



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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January 1, 2023

New Year/New Person

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.... (Romans 3: 23-24)

New Years Day is a time for making resolutions such as to exercise more or lose weight. However, most resolutions are abandoned by the end of the month. Why is that? Because, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." And it is for that reason that I strongly discourage making resolutions. We are attempting to redeem ourself under our own power and that will always fail and lead us further into despair.

So, here's what I would recommend you do instead. Pay attention to verse 24 of Romans 3, "And all are justified freely by his [God's] grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Look to Jesus to redeem your sins and weaknesses.

Here's how to do that. Take a good honest look at the past year and write down every regret you have. Then turn every regret into a prayer; start by confessing the sin that led to that regret and ask Jesus to redeem you from that part of your sinful nature. Admit that you are powerless to change and you need his help. Ask Jesus to help you with the temptations that lead you into that sin. This is by means an easy or enjoyable task but it is well worth the effort because you will come out the other side a better person with a stronger faith. When you do this, you will be amazed at the results because you will see miracles begin to happen.

I would also like to point out that you don't have to limit this practice to just New Years Day. This would be a good practice to do every day before you go to sleep. I guarantee you will sleep better and with God's help you will learn to live a better life.

Happy New Year,

January Calendar

1 st	<u>Monday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day – Office Closed 		
	TOPS Weigh In Only	5:15 pm	
2 nd	<u>Tuesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UW Faith Board Meeting 	6:00 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee's Meeting 	7:00 pm	
3 rd	<u>Wednesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim back in office 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bell Choir 	5:30 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir Practice 	6:30 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Bible Study (chapel) 	7:00 pm	
4 th	<u>Thursday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft Group 	5:00 pm	
5 th	<u>Friday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China Painters 	9:30 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship (chapel) 	7:00 pm	
6 th	<u>Saturday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship Hall Reserved by Jennie Gervais 	8:30 am to 11:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship Hall Reserved by Lindsey Young 	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	
7 th	<u>Sunday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Sunday School 	8:45 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday School 	9:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship Service 	10:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship Time 	11:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	1:00 – 3:00 pm	
8 th	<u>Monday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 	10:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOPS Group 	5:15 pm	
9 th	<u>Tuesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Meeting 	6:30 pm	
10 th	<u>Wednesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esther Circle 	9:30 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bells 	5:30 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir Practice 	6:30 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad Council Meeting 	7:15 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship Bible Study (chapel) 	7:00 pm	
11 th	<u>Thursday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft Group 	5:00 pm	
12 th	<u>Friday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship 	7:00 pm	
13 th	<u>Saturday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy McNamar Food Pantry 	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	
14 th	<u>Sunday -- Noisy Offering</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Sunday School 	8:45 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday School 	9:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship Service 	10:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship Time 	11:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	
15 th	<u>Monday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 	10:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOPS Group 	5:15 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Meeting 	6:00 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship Meeting 	7:15 pm	
17 th	<u>Wednesday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bell Choir 	5:30 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir Practice 	6:30 pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship Bible Study (chapel) 	7:00 pm	
18 th	<u>Thursday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Craft Group 	5:00 pm	
19 th	<u>Friday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	7:00 pm	
20 th	<u>Saturday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CALLER Deadline 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Church Breakfast 	8:00 am	
21 st	<u>Sunday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Sunday School 	8:45 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday School 	9:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship Service 	10:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship Time 	11:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Worship Service (chapel) 	1:00 – 3:00 pm	
22 nd	<u>Monday</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study 	10:00 am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOPS Group 	5:15 pm	

January Calendar (continued)

