

*The Sunday Bulletin*  
*First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011



ARISE, SHINE,

FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME,  
AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD  
RISES UPON YOU,

~ FROM ISAIAH 60

*Reverends Carman & Donna Minarik, Pastors.*

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# *In This Week's Bulletin*

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First United Methodist Church is a welcoming, accepting, caring, and diverse Christian community committed to teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people through faith-based worship, exciting programs and outreach ministry. We offer two opportunities for worship on Sunday mornings. The 9:15am service is a less formal, contemporary service of praise music. The 11:00am service is more traditional in its music and liturgy. Both services are designed to connect worshippers with God in a meaningful and relevant way, and the scripture and message are the same at each.

Your participation in worship today is truly a blessing. We welcome an opportunity to talk with you about the ministries of this congregation, the Christian faith or United Methodist beliefs. If you are interested in baptism or making this community of faith your church home, please contact Reverend Carman Minarik or Reverend Donna Minarik at the Church Office.

❁ Flowers adorning the Altar this morning are presented to the glory of God.  
They are given in memory of Mildred Homert by Doris Breitreuz.

❁ A calendar for dedicating flowers is located on the door of the Sacristy in the Sanctuary's East Parlor which is on your right when you're facing front of the Sanctuary and the Chancel and Altar.

◆ A staffed nursery for infants and children to three years of age is outside the doors at the right of the front of the Sanctuary.

◆ A "cry room" is located at the rear of the Sanctuary.

It is equipped with rocking chairs and quiet toys where you may comfort a child while hearing the service.

◆ Please join us for Fellowship Time with snacks, beverages, and, of course, fellowship!  
(It's in the Multipurpose Room between services on Two-Service Sundays, or after service on Single-Service Sundays.)

◆ Donated bread is wrapped for delivery in the basement Fellowship Hall during these times as well (except *before* Single Services), and help can almost always be put to good use. Also see the *Parish Week* Calendar for other Bread Wrapping Sessions.

<i>Serving as Greeters Today are:</i>	Jim & Linda Willneff at the East Door
	Loretta & Wes Ballard at the West Door
	Pamela Shropshire at the Cass Door

◆ Ministers ~ The Congregation

- ◆ Pastors ~ The Reverends Carman & Donna Minarik
- ◆ Pastor Emeritus ~ The Reverend William Rickard
- ◆ Director of Music & Worship Ministries ~ Michael Emshwiller
- ◆ Director of Children's & Youth Ministries ~ Kim Evans
- ◆ Oasis Praise Coordinators ~ Rick Eldridge & Sue Rosso
- ◆ Pianist ~ Bonnie Robbins-McCormick (Second Service)
- ◆ Head Usher ~ Keith Rosso
- ◆ Custodian ~ Julie Baumer
- ◆ Administrative Assistant ~ Steve Loveland



## *First United Methodist Church*

- ◆ Mailing Address ~ 57 Southbound Gratiot Avenue, Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043-5545
  - ◆ Website ~ [www.mountclemensumc.org](http://www.mountclemensumc.org)
  - ◆ General E-Mail ~ [office@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:office@mountclemensumc.org)
  - ◆ Office Phone ~ 586.468.6464
  - ◆ Office Fax ~ 586.468.6845
- ◆ Regular Office Hours ~ 8:30am to 12:00pm & 12:30pm to 4:00pm, Monday through Thursday
- ◆ **Please see Page 11 for Church Office Hours During & About the Holidays.**

# Order of Worship

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## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

*Ode to Joy*  
The Carillon Bells

Beethoven/McKechnie

### \* Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice with exceeding great joy!

**People: For the True Light is coming!**

Leader: Sing Gloria, Alleluia!

**People: For Love's Pure Light will bring light to the darkness.**

### \* Opening Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Hymnal #238

### Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reading & Lighting are Justine, Gabrielle, Jordan, & Sydney Olszewski

### Offertory

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*  
Melissa Straney & Bonnie Robbins-McCormick, four-handed piano duet

arr. Joel Raney

### \* Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Hymnal #94

### \* Prayer of Dedication

O God, at creation the morning stars sang together before you, and at the birth of your Son, angels praised you, singing "Glory to God in the highest." May our offerings be a true sacrifice of praise, helping speed the time of peace on earth, and goodwill among all your people. Amen.

### Cantata

*The Tapestry of Light*

Joseph Martin

### Blessing & Sending Forth

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\* Those able are invited to stand.

# Lyrics for The Christmas Cantata

## THE TABERNACLE OF LIGHT

### **Carols of Hope & Light** The Chancel Choir & Orchestra

Rejoice, rejoice, your Light will come on Christmas day, on Christmas day.

