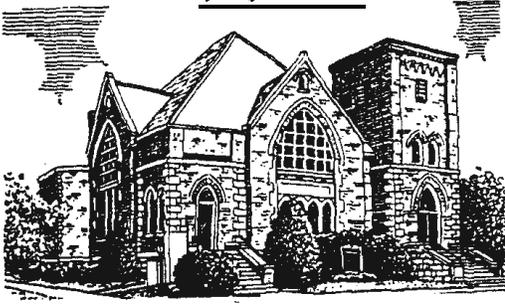


United Methodist News



First United Methodist Church

607 Lynn St., Tipton, Iowa
563-886-2331

office@tiptonumc.org (church office)

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Paul E. Frederiksen, Pastor

pastor@tiptonumc.org

December 2013

December Events

- Dec. 4 — YOUth Group
- Dec. 6 — Parent's Night Out
- Dec. 8 — UMW Soup Lunch
Kids For Christ
- Dec. 14 — Tour of Lights
- Dec. 15 — Sunday School Christmas
Program
- Dec. 18 — Newsletter Articles Due
- Dec. 22 — Service of Long Shadows
Caroling
- Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 25 — CHRISTMAS
- Dec. 27 — Meeting of the Holy Folders

MERRY CHRISTMAS

UMW Soup Luncheon and Bake Sale

Dec 8th

Right after church

Chili, chicken noodle soup, vegetable
soup along with
drink and dessert will be served.

The luncheon is a free will offering.

Also, during this time please join us for
our cookies and candies sale.



An Old-Fashioned Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15th

6:30 p.m.

*Preparation has begun for the Sunday School's
annual Christmas program. The kids have been
working hard to prepare for this wonderful program.
They look forward to sharing their singing, music and
of course, the Christmas story.*



*We ask that you bring a
non-perishable food
item for the food pantry.*

*Refreshments will be served
afterwards.*

Christmas Caroling and Soup

*We'll be Christmas caroling Sunday, December 22 at
4:30 p.m. We will carol at the Senior Park, Cedar Man-
or, Prairie Hills and at individual's homes in
Tipton. Meet at the church and wear warm clothing.
We'll return to the church for supper at 6:30 p.m.
Crock pots of soup, relishes, cheese, crackers, dessert
and beverage are needed. Please sign up in the breeze-
way for what food you'll bring ahead of time. If you
know of someone who doesn't have a church home, this
is a perfect time to invite them to our church.
Invitations are at the back of the sanctuary. Everyone
welcome!!*

Parents Night Out/Kids Night In

December 6

We are planning a "Parents Night Out/Kids Night In" event
on **Friday, December 6 from 6:00-9:30 p.m.** All ages are
welcome. **Please register kids by Wednesday, December 4
at noon.** Kids are asked to bring a sack supper. There will be
plenty of fun activities offered to keep kids busy. Parents are
encouraged to enjoy the evening!



Scott Hibben, Conference Leadership Development Minister, wrote an article in mid-November that included these thoughts:

In midst of the Vietnam War Walt Kelly penned that telling line within his Pogo cartoon: "We have met the enemy, and they are us." Perhaps those words apply to us as Christians, too. If we just started treating other Christians better (as Jesus calls us to do in John 13:34) then maybe others outside the Church wouldn't be so quick to condemn us; and maybe, just maybe, they might be drawn into Church to join us. (Remember it was the early Christians who drew all kinds of people into the Church because those outside the Church noted, "See how they (Christians) love one another.")

Yes, sometimes we are our own worst enemy, and let's get personal --- sometimes that all begins with "ME". Phil Yancey expresses it this way: '...one day the question occurred to me, "What would church look like if every member were just like me?" Properly humbled, I began concentrating on my own spirituality, not everyone else's" (Church: Why Bother, p. 21).

"What would church look like if every member were just like me?" It's worth thinking about, and probably worth doing something about – wouldn't you say?

Advent and Christmas constitute a great time for each of us to take account of our lives and consider the ways we are living for the good of the world and not just for our own grins, giggles and glory. How are you investing in others – with no thought of return? That is certainly a central (and a most weird) understanding of the birth of Christ: CHRISTMAS.

*"Merry Christmas" = It's just another way to say, 'be weird; be like Jesus.'
Pastor Paul*

Blessings on Your Advent Journey and Merry Christmas !

Just ask Clark Griswold about 'the perfect Christmas' and you'll discover – if you haven't already – that there's no such thing! Well, at least not the kind he wanted. But what if by 'perfect Christmas' we mean **'God-in-Christ showing up in an imperfect world!'**

No one set the table or prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world! But there he was, in a world of Roman occupation, sicknesses, death, unemployment, broken relationships, economic upheaval. Life was a mess... AND GOD SHOWED UP.

