your help. This ministry does not stop for the holidays.

I also want to thank you for your support this year in the mission of the church in the world. In January, I will have a rundown of what we have done through your giving and participation. If you have any suggestions for future mission opportunities, please call me at 515 314 6638 or e-mail me at nuhope57@msn.com. Blessings to you this holiday season.

The Mission Team
Micah 6:8

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thanks to everyone that helped during the year with all of the projects hosted by the Education Committee during the year.

- Easter Egg Hunt
- VBS
- Fall Fun Festival

The Committee will not meet again until January so we want to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the church members and we look forward to another fun year of activities next year.

Remember that we have an elementary Sunday School program that starts at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. We have a Junior High Sunday School. We also have a Confirmation Class that meets on Wednesday afternoons. If you have a candidate for Confirmation, please see Pastor Tim.

Bible study programs are running strong on Sunday mornings (9:00 a.m.) or Monday mornings (10:00 a.m.). Please plan to join one of these groups to learn more and develop fellowship with the other members of the groups.

Finance/Treasurer Report

None Available.

Community Meals

The Free Meals continues to reach community and church members with food and fellowship once a month. The remaining meal date and menu for 2022 is:

- December 31st
 - o Chicken Noodle Soup
 - o Mashed Potatoes
 - o Relish
 - o Rolls
 - o Dessert

The Committee will start planning the 2023 meals soon. This is a free will offering meal.

Any funds donated go into the Community Meal fund to help purchase the meat or other main dish ingredients. If you are willing to help with the meal, come on the designated date at 4:00 p.m. to help set up and serve.

Community Meal, December 31st

Menu: Chicken Noodle Soup
Mashed Potatoes
Rolls
Relish
Dessert

UW Faith News (A.K.A) Petticoat Patter

UW Faith (FKA UMW) Bible Verse: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14 (NIV)

We want to thank Staves for your support of UW Faith in 2022. We were so happy that life is returning a little more to normal post-COVID for UW Faith. Our programs and activities during the year were:

- General Meeting in February
- Call to Prayer Gathering and Brunch in March
- Salad Luncheon and Plant Sale in April • Ladies Night Out in May
- Summer Picnic and Hymn Sing in July
- Holiday Fair in October
- UW Faith Thank Sunday, General Meeting and Installation of Officers in November

All circles are now meeting on a regular basis, please see the bulletin or the calendar here in the caller for dates and times of the Dorcas, Esther and Eve Circle meetings. Please plan to attend any or all of these circles for a short program or Bible study, fun, talk, and treats.

I know that in the past the Petticoat Patter has included a small article from UW Faith, a cartoon or fun highlight and a recipe of some kind. I will try to get us back to that format but be kind, sometimes my humor is a little off center, and my recipes will all be old family dishes that are near and dear to my heart. from a family that lived on a very tight budget. If at any time any UW Faith member has a recipe they want to share, just get it to me and I'll plug that in instead.

UW Faith News (A.K.A) Petticoat Patter Continued



About 20 or 25 years ago my sister and I both wanted to make candy (but neither of us needed full batches of anything) so we would get together shortly after Thanksgiving (each Saturday or Sunday afternoon) and cook candy and bake cookies. This still goes on now and includes my niece and great niece.)

Then we'd split the batches, we both had the same idea keep a few pieces and a few cookies and take the rest to work. So, for years people at her office, her husband's office and my office would get plates of goodies. (It got so bad at my office that is by the 2nd Monday in December if I'd hadn't brought treats my office mates would start asking where the goodies were!) This will be my mom's recipe for:

Peanut Butter Fudge 3 cups Sugar, 1 scant cup of milk, 3 rounded tablespoons of peanut butter. Boil and stir well (sticks easily) until it reaches soft ball stage. Let set until it cools a little. Beat until glossy. Add peanuts (if wanted) to taste. Pour onto buttered platter. Good luck. I remember an old chocolate fudge recipe that is similar that never set up. We ate it as an ice cream topping!! Now we do marshmallow cream fudge.

TRUSTEES UPDATE

Here are the updates on the latest Trustee Projects:

I know the projects that just won't go away - UPDATES.....

The hoods are installed and working in the kitchen as are the new stoves. Thanks for hanging in there with us. The stoves are fabulous!!!! There are two remaining steps to this project. We must install stainless steel on the wall beside and behind the stoves (City Code for cleanliness) and then the fire suppression system will be hooked to the hoods. We hope these things can be completed within the next month. Thanks to the folks funding the stainless-steel purchase (that one was not anticipated on our part.)

The bathrooms in the south hall are almost complete. The "painter" is working on a small mural in the Nursery bathroom. The goal for that completion is early December with the floor cleaning in December also.

The roofing on the education wing is now repaired.

