



Staves Memorial United Methodist Church

2747 East Madison Avenue; Des Moines, IA 50317

Church: 515-266-0265

Email: staveschurch@msn.com

Website: www.staveschurch.com

Pastor Tim Walker

Parsonage: 515-262-4248

Cell Phone: 712-450-0201

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December 1, 2023

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1: 22-23

Emmanuel, God with us! What a life altering realization! Aren't you glad God is with us?

The focus of the Advent season is the presence of God with us. That presence is real, and it brings peace and hope. His presence reminds us that we are loved.

The definition of advent is “coming” or “arrival.” Advent is a reminder of the blessing of God's presence in our lives and a celebration of His coming in the form of a human baby.

The promised Messiah came to earth and lived a human life, in a common country, among common people. But there was nothing common about Him.

Fully God and fully human, he lived a sinless life of love and compassion, walking daily with His disciples. When His time on earth was drawing to a close, He gathered His followers and made them a promise. ***“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14: 26)***

He said that He would soon be leaving but another would come after Him – the, “Counselor.” His Spirit would not only come and be with His followers but would actually live within them. This promise still holds true today! As believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us.

He is ALWAYS near! This Advent season, celebrate His coming and give praise for His staying near every day.

December Calendar

1 st	<u>Friday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No China Painters Hispanic Worship (chapel) 	7:00 p.m.	
2 nd	<u>Saturday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nativity Experience 	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	
3 rd	<u>1st Sunday of Advent</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY Adult Sunday School Sunday School Worship Service Fellowship Time Advent Bible Study Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	
4 th	<u>Monday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advent Bible Study TOPS Group 	10:00 a.m. 5:15 p.m.	
5 th	<u>Tuesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Covenant Group UWFaith Meeting Trustees Meeting 	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	
6 th	<u>Wednesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorcas Circle Bell Choir Cantata Practice Choir Practice Hispanic Bible Study (chapel) 	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	
7 th	<u>Thursday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft Group 	5:00 p.m.	
8 th	<u>Friday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship (chapel) 	7:00 p.m.	
9 th	<u>Saturday</u>		
	Sandy McNamar Food Pantry	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	
10 th	<u>2nd Sunday of Advent – Noisy Offering</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Sunday School Sunday School Worship Service Fellowship Time Advent Bible Study Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	
11 th	<u>Monday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advent Bible Study TOPS Group 	10:00 a.m. 5:15 p.m.	
12 th	<u>Tuesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPRC Meeting 	6:00 p.m.	
13 th	<u>Wednesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esther Circle Bell Choir Cantata Practice (last) Choir Practice Ad Council Meeting Hispanic Bible Study (chapel) 	9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	
14 th	<u>Thursday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft Group 	5:00 p.m.	
15 th	<u>Friday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	7:00 p.m.	
16 th	<u>Saturday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Church Breakfast 	8:00 a.m.	
17 th	<u>3rd Sunday of Advent -- CANTATA</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Sunday School Sunday School Worship Service Fellowship Time Advent Bible Study Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	

December Calendar (continued)

- 18th **Monday**
- **Advent Bible Study** 10:00 a.m.
 - **Church Women United Board Meeting** 11:30 p.m.
 - TOPS Group 5:15 p.m.
 - **No Education Meeting**
- 19th **Tuesday**
- **No Covenant Group**
- 20th **Wednesday**
- **Bell Choir** 5:30 p.m.
 - **Choir Practice** 6:30 p.m.
 - **Hispanic Bible Study (chapel)** 7:00 p.m.
- 21st **Thursday**
- **Craft Group** 5:00 p.m.
 - **Blue Christmas Service (chapel)** 7:00 p.m.
- 22nd **Friday**
- **Hispanic Bible Worship (chapel)** 7:00 p.m.
- 23rd **Saturday**
- **No Eve Circle**
- 24th **4th Sunday of Advent**
- **Adult Sunday School** 8:45 a.m.
 - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
 - **Worship Service/Childrens Program** 10:00 a.m.
 - **Fellowship Time** 11:00 a.m.
 - **Hispanic Worship Service (chapel)** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 25th **Monday—Christmas**
- **Christmas Lunch**
Gather at 11:00 a.m. and Eat at Noon
TOPS Group Weigh-in Only 5:15 p.m.
- 27th **Wednesday**
- **Bell Choir** 5:30 p.m.
 - **Choir Practice** 6:30 p.m.
 - **Hispanic Bible Study (chapel)** 7:00 p.m.
- 28th **Thursday**
- **Craft Group** 5:00 p.m.