So the "perfect Christmas" IS possible, but not the way Clark Griswold thinks of it. Forget stressing over the lights and trees and turkey. Fact is, no matter what you are struggling to overcome, no matter what life issues have come your way, God promises to show up!

God shows up, not just at Christmas but every day, right into our messy lives, to bring peace, purpose, joy, hope and wholeness.

God Shows Up! Merry Christmas from your church staff.

*Dee Wallace
Don Griffith*

*Denise Cartwright
Sylvia Gould
Paul Frederiksen*

*Alice Ann Gallagher
Jennifer Comstock*

Jane and I plan to be out of town Dec. 24 – 31. Pastors have been asked, and have consented, to being on-call. Jennifer will be in the office a couple mornings that week. Call her or Lay Leader Becky Young (886-6843) and they will make contact with the on-call clergy.

Missions

Copper Kettle - Philippines

The reports from the Philippines and the damage/loss of life from Typhoon Haiyan are staggering. Catie and John Newman, IAUMC Disaster Response Coordinator suggest several ways we can help:

First and most importantly PRAY. Pray for those affected by the storm, for those responding, pray for those still waiting.

Secondly FINANCIAL SUPPORT. Financial donations to UMCOR (and the International Aid agencies that are “on the ground”).

Finally SUPPORT our Pilipino Brothers and Sisters here in Iowa who are waiting anxiously for word regarding loved ones or concerned about the damage caused by the typhoon. Make a phone call; send a note of support and pray for them.

The Missions team has designated the copper kettle on December 1st for the UMCOR Disaster Response in the Philippines. You are welcome to donate anytime – simply write a check to 1st UMC and put “UMCOR-Philippines” in the memo line. Thank you!

Make A Difference Community Work Day

A group of 15 people of all ages raked 5 yards, cleaned gutters on 4 homes, trimmed bushes and hauled brush/sticks on Sunday, November 10. Thanks to Alec, Adam, Brian & Mary Jo Heil, Zoe & Ryan Stonebraker, Chris & Mary McKinney, Twyla Hein, Kim Cross, Steven Licht, Carmen Hoffman, Paul Frederiksen, Renee Mente and Jane Moen for helping out. Working together on these projects was FUN AND all this work was done in less than 2 hours!

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering will be used to pay our unfunded apportionments which empower the ministry of not only this church but the Church around the world. You may use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or indicate “Christmas” on the memo line of your check.

If receipts exceed the amount needed, the remaining will be applied to Mission projects. May Jesus Christ be Praised!

Alternative Giving Market

The Missions Team is offering the Alternative Giving Market once again this Christmas. Having trouble figuring out a good gift for someone who has everything they need? The Alternative Giving Market offers a perfect opportunity to give beyond the ordinary with alternative gifts - the practice of giving a donation in someone’s honor rather than a physical gift. Buy a gift to missions in honor of family and friends, co-workers and employees, teachers and leaders.

Pick up an Alternative Giving Market brochure any time after December 1 from the back of the sanctuary or fellowship room. You may chose from different mission projects which reflect needs in the community and world. Simply fill out the order form on the back of the brochure. Someone from the Mission Team will be available on Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, & 15 after worship to take your orders. For each gift given, you will receive a Christmas card and project description to give to the person you are honoring.

It is really two gifts in one - a gift to the people it helps and a gift to the person you honor. 100% of your gift reaches its intended mission and ministry.

Delivering Christmas Cards

We need volunteers to deliver Christmas cards to those who don’t get out and about much anymore. Cards will be ready to pick up after worship on Sunday, December 1 during fellowship coffee and just need to be delivered at your convenience by Christmas Day. Thanks!

Shared Blessings Meal – 2014 Sign-up

Shared Blessings meals are served on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays each month from 11:00-Noon. If you are interested in helping to cook, serve and/or clean-up, 2014 sign-up sheets are available now in the fellowship room. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Carmen Hoffman or the church office.

Meal Ministry

Shared Blessings will be providing “to-go” meals on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Saturdays to people who’ve been recently hospitalized and could use some extra TLC. If you’d like to deliver an average of 3-5 meals on Saturday Noon following Shared Blessings meals, please contact Jane Moen or the church office.

(Missions Continued)

Angel Tree

Our church often receives requests for assistance throughout the year. To supplement the benevolence fund and assist numerous individuals and families this Christmas and into 2013, we are asking you to purchase gift cards/certificates. We also have identified a family with three children needing assistance with specific gift requests. Please consider your blessings and help as you're able.

Here's all you do...