- 24th **Wednesday**
- **Bell Choir** 5:30 pm
 - **Choir Practice** 6:30 pm
 - **Hispanic Worship Bible Study (chapel)**
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 25th **Thursday**
- **Craft Group** 5:00 pm
- 26th **Friday**
- **Hispanic Bible Worship** 7:00 pm
- 27th **Saturday**
- **Eve Circle** 9:30 am
 - **Sandy McNamar Food Pantry**
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
 - **Community Meal** 5:00 pm
 -
- 28th **Sunday**
- **Adult Sunday School** 8:45 am
 - **Sunday School** 9:00 am
 - **Worship Service** 10:00 am
 - **Fellowship Time** 11:00 am
 - **Hispanic Worship Service (chapel)**
1:00 – 3:00 pm
- 29th **Monday**
- **Bible Study** 10:00 am
 - **TOPS Group** 5:15 pm
- 31st **Wednesday**
- **Bells** 5:30 pm
 - **Choir** 6:30 pm
 - **Hispanic Bible Study** 7:00 pm



January Birthdays

Ira Mescal	1/02
Bob Moore	1/04
Karon King Velau	1/04
Joe Jefferson	1/06
Michelle Shabazz	1/11
Dalton McDonald	1/12
David Beery	1/14
Phyllis Anderson	1/18
Ileta Wilson	1/23
Mitch Davisson	1/24
Joyce Doggett	1/28
Colan Arnold	1/28
Sandra Besco	1/29
Camille Gervais	1/29
Linda Wendt	1/31
Evelyn Moran	1/31

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*,

**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

**No Bible Study
January 1st week**

**Bible Study
Monday Mornings 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

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

Upcoming January Meetings

**Trustees' Meeting,
Tuesday, January 2nd, 7:00 pm**

**Finance Meeting,
Tuesday, January 9th, 6:30 pm**

**Ad Council Meeting,
Wednesday, January 10th, 7:15 pm**

**Education Committee Meeting
Monday, January 15th, 6:00 pm**

**Worship Committee Meeting
Monday, January 15th, 7:15 pm**

**FOOD PANTRY 2ND SATURDAY AND
LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**January dates:
January 13th
January 27th**

Eve Circle

**Next meeting is January 27th, 9:30 am
Fellowship Hall. Meeting February 24th,
Bring what you read. Bring a friend.**

**Sherry Palmer
515-991-1062**

**Community Meal
Last Saturday of every month.**

**Next dinner will be:
January 27 at 5:00 p.m.**

All Church Breakfast

**THIRD SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

**Next breakfast will be on:
Saturday, January 20th
8:00 a.m.**

***Monthly
Financial
Report***



Finance/Treasurer Report

November 30, 2023

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

November Receipts

Budget items	\$26,106.00
Mission Items	\$ 514.98
Committed Funds	<u>\$ 633.00</u>
	\$27,253.98

November Disbursements

Budget items	\$19,209.13
Missions	\$ 1,016.31
Committed funds	<u>\$10,011.00</u>
	\$30,236.44

Bank balance as of November 30, 2023
\$27,190.12

Less Committed Funds as of November 30,
2023 \$15,515.91

Available funds as of November 30, 2023
\$11,674.21

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

Christian Education

The Children's Christmas Program during Worship Service on December 24th was a big success. Thanks to everyone who participated in the program.

We found the following information on children attending the Worship service that we want to share. Please keep this in mind if bring a child to Staves.

"Children should attend worship services with their parents. Some adults worry about including children in the sanctuary during worship. However, children will not learn what it means to be a part of a worshipping congregation if they aren't allowed to participate. Children look primarily to adults for examples on how to live until they are about nine years old. After that, they begin looking to their peers for answers. This nine-year window is important for setting the foundation of faith for the moral and ethical choices that your children will make as they grow into adults."

If you are a member of the Education Committee, please plan to attend the meeting this month. We will be setting the dates for the 2024 activities and determining the VBS program for the year.

The Chosen 3 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.

We have not yet planned the meals for January, February and March. Those menus will be completed and shared soon. The meal dates are January 27th, February 24th, and March 30th.

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.