- 29th **Friday**
- **Hispanic Bible Worship (chapel)** 7:00 p.m.
- 30th **Saturday**
- **Sandy McNamar Food Pantry** 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - **Community Meal** 5:00 p.m.
- 31st **Sunday**
- **Adult Sunday School** 8:45 a.m.
 - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
 - **Worship Service** 10:00 a.m.
 - **Fellowship Time** 11:00 a.m.
 - **Hispanic Worship Vigil (chapel)** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

December Birthdays



Rick Atterbury	12/02
Thomas Atterbury	12/02
Sue Hood	12/02
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
Sue Hood	12/23
Rick Roghair	12/25
Karen Beukema	12/27
Ruth Evans	12/30

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,

Community Meal Last Saturday of every month.

Next dinner will be:
December 30th at 5:00 p.m.

Menu:
Spaghetti & Meat Balls
Lettuce Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert



Save your Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, and Can Tabs

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.

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 white basket in the narthex marked "Pop Tabs."



PILLAR OF PRAYER: If you need to request a pillar of prayer, please call either Diane at the church office Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or Marilyn Ogle all other times at 515 266-6876. Thanks!

BIBLE STUDY

**Advent Bible Study
Now Thru December 17th
Monday Mornings 10:00 a.m.
OR 4:00 p.m. Sundays
Fellowship Hall**

***Terri Pollard
515-491-5287***

All Church Breakfast

**THIRD SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

**Next breakfast will be on:
Saturday, December 16th
8:00 a.m.**

**FOOD PANTRY 2ND SATURDAY AND
LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Next dates:

**December 9th
December 30th**

Finance/Treasurer Report

October 31, 2023

Bank Balance as of October 01, 2023
\$22,808.38

Receipts through October 31, 2023
Budget items \$22,872.77
Mission Items \$ 1,356.54
Committed Funds \$ 1,658.00

Disbursements through October 31, 2023
Budget items \$17,607.66
Mission Items \$ 256.54
Committed funds \$ 658.91

Bank balance as of October 31, 2023
\$30,172.58

Less Committed Funds as of October 31,
2023 \$25,124.78

Available funds as of October 31, 2023
\$ 5,047.80

*This report is submitted by:
David E. "Dave" Beery,
Current Staves Financial Secretary*



Eve Circle

Eve Circle finished the year delivering 12 pumpkin buckets to our shut-ins. We delivered laundry supplies and infant clothing to Eastside Women/Children's Center. We donated \$82.00 from our Blessing Jar to Sandy McNamar Food Pantry. Next meeting is January 27th, 9:30 am Fellowship Hall. Come join us and bring a friend.

Sherry Palmer
515-991-1062



Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)

We ask you to complete the anonymous CAT survey as soon as possible.

There are three options to complete the survey:

- 1) Access the survey online using the link in the letter
- 2) Ask one of the CAT Task Force members for a print copy of the survey and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope
- 3) Attend a session on December 3rd, 10th, or 17th to complete the survey online – one of us will assist

Thank you for completing the survey!

Christian Education

Hopefully we will be able to have a Children's Christmas Program this year. Planning is currently in process and if successful the program will be presented at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on December 24th. Please plan to attend that service to see the program.

A new Advent Study is in process. It is on the Old Testament prophecies on the birth of Christ. Each week's lesson is stand alone; so please feel free to join any of the sessions. We will meet on Sunday, December 3rd, 10th and 17th and if needed on Monday December 4th, 11th and 18th. We are starting early (Sunday, November 26th and Monday, November 27th) so that we will be complete before December 24th due to possible scheduling issues for folks on that day.

The Chosen Study is now complete until Season 4 is released to the public on the Angel Web Site. Once that release happens, new dates for that study will be set and shared with everyone.