1. Select ornament(s) for **gift cards(s) or requested gifts** you'd like to purchase off the Angel Trees located in the dining room or the fellowship room. For gift cards, you purchase the requested gift cards for the amount you'd like to give, put the gift card in an envelope, write the amount of the card on the envelope and then attach it to the ornament. For requested gifts, please wrap the gift and attach the receipt to the ornament.
2. If you'd prefer to donate **money**, write "Angel Tree" in the memo line of your check and put it in the offering plate.
3. Please return any gift cards, gifts or contributions to the church office by Thursday, December 19.

Thank you for sharing God's love and helping to make Christmas brighter for our friends, neighbors and strangers!

Ingathering

The Thanksgiving Ingathering was held in Mt Pleasant on November 2. Our church donated a total of 78 kits for an in kind value of \$1,151. We had 9 UMCOR health kits, 2 UMCOR sewing kits, 38 UMCOR school kits, 1 UMCOR layette kit, 27 Iowa-Nigeria layette kits, and 1 dorm kit. A total of \$604.64 went to Church World Service-Blankets! The official state-wide Ingathering totals won't be available until early December, but rumor has it that Karen Zobel's quilt received \$800 at the quilt auction. That's awesome! Thanks to all who donated to the Ingathering. Your contributions do make a difference!

Missions Work Trip

July 14-18 are the dates for our Mission work trip next summer. Details are still being worked out, but we wanted to make sure you have the dates now and can mark it on your calendar early. We anticipate being close to home for next year's work trip.



United Methodist Women

December Circle Meetings

Abigail — Wed., December 18th at 8:00 p.m.

Hostess: **Kathy Houstman**; Co-hostess:

Devotions: **Becky Young**; Program: **Berrie Glick**

Mary Martha — Fri., December 13th at 1:30 p.m.

Hostess & Co-hostess: **Lorna Muller**

Devotions & Program: **Lorna Muller**

Priscilla — Thurs., December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: **Sandy Childs**; Co-hostess: Vivian Shontz

Devotions & Program: Leanne Zearley

GEMS! First UMC's Puppet Team!

Did you know? Public education has long offered help to kids with unique needs. Puppetry has proven (not just at FUMC!) amazingly effective in "safe" faith-sharing.

SO...December's wish list.

TWO "full-time" leaders

or "JOB-SHARING" to total 2!

(keep in mind.. we set our schedule per leaders and per kids and their parents! Be in on these choices!)

And, of course. December's Question:

[Trusting God means faith our Lord WILL do and be all that is promised for us - and MORE!]

*Now, picture yourself as one of the kids mentioned above...WHAT do YOU think they will have on their Christmas List for **GEMS?***

Merry Christmas everyone! Connie Paul

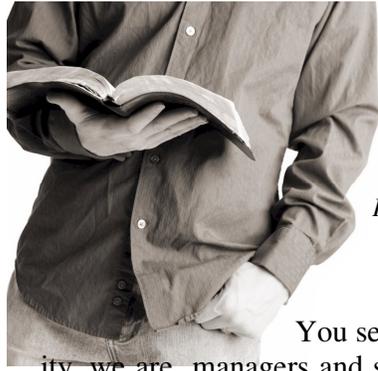
¹³ *Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:*

¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" - Luke 2:13-14*

**Newsletter articles are due
Wed., Dec. 18th.**

**Meeting of the Holy Folders is
Fri., Dec. 27th.**

Holy Folders fold the newsletter, spreading God's and our Church's news!



Applying Bible Principles

Applying Bible Principles

We've come to the last of a 48-month series entitled, "Effective Stewardship: Building on Biblical Principles." We've considered a wide variety of scriptural teachings during the past four years, but in one way or another, they all relate to the premise upon which this program has been built as stated in Psalm 24:1 - "The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."

You see, if the earth really is the Lord's, and if everything in it belongs to the Lord, then in reality, we are managers and stewards of that which rightfully belongs to Him. We own nothing! God owns it all. He allows us to use what rightfully belongs to Him, but God continues to retain the ownership. We are just managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

This means that whether we are paying our taxes, buying groceries, providing for our families or giving to support the ministry of our church, we are making decisions that involve the resources God has provided for us. And the primary reason God entrusts us with material possessions — especially money — is that we might glorify Him.

Every spending decision, therefore, becomes a spiritual decision as we "strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). Yes, it is important to take care of our families and other obligations we have, but what is really important is to give back to God that which He has entrusted to us, that which is rightfully His. As we give voluntarily, quietly, generously and cheerfully according to the measure of prosperity God has given to us, we glorify Him as we give willingly from our hearts (Ex. 25:2).

Don't be confused: The amount we give and the percentage we give are very important. But as we give, let's remember to keep the "main thing" the "main thing." What's of paramount importance is why we give. We give, not only for the glory of God, but also because He first gave to us. We give out of our love for Christ who has redeemed us by dying for our sins on the cross of Calvary.