The bus and van are running and that ministry is running again. Thanks to all our drivers, Randy Robbins, Curt Putzier, Esther Beyer, Ray Fraaken, and Dean McCollum. If you or someone you know needs a ride to church, have them call the church by Wednesday so that we can get them on the schedule for Sunday pickup. On Sunday morning the drivers will call each person to make sure they still want a ride and tell them when to be ready for pickup. If you have something you think needs worked on in the church, please talk to a Trustee (see list of committee people posted in the Narthex) or send an email to the Trustees at sumtrustees@aol.com. Thanks.

FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry dates for December are: Saturday, December, 10th and December, 31st. The Food Pantry is open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each of those days.

We finally have numbers for October. The numbers for November are not available since the last day of operation is after the writing of this article. Here are the updated numbers:

- October
 - o 31 Families
 - o 99 People
 - o 2428 pounds of food received
 - o 2806 pounds of food provided

For the month of December, we want to try a “Reverse Advent Program”. We have heard from other Food Pantries that do this and it is successful. Instead of you getting something small each day from December 1st through December 24th you gather goods for the Food Pantry. Purchase any or few on the items listed for each week. Here are the ideas for each week.

Sunday December 4th:

- Canned Soup
- Saltines
- Snack crackers

Sunday December 11th:

- Cake Mix
- Brownies Mixes
- Muffin Mixes
- Frosting
- Pancake Batter

December 18th:

- Flour
- Sugar
 - o White
 - o Brown
 - o Powdered

FOOD PANTRY CONTINUED

December 18th continued:

- Baking Chips
 - o Chocolate Chips
 - o Peanut Butter
 - o Cherry
 - o White Chocolate

December 25th:

- Spices
- Cookies
- Juice
 - o Apple
 - o Tomato
 - o Grape
- Ramen Noodles (note 6 packs for cases work best)

The staff of the Sandy McNamar Memorial Food Pantry wants to say Merry Christmas and blessings to you in the New Year. We are very thankful that Staves has honored us by allowing us to have the Food Pantry inside this facility, that you provide such great support with your donations, and the staff that works each time we are open to serve those in need. We are also very thankful for the great fellowship we have with each other and the people we are honored to serve each month. God bless and thank you again.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Staves Memorial United Methodist Church
November 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONS

Chairman, Brian McNamar began the meeting with devotions, and a prayer.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance/Financial Secretary – David Beery

- A) Pledge cards have been distributed. To be collected November 20.
- B) Financial report for 2022 operational budget reviewed. Treasurer – no report.

It was noted, there were several expenses during October, which were not regular expenses (see also, Trustees, below).

Memorial Committee Treasurer – Phyllis Anderson

Memorial fund update: fund balances as of November 9, 2022.

Foundation – no report.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Pastor – Tim Walker

- A) Two Baptisms, this Sunday.
- B) Several individuals have been led in the sinner's prayer, recently – evidence that prayers for the pastor is getting results.
- C) Update on confirmation class.

Trustees – Pastor Tim reporting.

- A) Brakes fixed on the bus - \$2,732.45, which came primarily from the bus fund.
- B) Pastor's new computer, bought and set up.
- C) Garage doors need replacement – three doors and two motors, ca. \$4,000.

D) Snow removal – Twaddle Lawn Care, reasonable cost.

E) Bids for parking lot:

- 1) \$135,400 to remove everything and repair the base.
- 2) \$114,400 to resurface, \$319,000 for complete stripping and repair.
- 3) The pastor will obtain at least one additional estimate.

There was a period of discussion regarding financing options, should financing become necessary. There was an additional period of discussion regarding the marquee presentation.

BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Education/Sunday School – Norma Thierman Fall Fun Night Update – 73 attended, not counting workers. There was a period of discussion regarding the fun night, and several other topics.

UW Faith – Marilyn Burch, reporting.

A) General meeting/thank offering/special recognition pin – November 13.

B) Bake sale – Thanksgiving. Worship/music – no report. Food Pantry – Margo Schamerhorn Averaging 25 families each time we open; several new volunteers have been helping out

Missions – Marilyn Burch

A) Thanksgiving meals – update.

B) Recap of monthly mission emphases.

OTHER BUSINESS None.

CLOSING COMMENTS (Pastor Tim) Please continue to pray for the pastor, and also reflect on how the church can fulfill its four main purposes (Evangelism, Worship, Discipleship, Missions) to persons outside church walls. Also, there was a brief discussion of the upcoming nativity display.

NEXT MEETING December 14, 7:15 pm.

Pastor Tim led attendees in prayer, to end the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Ellis, secretary

ATTENDEES: Brian McNamar, Pastor Tim Walker, Andy Gervais, JoAnn Riley, Phyllis Anderson, Jim McPherson, Linda McPherson, Norma Thierman, Burch, Margo Schamerhorn, David Beery and Steve Ellis