Rejoice, rejoice and greet the Son on Christmas day in the morning.

Rejoice, rejoice, prepare the way for Christmas day, for Christmas day.

Rejoice, rejoice, declare your praise on Christmas day in the morning. Arise and shine!

Your Light will come, and God will send His chosen one. Arise and shine! Your Light will come.

Rejoice and see what the Lord has done. Come raise your songs of joy and mirth. Sing of the Promise come to earth.

Let all creation lift its voice with heart and soul and voice.

Give ye heed to what we say: "News! News! Soon the Lord will come to stay. To a lowly cattle stall, God will give a gift to all."

Lift a song of praise! Alleluia! Sing to God a jubilant song!

Rejoice, rejoice, your Light will come on Christmas day, on Christmas day.

Rejoice, rejoice, your light will come on Christmas day in the morning!

Let all the people sing! Let steeples ring, for on Christmas day, Light will come!

### **Longing for the Light** The Chancel Choir & Orchestra with Dan McLatcher & Eric Campbell, tenor soloists

Come, o Come, Emmanuel. Come and ransom Israel. Come with pow'r and majesty. Loose our bonds and set us free.

Come, Thou Wisdom from on high. Come and bring Your guiding light. Guide us with thy mighty hand.

Bring us to the Promised land. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Rejoice! Rejoice!

The light will come, the Babe, the Son of Mary. Come, O come, great Lord of grace. Come, inhabit all of our praise.

Fill us with Your peace and light; death's dark shadows put to flight. Come, O come Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

### **An Advent Garden** The Chancel Choir & Orchestra

A tender rose is blooming, a flower pure as snow. The winter air perfuming, heaven's graceful winds will blow.

The gift of love sent from above will like a garden grow. The desert sands will come alive as streams begin to flow.

The barren lands will bloom and thrive. The hills will be made low. In ev'ry place, God's gift of grace will like a garden grow.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the earth lift its voice; for a new rose is blooming in Zion. Let the garden rejoice.

The lion and the lamb will rest. The bear will feed on straw. In Zion hope will reign at last.

A Child will lead them all.

The gift of peace will be released and like a garden grow. Then peace, like a garden, will grow.

**The Cantata Lyrics Continue on the Following Pages.**

## ***The Holy Child of Mary* The Chancel Choir & Orchestra**

The holy Child of Mary, O Son of perfect grace. You are peace and love sent from above. You are worthy of our praise.  
The stars that shine in heaven, the snow upon the trees are pure and bright and filled with light, but none compares with Thee.  
Ev'ry valley is exalted, each mountain made low. The crooked and the broken are now all made whole.  
The wonder of heaven has come to our night. The son born of May is God's perfect light. Noel, noel.  
O holy night of wonders, O night when Christ came down, let the earth rejoice with tuneful noise and jubilation sound.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is born! Rejoice!

## ***O Wondrous Night* The Chancel Choir & Orchestra with Rebecca Johnson, soprano solo**

O wondrous night, the stars on high are singing. This is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
O glorious sight, the angel choirs are winging, bringing the news of peace to all the earth. Rejoice! Rejoice!  
This is a time for worship! Lift up your voice and tune your heart for praise. O wondrous night that brought the gift of Jesus.  
O wondrous night that saw the light of grace.  
O wondrous night, the heavens shine with glory, beaming with light, love paints the shadows gold;  
and from the heights, the angels share the story, "Glory to God," they shout with voices bold. Rejoice! Rejoice!  
This is a time for worship! Lift up your voice and tune your heart for praise.  
O wondrous night that brought the gift of Jesus. O wondrous night that saw the light of grace.

## ***A Celtic Noel* The Chancel Choir, Orchestra & the Handbell Trio**

Noel, noel! The heavens are ringing Creation is singing as angels take wing. Noel, noel!  
Let great jubilation resound through creation to welcome the King. Sing alleluia, alleluia! Gloria, gloria! Glory to God!  
Noel, noel! The song is beginning with praise and thanksgiving. Sing "Jesus is born." Noel, noel! The angels are praising.  
The shepherds are raising their voice to the sky. Noel, noel! Lay gifts now before Him.  
Come kneel and adore Him, the Savior divine. Sing alleluia, alleluia! Gloria, gloria!  
Glory to God. Noel, noel! God's light is upon us. His Word is among us, for Jesus in born.  
It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'ns all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the glorious angels sing! Sing Noel! Sing noel!