That's why it's a privilege to be God's manager and God's steward of what belongs to Him. That's why it's a privilege to manage God's resources in His behalf. And that's why it's a privilege to give to the work of the Lord here at First United Methodist Church.

As we come to the close of this important series, are you using money and possessions as if they belong to you, or are you making spending decisions with the full realization that "God owns it all"?

Christmas Cookie and Candy Donations Needed

As you do baking for the holidays, consider donating 2-3 dozen cookies or candies to the church. With the additional events and opportunities for hospitality in December, it's helpful to have a supply of cookies or others snacks on hand. We plan to use the cookies and candies for events such as the Children's Christmas pageant (Dec 15), caroling with the homebound (Dec 22), fellowship time after the Long Shadows service (Dec 22), Christmas Eve service (Dec 24), and Meeting of the Holy Folders.

Donations are needed on the dates listed above. Please bring your donations to the church kitchen and label as "December treats". Thank You!



Kids for Christ

Sunday, December 8

2:30 - 4:30

We will be presenting our annual Christmas Pageant at Cedar Manor!

EVERYONE is invited to attend and bring a friend. We will meet at the church for crafts, visit and entertain our friends at Cedar Manor, and return for snacks. This is an opportunity to share Christ's love and have fun doing so. Helpers and drivers needed and blessed. For more information, please contact Denise Cartwright.

News of the People

Baptism: Caroline Beth Smith was baptized Nov. 17. Caroline is the daughter of Hannah and Todd Smith and the sister of Dorie.

New Members were recognized November 17: **Dorothy Feldman** (307 E. 2nd St.) who moved to Tipton a couple years ago from near Olin where she and her late husband Ralph farmed. Dorothy is the mother of Lois Gardner.

Hannah (Kordick) Smith (697 220th St.) does home-based child care. She and Todd were married Feb. 1, 2013. (Yeah, they're still newly-weds.)

Kimberly and Nathen Anderson (221 W. 4th St.) have been residents of Tipton a couple years. They are both invested in building capacity in youth and have positions with the Tipton Schools. Nathen is also on the Tipton Fire Department.

Prayers

Hospitalized/Procedures: Marlin Rife (in California)
Healing: Phyllis Behrens, Linda Black(J. Keller's sis), Bonnie Bryden, Joe Cheshareck (G.Fleming's bro-in-law,) Kari England (Barb Rickard's niece), Donna Gault, Arlene Hein, Eunice Holderness (C.Paul's aunt), Francis Kuehl, Ted Licht, Janice Linn, Edna Miller (Judy Ohrt's sister), Tim Montgomery, Linda Mullen – (teacher @ THS), Vallie Stone (V.Daniel's father), Kathy Vance, Carolyn Wiggins (S. Gould's sis), Ron Wingert, and others under care or treatment.

Prayers for those in Life Transitions:

Persons in turmoil due to "natural" and/or "human" disaster; and those who are called to help.
Families struggling with the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse or other addiction.

Couples/Families searching for the way forward.

Persons & families of incarceration;

Persons in employment limbo;

Farmers and other Ag workers putting in "harvest hours."

In Treatment: Alec Amosson, Jim Ehresman, Marlin Rife, John Packwood, Barb Knack (B. Cummin's sis), Betty Wright, Dori (C. Person's sis), Sarah Ann Wellendorf (F. Kuehl's sis)

Hospice/Palliative Care: Gene Weih

Armed Services: Sean Hannes, Billy Hoffman, Kyle Marchik, Corey Ormsby, Mike Ploeger (McKinney's Nephew), Jake Reidel, Cole Weih

Community Soup Supper

The "Tour of Lights" Community Soup Supper will be held on **Saturday, December 14** from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Hall.

The menu is: Chicken Noodle, Chili and Potato soups, Hot Roasted Turkey & Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Assorted Relishes, Dessert, Milk, Tea or Coffee. The cost is \$7 (13 & above), \$5 (ages 5-12) and Free (under 5).

Any profits will be divided three ways:

1. The Community Food Pantry hosted by Calvary Foursquare Church
2. Tipton Ministerial Association for the 'assistance fund
3. The Backpack program coordinated by Trinity Lutheran

Mike Boyle, coordinator of the Soup Supper, is asking each church to provide 4 – 6 volunteers to work during the meal. People are also needed to make soup: 3+ roasters of Chili; 3+ roasters of Chicken Noodle. Desserts, cookies, bars or cakes can be donated. Sandwiches and relish trays are also part of the meal. SO, a lot of work goes into this event. If you would like to coordinate the participation of 1st UMC, contact the church office ASAP. Or, if you'd like to volunteer directly through Mike Boyle, you can contact him at 563-272-8564 or mike.boyle@ia.usda.gov

Tipton Lions will conduct **KidSight Vision Screening**

**St. Mary's Hall, 209 Mulberry Street, Tipton
Saturday, December 14th -- 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

For children 6mos.-48mos. of age

Benefit for the Bread of Life Food Pantry, Tipton Ministerial Assn. & Backpack Buddies

-- Sponsored by the Churches, Businesses & Civic Groups of Tipton --

Enjoy Downtown Historic Tipton's "Old Fashioned Christmas" and Horse-drawn Tour of Lights



Meet a Methodist

Stephen and Cheryl Person

What would you consider to be your hometown?