The Church Bus is now declared non-functional and will either be donated to a teen service program so they can learn to work on diesel powered vehicles or junked. We are looking at a

Trustees Update (continued)

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 know someone who could use a ride to church in your area, please offer them a ride until we can get a new vehicle. If you are willing to be a driver to pick someone up, please contact either Pastor Tim or Terri Pollard.

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 January are: Saturday, January 13th and Saturday, January 27th . The Food Pantry is open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each of those days.

Here are the numbers for November:

• Families	59
• People	158
• Pounds of Food In	1,309
• Pounds of Food Out	1,002
• Personal Items In	0
• Personal Items Out	18

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

Food Pantry (continued)

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

Starting in late 2023 and now moving into 2024 we are trying to get the new sleeping mat weaving ministry going. This ministry uses plastic bags from a store to make a sleeping mat. The bags are cut into strips. Those are linked together to make “plarn” (plastic yarn). The plarn is then woven on a loom to make a six-foot by three-foot mat.

Any mats that are completed will be given to the Urban Bicycle Food Ministry. We are planning to weave on the first couple Wednesdays of the month as part of both the Dorcas Circle and the Esther Circle. The Dorcas circle will continue to work on quilts, but if extra people are available they can work on mats. Some people may also be working on them at least one Thursday each month.

There are several jobs associated with the mat weaving. Some people can flatten out and fold the plastic bags. Some people can cut the bags. Some people can weave. All people that work on the mats and their time is tracked so we can report the hours to Midwest Mission in Jefferson. The time spent working on the mats is part of their mission program.

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

We hope that everyone has a wonderful 2023 and Christmas season. We look forward to new programs and activities in 2024. When the new program books are available later in January, please ask for one and mark your calendars now for these events.

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



"The Bible tells us to study math. It says, 'Go forth and multiply.'"



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.*



2023 Nativity Experience

Our theme and environment were different this year. We presented ***Christ - the Light of the World*** and displayed approximately 180 nativities – we lost count somewhere in the 170's. We want to express a sincere thank you to those who loaned nativities; to those who helped set-up on Thursday and Friday; to those who volunteered as a greeter or host, or



provided live music on Saturday; and to those who helped tear-down on Saturday – you know who you are!

Anyone missing a nativity? We have six unclaimed nativities. Let us know if you plan

to donate a nativity to Staves Church for future use.

And thank you to those who invited friends and family members. One attendee commented the reduced



lighting provided a calming effect for him. A Staves Church member mentioned the Nativity Experience marks the official beginning of the real celebration of Christmas for her. One young family returned with more family members. Another invited visitor explained his wife had other plans that day, so he came alone. He said he was without words to describe what he witnessed, except that it was an experience beyond words.



Staves Congregation Assessment Tool

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey online or returned a completed print copy of the survey. We will receive a report summarizing our anonymous responses by February. We will keep you informed as to what the information tells us and our next steps at Staves Church.

MISSION FOR JANUARY

The season of joy and peace is not over; I want to thank all of you for giving to the Bidwell Toy Pantry and the homeless. Your heart must be 10X its size. What you do for God's work is outstanding. Yet it is another year and times have not changed.

This month we will be supporting Heifer International. <https://www.heifer.org/> We have supported this organization the past several years. Last year we sent two sheep at \$300 per animal to two families who will shear the sheep and sell the wool and raise and pass along any lambs that come, earning a living and feeding themselves and their community.

That is the beauty of Heifer. We provide animals to those in need. In turn, they raise, sell the produce from the animal, and share the young with their neighbors who in turn continue the process, thereby uplifting an entire community. In addition to the use of animals, Heifer also provides the means to obtain fresh water in the community, schooling for girls (who are usually left out of education), access to health care, and a safe and secure environment. All of this is fundamental for a life free from hunger and poverty.

In 1944 Heifer International started in the Midwest with one man who wanted to change the way relief was given to the hungry and the poor. Rather than giving food, he felt that giving them animals would provide a steady supply of nutritious food for the entire family. In the beginning, the organization shipped actual livestock to other countries; they were cared for on the voyages by seagoing cowboys: ranchers and farmers who lent their expertise to the organization. That organization now provides expertise, capital, technology, and other resources for success to small farmers.