Remember that we have an elementary Sunday School program and a Youth Sunday School program. Both of these start at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We also have an Adult Study Program that starts about 8:45 a.m. and discusses information on hymns.



Community Meals

The Free Meals continues to reach community and church members with food and fellowship once a month. This meal is always the last Saturday of the month. The menu changes each month and is picked, cooked, and served by members of the Community Meal workgroup.

Please come and enjoy the food.

- December is Spaghetti and Meat Balls

While the meal is free, donations are accepted. 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.

Trustees Update

Here are the updates on the latest Trustee Projects.

We know that the Church Bus is not in good shape and we will be looking at a replacement vehicle. We are looking at a new smaller van that will be easier for folks to get in and out of. As the search for the vehicle moves forward we will keep you all in the loop.

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 9th and Saturday, December 30th. The Food Pantry is open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each of those days.

We had a record month in October. Here are the numbers for that month:

• Families	71
• People	233
• Pounds of Food In	1,048
• Pounds of Food Out	1,239
• Personal Items In	0
• Personal Items Out	31

Food Pantry (continued)

With the colder weather coming in, we could use the following items:

- Canned Soup
- Saltine Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Farina/Cream of Wheat
- Pancake Mix

Thanks to each of you who purchased food each month to donate to the Food Pantry. While we buy as much as we can through the Food Bank of Iowa your donations also support the pantry and these families.

UWFaith News (A.K.A) Petticoat Patter

*UWFaith (FKA UMW) Bible Verse:
“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)*

UW Faith is pleased to let all of you know that the recipients of the Recognition Pins this year were: Jo Reynolds, Brian McNamar and Rick Roghair. We are thankful that we can present this award to folks who make a difference at Staves. Congratulations to these three folks.

UWFaith News (A.K.A) Petticoat Patter (continued)

The General Meeting and installation of officers for 2024 occurred at the end of the November General Meeting. Attendees at that meeting had lunch from a baked potato bar and then a presentation by Terri Pollard on her trip to England and Ireland.

In January we will publish the new UWFaith booklet. These are free to every member of UWFaith. The booklet contains the monthly Bible verse, a list of local, district and conference events. The budget, a list of officers, and a list of all members. We'll hand these out once we have the booklet complete. Any women who attends Staves can become a member of UWFaith. If you have questions about the organization, please see our Membership Officer Norma Thierman.

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.



While I wasn't asked for this salad recipe it seemed to be a good dish at Thankful Sunday Luncheon, so here it is.

Strawberry Spinach Salad

½ cup olive oil
¼ cup vinegar
2 Tbsp sesame seeds
¼ tsp paprika
¼ tsp Worcestershire sauce

1 quart of strawberries
10 ounces fresh spinach
¼ cup almonds

Using the first five ingredients make the dressing and allow it to sit for a few minutes.

Core the strawberries and slice. Place strawberries, spinach, and the almonds in a bowl. Add the dressing and toss until coated. Serve chilled.



Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs Fireside Room Sundays 8:45 a.m.

Staves' Adult Sunday School meets in the Fireside Room beginning at 8:45 a.m. Join us as we discuss one of the hymns from the worship service for that morning or a contemporary Christian song. We begin with a recording of the song - of a congregation singing the hymn, a soloist singing the hymn or song, or another group. We enjoy the variety of musical interpretations. We break down the text of the hymn or song to gain a deeper understanding of how God inspires writers of hymns and songs, and compare several key words and phrases to scripture references that support the text. We consider questions that provide a challenge to live out what we discuss. We begin the class with prayer concerns and happenings in our individual lives and end the time with prayer. Each week is different – join us!

If you have questions, please give me a call: 515.745.3550. I'll have my phone with me all day.

Rick R.



MISSION FOR DECEMBER

TWICE

#1. It is early. Yet Christmas is only a few weeks away and breathing hard. The Bidwell Riverside Holiday Toy Pantry is two weeks away. So, for the next two weeks, until December 10th, we will be collecting items for the Toy Pantry.