S Stephen Oakland CA
C Cheryl Orange City Iowa

What are your hobbies, when you have free time how do you like to use it?

S Woodworking, restore antique cars/trucks, reading
C Gardening, canning, reading and cooking

What is your religious upbringing or what exposure have you had before FUMC? Growing up did you attend church? What religious experiences impacted your life? (i.e. camp, concerts, attending church etc.)

S Catholic, I was an Altar boy.
C Reform Church of America (RCA) was a big part of my upbringing. I went to youth camps at Okoboji and a Billy Graham Crusade

Members in your family: (perhaps children's ages and time married)

S Has 3 daughters and 7 granddaughters,
C We have 1 son, Travis who is married to Camille

Occupation (optional):

S Retired after 30 years at VA
C Retired 35 years at University of Iowa Hosp. and Clinics, still works some hourly as a nurse.

Both have retired with 22 years of service in the Army.

How long have you been a member or how long have you attended FUMC?

After moving to Tipton from Iowa City we joined FUMC one year later in 1997

What FUMC activities have you participated in over the years, and how long was your involvement?

S Trustees, Shared Blessings, big part in refurbishing church pews
C Taught SS, Local summer Mission trips, Chaired FUMC church picture directory 2012, also helped with church pews

What activities at FUMC can we find you in now?

S I like to help around the church with small repairs whenever Pastor Paul calls.
C SPRC, College Connection, UMW, Nursery, GIG and Shared Blessings

Where do you put your volunteer hours in at church?

S We visit the homebound members at special times of the year.
C You can also find us cleaning, doing small repairs and sharing my garden produce with others

Do you volunteer other places in the community?

We both volunteer at the VA hospital as ambassadors once a week. We belong to the Bennett American Legion and auxiliary in which we frequently take food and clothing to the VA Homeless shelter in Cedar Rapids.

Why do you volunteer at church?

It is part of our Christian duty and it also is fun to do things with our Christian Family & friends.

What is one of your favorite memories at FUMC?

Tearing down of 605 Lynn St house and the remodeling of the church kitchen so we can serve others.

With over 400 families involved at FUMC we all can't get along all the time, how do you handle divergence in opinion at FUMC? (optional, but I know people want to know)

We keep an open mind, listen to what others have to say, respect their opinion and pray about it.

Well you are clearly a busy person. How do you make time for your role at church?

Church is a priority

Is there anyone who helped you in your ministry at church that you would like to mention?

A.k.a...." Is there anyone you want to give a shout out to?"

There are several people who have helped us over the years on our Christian journey.



December 2013

January 2014

December 2013

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 1	8:30am Choir Kids (Sanct.) 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanct.) 3:00pm Cedar Manor Service	Pastor @ District Meeting 6:30pm Xn Chaos rehearsal (Sanct.)	4:00pm Communion @ Prairie Hills 7:00pm FUMC Concert Band (Sanct.)	10:00am Pastor @ Bible Study 6:15pm Youth Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Sanct.)	9:30am Communion @ Cedar Manor 7:00pm FUMC - Concert Band (Sanct.)	6:00pm Parents Night Out/Kids Night In (DR/K)	
8	8:00am PREP UMW Soup Lun 8:30am Choir Kids (Sanct.) 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanct.) 11:45am UMW Soup Luncheon 2:30pm KFC (Ed Wing) 6:00pm Domincoes (Dining Rm)	10:30am Staff Meeting (WslYRm) 6:30pm Xn Chaos rehearsal (Sanct.)	10:00am Pastor @ ECI Exec. 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Sanct.)	10:00am Pastor @ TMA 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop #8719 (DR) 6:30pm Trustees Meeting (LL-1) 7:00pm Bible Study (Wesley Rm)	1:30pm Mary Martha Circle	11:00am Shared Blessings Meal (DR/K) 4:00pm Tipton Tour of Lights (Hardacre Theater)	
15	8:30am Choir Kids (Sanct.) 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanct.) 11:45am Legacy Journey Preview (Sanct.) 6:30pm Christmas Program (Sanct.)	4:30pm Grief Group (RM 113) 6:30pm Xn Chaos rehearsal (Sanct.)	10:00am Pastor @ HCI (Springville UMC) 6:30pm Creative Worship (WslYRm)	Newsletter Articles Due 10:00am Pastor @ Bible Study 7:00pm No - Chancel Choir (Sanct.) 8:00pm Abigail Circle (DR/K)	9:00am LFP Christmas Party (Sanc., DR) 10:30am Pastor @ HCI (Springville UMC) 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #5302 (rm. 111) 7:00pm Priscilla Circle (DR/K)		
22	8:30am Choir Kids (Sanct.) 10:30am Worship (Sanct.) 2:30pm Service of the Long Shadows 4:30pm Christmas Caroling	LFP Christmas Break	Christmas Eve Office Closed 2:00pm Prairie Hills Program 3:00pm Early Christmas Service (Sanct.) 10:00pm Late Christmas Servi	Christmas Day Office Closed 10:00am Pastor @ Bible Study	Pastor on Vacation	Meeting of the Holy Folders	11:00am Shared Blessings Meal (DR/K)
29	Pastor on Vacation 10:30am Worship (Sanct.)	Pastor on Vacation 6:30pm Xn Chaos rehearsal (Sanct.)	Jan 1, 14				