This month we are looking at two different Heifer projects. The choice is yours. Please vote by marking the two gifts that interest you most. On the first Sunday in February the top two gifts will be announced. All funds given during January will go to those two gifts.

Thank you!

The Mission Team

- FLOCK OF CHICKS \$20 (10-20 chicks)
- GOAT \$120
- HONEYBEES \$30 (Hive, bees, bee box and training)
- EARTH GIFT BASKET \$60 (Hive of bees and tree seedlings)
- PROMISE GIFT BASKET \$85 (Ducks, chickens and rabbits, training, and education)
- SEND A GIRL TO SCHOOL \$275 (training and livestock to earn income to send daughter to school)

Please place in the offering plate or mail to the church c/o Marilyn Burch, chair.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
Staves Memorial United Methodist Church
December 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONS

Chairperson, Brian McNamar began the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed, and found to be in order.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Committee – Terri Pollard

- A) David Beery has resigned as financial secretary, and Terri will take over. The transition will be complete, in mid-February. Renee Horner will be the new finance chairperson.
- B) Year-end audit – books will need to be turned in by mid-January, at the latest.
- C) An update was given, on congregational giving.

Treasurer – Rick Atterbury

- A) It was noted, we are “back in good standing” as of right now, regarding meeting our financial obligations.
- B) The treasurer’s report as of November 30 was reviewed.

Foundation – no report.

Memorial Committee Treasurer – Phyllis Anderson

- A) Hearing impaired listening devices – discussed purchasing a new system(s).
- B) The memorial book is being updated.
- C) Discussion – memorial plaque – will be hung soon, in fellowship hall.

REQUESTS FOR FUNDS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES (continued)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Pastor – Tim Walker

- A) Discussion of CAT survey.
- B) Upcoming special services:
 - Blue Christmas, December 21, 7:00 pm
 - Christmas Eve, December 24, 6:30 pm, with Communion (There will be two Services on Christmas Eve; 10:00 am and 6:30 pm)
- C) Realignment of circuit ministries within the conference – Staves is now in a circuit with Sheridan Park, Wesley and Granger churches.
- D) Update on Helping Hands Fund.
- E) Discussed disposition of the bus, which is not working, and cannot be fixed.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee – Tim Walker reporting.

A brief report was given, followed by a period of discussion.

It was noted, the pastor will be on vacation, from December 26 until January 2.

Trustees – Terri Pollard reporting.

- A) Discussion of what might be a suitable replacement for the bus.
- B) The fall furnace check has been completed – no surprises.

BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Education – Norma Thierman

- A) Need to fulfill obligations relating to our safe sanctuary policy.
- B) No December meeting – will begin planning for Easter egg hunt, and Vacation Bible school, at the January meeting.
- C) There will soon be a need for more Sunday school teachers.

Worship – Steve Ellis

It was noted, the committee will meet soon, to plan for the Lenten and Easter seasons.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES (continued)

Memorial Committee Chairperson – no report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

UWFaith – Terri Pollard Working on a calendar of events for 2024.

Missions – Marilyn Burch

- A) Noisy offerings – doing well.
- B) Took items to Bidwell Riverside, Monday.
- C) Now collecting socks, gloves and scarves for homeless individuals.
- D) Mission emphasis for January: Heifer Project International.

Food Pantry – Terri Pollard

- A) Between 50 and 60 families are receiving assistance, each time the pantry is open.
- B) B) The helping hand fund is starting to run low.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING January 10, 2024; 7:15 pm

Pastor Tim offered a word of prayer, to conclude the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Ellis, secretary

ATTENDEES Brian McNamar, Pastor Tim Walker, Norma Thierman, Andy Gervais, Terri Pollard, Renee Horner, Elise Stevens, Marilyn Burch, Phyllis Anderson, Rick Atterbury and Steve Ellis.