The Toy Pantry is the same concept as the Food Pantry but only held once a year. People who have children under the age of 18 and have utilized the Food Pantry in the previous month sign up for a time to pick up toys. At their appointment they are taken through the building where they pick up gloves, hats, books, stocking stuffers and one age-appropriate toy for each of their children. I have worked at the Toy Pantry before. Mostly women come in to pick up the toys. Sometimes, they bring their children with them to help pick out a toy that they will like. Before they leave, they are given wrapping paper or bags to wrap their gifts.

As many of you know, it is easy to pick out toys for children under the age of 10 or so. It is the teenagers that are the hardest so gift cards are recommended. All items must be in original package with prices removed.

We are asking you not to give money but to do some shopping for the children. It is easy to drop off the money and go about the day. It is a lasting impression to actually

shop for someone you will never meet and provide a gift to brighten their day. Have all gifts at the church by December 10, under the Narthex tree. They will be taken to Bidwell on the 11th where they will be distributed. If you wish to volunteer, go to [2023 Holiday Toy Pantry Help — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#). You will enjoy it.

#2. The second half of December will be another collection. This time it is for Robby and UBFM. We will be collecting warm hats, gloves, long-handled underclothes, warm socks, scarves, flannels, boots, blankets, fleecy things, AND HAND AND TOE WARMERS. Again, put them under the Narthex tree. They will be distributed after the 1st of the year.



Giving of yourself is the greatest gift. Use this season to celebrate God's gift, by shopping for those you will never meet.

The Mission Team

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
Staves Memorial United Methodist Church
November 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONS

Chairperson, Brian McNamar began the meeting with a prayer.
The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed, and approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Committee – Terri Pollard

Ninety-six pledge cards have been distributed – due to be returned November 19th.

Financial Secretary – David Beery

A brief report was given.

Treasurer – Rick Atterbury

Discussion of the Treasurer's report, apportionments and Mid-American Energy Company billing.

Memorial Committee Treasurer – Phyllis Anderson

Discussed the Memorial Fund report, and the sanctuary hearing impaired system.

Foundation – no report.

REQUESTS FOR FUNDS

Discussed making a minor change to the setup of the finance office.

LEADERSHIP/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Pastor – Tim Walker

Discussed congregational giving, and the use of creeds during worship.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee – no report.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES (continued)

Trustees – Michelle Rogers

- A) Railings in the front of the sanctuary.
- B) Kitchen sink – one of them is leaking.
- C) Batteries for AED (automatic defibrillator, fellowship hall).
- D) Snow removal – review of proposals presented, thus far.
- E) Future projects: north sidewalk, garage doors, fence behind dumpster, rodents.

BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Education/Sunday School – Norma Thierman

- A) Reviewed fall fun night – 60 attended.
- B) Children's Christmas Program – to be presented during morning worship on December 24th.
- C) Sunday school – going well.
- D) Finishing season 3 of "The Chosen".
- E) Advent study will begin, on the last Sunday in November.
- F) Monday morning study on the New Testament continues.

[Note: the next Education Committee meeting will be November 20, at 6:00 p.m.]

Worship/Music – Steve Ellis

- A) Thankful Sunday, November 19th.
- B) Blue Christmas service, Thursday, December 21st.

Memorial Committee – no report.

United Women in Faith – Terri Pollard

Installation of officers, November 12th:
Baked potato bar
Terri will share about her trip to England.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES (continued)

Missions – Marilyn Burch

- A) Ingathering – delivered 14 school kits, and 22 hygiene kits.
- B) December missions: Bidwell toys (first half of month) and supplies for Urban Bike Food Ministry (second half).
- C) January mission – Heifer Project International.
- D) Monthly noisy offering for University of Iowa Campus Crusade for Christ – brief discussion.

Food Pantry/Community Meal – Terri Pollard

Both programs are still reaching lots of people!

OTHER BUSINESS

Brief discussion about the Walk to Emmaus spiritual retreats.

NEXT MEETING

December 13, 7:15 p.m.

Pastor Tim offered a word of prayer, to end the meeting,

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Ellis, Secretary

ATTENDEES

Brian McNamar, Pastor Tim Walker, Jim McPherson, Linda McPherson, Rick Atterbury, Terri Pollard, Norma Thierman, Marilyn Burch, Phyllis Anderson, David Beery, Andy Gervais, Michelle Rogers, and Steve Ellis.