Dec 1 - 7

Dec 8 - 14

Dec 15 - 21

Dec 22 - 28

Dec 29 - Jan 4



A concert band will perform music during worship on December 8. If you would like to play, there will be a rehearsal at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary on Tuesday December 3 and Thursday December 5. God wants YOU to praise him with music:

Psalm 150:1-6 Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!



Left: Many rakes make light work. As a team of 15 work hard to clear the leaves from Donna Marquett's Yard.

Below: Ryan Stonebraker, Mary McKinney & Twyla Hein finish raking the corner of this yard at Make a Difference Community Work Day, Sunday November 10.



Above: Chris McKinney, Rich Zobel & Carmen Hoffman wearing traditional clothing for World Communion Sunday, Oct 6.

Below: Renee Mente, Joyce Slach & Alisha Hubler look great serving Communion on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 6.



Right: It wasn't all work at Make a Difference Community Work Day. Alec and Adam Heil can't resist a huge pile of leaves.



Grace and Peace! My how God has been present in

Thank You

my time at Tipton. You all have blessed me so much and November 17th was just another reminder of that. I could not have gone through this trial of treatments without you all. I cannot say thank you enough for your support, your encouragement, and your love gift offering. It will be a blessing as I start to get reestablished up in Dubuque. Never worry though, I don't stay away for long! Blessings and remember, God is Good...All The Time,

Alec Amosson



The Legacy Journey

Make it a new year's resolution to start the year right by taking Dave Ramsey's class, The Legacy Journey. The Legacy Journey is the class that will teach you how to live and leave a legacy—one that will bless your family, community and the world for generations to come. This brand-new course doesn't replace Financial Peace University (FPU); it builds on the foundation for your money that FPU provides. This class is for both FPU graduates and anyone who wants a biblical framework for dealing with money and wealth. You'll learn practical how-tos on investing wisely, planning your estate, giving generously, building generational wealth and more.

The Legacy Journey is a seven-week class that will meet once a week for 90 minutes on Thursday evenings starting January 9. The cost is \$109 per family plus shipping and handling for the class materials/membership kit. A CLASS PREVIEW will be held on Sunday, December 15 right after worship. To learn more and/or register for the class, go to <http://www.daveramsey.com/legacy/locations/org/16209/class/245113>. Contact Bob Young or Jane Moen (class coordinators) if you have questions. Interested in taking the class? Please REGISTER (online or at the church) and pay for your membership kit (in the church office) by Sunday, Dec. 29.

GROWTH & IMPACT GROUPS (GIGs)

Most GIGs are done with their first 10-week series and have been invited to relax from the weekly schedule during December. GIGs are invited to 'crank it up' again starting in January. They'll be using devotional materials in January and February. The goal here is to help one another begin the year successfully growing one's personal devotion life and discipline.

The first week in March we'll begin a series for Lent, which will culminate with Holy Week and Easter, which is April 20th.

If you are wanting to GET A GIG, this presents two great times to get one started! Get a group together or contact the church office and let's get EVERYONE in a GIG. Hey GUYS, right now, women in GIGs outnumber males more than 2 to 1. It's time to take responsibility for your personal and family's spiritual health! Let's get a GIG or two composed of MEN!

Calling all HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS and 2014-15 COLLEGE & SEMINARY STUDENTS: Make your Christmas break profitable! Apply for a Carroll Mitchell scholarship. The deadline is mid-March 2014.

THE CARROLL MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The scholarships are awarded as follows: 1) to someone who has demonstrated a commitment to working in the ministry, Christian education, mission training, etc.; 2) to students attending an accredited college, technical school or area school. Applicants of all ages and levels beyond high school shall be considered but first year post high school will be given preference [for the undergrad scholarship.] Applicants must disclose a realistic financial plan; and must be a member or constituent of 1st UMC-Tipton.

Applications are available at www.iumpf.org; go to Other Scholarships; scroll down to Carroll Mitchell. If you have questions contact Pastor Paul.

There are other scholarships listed at the website. Read the qualification guidelines – you may be eligible!

SERVICE OF LONG SHADOWS Sunday, December 22nd at 2:30 p.m.

I read a title of a book. I don't remember it exactly, but the gist was Be Faithful, Marry a Pregnant Virgin. Isn't that the truth? Now when I think about it, being "weird" didn't start with Jesus preaching the "sermon on the mount." It began in the very beginning, and the entire Christ-event is just another chapter in the 'book of weird!'

But that's all good news, because into our messy lives that same Jesus Christ continues to make himself at home, and in the most weird ways to bring joy, hope, peace and love. The Service of Long Shadows is for people who can identify with life's difficult and unwelcome moments and circumstances; the same people who have experienced light in darkness, joy in sorrow, hope in the chaos. Yup, we have a weird God who really works!

Refreshments and fellowship are an important part of this event. If you'd like to help provide hospitality, please contact Pastor Paul. ("Hospitality" involves serving hot cider/coffee and snack-stuff which is already provided.)

Hosted by First United Methodist Church
Community welcome. Invite/bring friends!

December Sunday Servants

Liturgists

- 8 – Glenn Fear
- 15 – Judy Rouse
- 22 – Berrie Glick
- 29 – Larry Glick

Power Point

- 1 – Brian or MJ Heil (both)
- 8 – Carmen Hoffman (both)
- 15 – Alec Heil (both)
- 22 – Becky Young (create), Daniel Charette (run)
- 29 – Zoe, Alek and Andrew Comstock (both)

Lighting Advent Candles

- 8 – The Walter Family
- 15 – Sherry Willey
- 22 – Liz Simons & Maddie Peters

Fellowship Coffee

- 1 – Ron & Lois Salmonson; Mike & Deb Eisele; Kevin & Dawn Spickerman
- 8 – UMW Soup Luncheon; Cookie and Candy Sale
- 15 – Kim Cross and Twyla Hein; Ginny & Bob Cummins; Cummins-VanScoy Family
- 22 – Glen & Ellen Fear; J & Roberta Gesling; Larry & Berrie Glick
- 24 – Glen & Ellen Fear; J & Roberta Gesling; Larry & Berrie Glick
- 29 – Rick & Judy Rouse; Bob & Glenda Holets; Alisha & Josh Hubler

Ushers

Wallick Family and Mente Family

Greeters

- 1 – Marvin and Frances Ford
- 8 – Bob and Becky Young
- 15 – Tom and Mary Ehresman
- 22 – Judy Ohrt, Rodney Ohrt, & Sherry Willey
- 29 – Larry and Kathy Houstman

Nursery

- 1 – O'Leary Family
- 8 – Deanna and Steven Licht
- 15 – Cary and Pam Lieser
- 22 – Matt and Alicia Harper
- 29 – Renee Mente

Communion Stewards

Karen Streffling

Children's Lesson

- 1 – Penny Webb & Jenny Boldt
- 8 – Cary Lieser
- 15 – Berrie Glick
- 22 – Dusty Johnson
- 29 – Jen'Nifer Comstock

Video Camera

- 1 – Alec Heil
- 8 – A willing volunteer. Is it you?
- 15 – Mary McKinney
- 22 – Ruel Wehde
- 29 – Zoe, Alek or Andrew Comstock

Acolytes

- 1 – Margaret O'Leary & Maddie Peters
- 8 – Zoe Stonebraker & Avary Calonder
- 15 – Levi & Sommer Daniel
- 22 – Volunteers
- 29 – Volunteers

Presence and Gifts from Oct.

Presence: Worship: 13th-106, 20th-132, 27th-120
Sunday School: 6th-81, 13th-72, 20th-72, 27th-66

Average attendance: Worship: 119;
Sunday School: 75

Gifts: General Fund \$9,700.00, * Upper Room \$5.76, * Copies \$106.60, Apportionments \$100.00, * Book – Holding Your Family Together \$13.00, * Book - 40 Days of Community \$60.00, Shared Blessings \$4.00, Copper Kettle \$339.80, Blanket Sunday \$395.00, Missions - Back Pack Buddies \$61.07, Mission Market \$24.00, Ingathering \$32.00, * World Communion Sunday \$453.50, Grand Total \$11,294.73



During winter break please consider joining The Holy Folders on **Friday, December 27th** at 8:15 a.m. See how a hand full of volunteers do the important job of keeping the church informed. This is a great time for students and their families to participate, since there is no school. Many hands make light work; the newsletter is usually ready to go by 9:30 a.m., so you can help and still enjoy a full day. Maybe with your help it could be done faster. During winter break many of our “regular Holy Folders” are out of town, so it is a great time to come when you are needed. On December 27th cookies and refreshments will be served.

B irthdays and A nniversaries

(members and constituents)

- 1 – Phillip Hargrave, Donald Kallenberger, Kinley Williams, Ferris & Red Davis
- 2 – Frances Kuehl, Madelynn Peters, Esther Witmer
- 3 – Abby Cummins-VanScoy, Alicia Harper
- 5 – Mike Eisele, Teri Ford
- 6 – Courtney Klouda
- 7 – Amanda Paul
- 8 – Gordon Esbeck
- 9 – Ellie Lieser, Mark Lukemyres
- 10 – Christopher McKinney, Kay Miller, Jim Shontz
- 11 – Jack Fraseur, Jim & Vivian Shontz
- 12 – Henry Wiskus, Ken & Deb McKay
- 13 – Nancy Burroughs
- 14 – Mason Griebel, Dawson Mente, Judy Ohrt, Colbie Schultz, Corbey & Angela Swick
- 15 – Adam Calonder, Bobbie Lieser
- 17 – Kris Kuehl, Dustin Morden
- 18 – Jim Jorgensen, Keaton & Caden Schultz, Nathen & Kim Anderson
- 19 – Max Keller, Lonnie Krenz, Griffin Ormsby
- 20 – Drew Oberfrank, Jada Schmidt
- 21 – Steven Eiler, Derek Nebergall, Lea Stonebraker
- 23 – Cameron Wallick
- 24 – Scott Anderson, Koby Johnston
- 25 – Allan Baird, Ron Burroughs, Todd Swick
- 26 – Red Davis, Greg Royer, Ryne Schroeder
- 27 – Danica Rippentrop, Judy Rouse
- 28 – Tucker Ormsby
- 29 – Marjorie Stonerook
- 30 – Jenny Boldt, Carly Paustian, Mike & Connie Semotan
- 31 – Lisa Allen, Noah Johnson, Jen Royer, Irene Wood

(Please contact the church office for additions and/or corrections.)

Cedar County will again be offering gift cards for food to persons who qualify based on household size and income. Forms are on the bulletin board outside the church office. We'll make more as needed.

Cedar County Public health is giving an assist to this effort this year, but if you have questions, call the County Relief office first [886-2170]; but if you do need to talk to a person, contact Cedar County Public Health [886-2226].

W orship in D eember

Dec. 1 — Communion; **1st Sunday of Advent**

Music: Chancel Choir; keyboards

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Special

Speaker: Mark Stransky, Covenant Missionary from Project Crossroads, Marian, VA.

Dec. 8 — **2nd Sunday of Advent**

Music: Christian Chaos, Choir Kids, Concert Band

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 15 — **3rd Sunday in Advent**

Music: Chancel Choir & Keyboards

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11

6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 22 — **4th Sunday of Advent**

Music: Choir Kids, Christian Chaos

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

2:30 p.m. Service of Long Shadows

Dec. 24 — **Christmas Eve Worship**

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 1:1-20

3:30 p.m. This is a celebration, music new and old; and some 'surprises' during worship!

10:00 p.m. "Traditional" Christmas Eve with carols, communion and candles.

(Following both services you are invited to a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Room around cookies, snacks and hot cider.)

Dec. 29 — **Christ is Born!!**

Music: Keyboard and more carols!

Scripture: Romans 8:31-32; Philippians 4:4-9

There is MUCH ROOM for special music throughout December. Watch for the Chime Choir and the Band, but how bout you?? Wouldn't it be great to have some specials Christmas Eve??

Tipton FUMC's Sunday service is shown on MediaCom Cable Channel 5 on the following
Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and then again
Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
607 LYNN
TIPTON, IOWA 52772

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Mission Statement:

Tipton First United Methodist Church

invites people into a relationship with Jesus, provides all we need to grow to be like him, and sends us to be his hands and feet in our community and world.

Tipton First United Methodist Church Staff:

Pastor - Paul Frederiksen	Administrative Ministries Coordinator - Jennifer Comstock
Accompanist - Sylvia Gould	Custodian - Don Griffith
Chancel Choir Director - Alice Ann Gallagher	Choir Kids Director - Denise Cartwright
Choir Kids Accompanist - Dee Wallace	Christian Chaos Director - Denise Cartwright
Bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference - Julius Calvin Trimble	
East Central District Superintendent - David Crow	
East Central Iowa District Field Outreach Minister - Jill Sanders	
Ministers of Jesus Christ in the World - All the People of God!	