## ***Carols of the Quest* The Chancel Choir & Orchestra**

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine. Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign.  
Christ came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all; and his shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.  
O sing a song of Bethlehem, of seekers from afar who traveled through the wilderness, inspired by heaven's star.  
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills the earth today, of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.  
O star of wonder, star of might, shine down on us we pray, As with gladness, kings of old did the guiding star behold.  
Burn bright your hopeful message clear in ev'ry heart today. As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright.  
O Morning Star, rise in our lives and lead us to Love's place, and teach us to be stars of light and people of your grace.  
Make us people of your grace.

### ***A Celtic Gloria!* The Children's & Youth Choirs, Chancel Choir & Orchestra**

Give praise all creation. Rejoice ev'ry nation. With glad jubilation sing, "Jesus is born!" The stars all are singing.  
The bells all are ringing. The people are bringing their praise to the Lord! Sing, "Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Jesus is born!"

The music is swelling. The heavens are telling with songs, so compelling, that "Jesus is born!"

The angels on high raise a jubilant song! They soar through the heavens with shouts clear and strong!

Come celebrate joy all you people of light! The Savior is born on this glorious holy night, on this glorious night!

A new day is breaking. A new hope is waking. God's promise is taking our darkness away.

The day shines with glory as dawn tells the story; for this is the morning God wakes us with grace.

Sing, "Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Jesus is born!" Give praise all creation, Rejoice ev'ry nation.

With glad jubilation sing, "Jesus is born!"

### ***Bethlehem Light* The Chancel Choir & Orchestra with Rebecca Johnson, soprano solo**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting Light; and all the hopes and fears of all the years are met in the tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.

O come, O come to us, Abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. O come to us, Abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

### ***Carols of Celebration* The Chancel Choir & Orchestra**

Rejoice, rejoice all ye people of faith. Shout with the angels in jubilant refrain. In jubilant refrain, give thanks now and sing.

Rejoice, let alleluias ring. Awake, awake for the morning is nigh.

Dawn breaks with singing and everlasting light, with everlasting light. God sent us His Son.

Rejoice, rejoice, for Jesus has come. Come and hear the gladsome song that fills the earth with grace.

Gather at the manger and bring a gift of praise!

Sing for joy! Praise the Lord! Let your music be restored! Sing for joy! Tell the happy news that Christ is born today.

Sing for joy! Christ the Lord is born today!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place; and with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace;  
for Christ is born in Bethlehem and come to bring us grace.

O tidings of comfort and of joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and of joy.

Good Christians now rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.

Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Your Light has come on Christmas day, on Christmas day. Rejoice! Rejoice!

Now greet the Son on Christmas day in the morning.

O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Come adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

# *Vocalists, Instrumentalists, & Personnel for The Cantata*



## *∞ The Narrators ∞*

Ron Dewey, Laura Littrell, & Marsha Lynch.

## *∞ The Chancel Choir ∞*

<b>Soprano</b>	<b>Alto</b>	<b>Tenor</b>	<b>Bass</b>
Ellen Amtz	Lynn Artes	Emerson Amtz	Kenneth Fowler
Jennifer Curts	Nellie Griffin	Eric Campbell	
Deanna Daly	Lois Hill		Vince Galici
Rebecca Johnson		Michael Johnson	
Leeanne Lafreniere	Teresa Holderer		
Gayle Luther	Barbara Knuth	Dan McLatcher	
Linda McLatcher	Kathleen Oakley		Truman Guard
Andrea Miller	Julie Strayer	Eric Munn	
Gertrude Segar			
Euella Thomas			
Joyce Wells	Dee Jay Whittam	Gregory West	Thomas Hill

## *∞ The Children's & Youth Choirs ∞*

Annica Broker, Jessica Evans, Rory Flanigan, Chase Grigsby,  
Ashley Hofer, Jessica Hofer, Roy Hofer,  
Terra Lafreniere, Tia Lafreniere,  
Gabrielle Olszewski, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski,  
Alissa Malburg, Bennett Malburg,  
John Sunday, Katie Sunday, & Anthony Viggiano.

## ☞ *The Orchestra* ☛

### **Piano**

Bonnie Robbins-McCormick

### **Flute I**

Christine Dewey

### **Flute I**

Darcie West

### **Flute II**

Danielle Fowler

### **Flute II**

Cheryl French

### **Flute II**

Emily Minarik

### **Clarinet I**

Janet Brown

### **Clarinet II**

Kyle Kostenko

### **Violin I**

Jamal Ali

### **Trumpet I**

Justin Makarewicz

### **Violin II**

Kathleen Perkins

### **Oboe**

Mikenna Keller

### **Bassoon**

Rachel Brown

### **Trombone I**

Breanna Brown

### **Trombone II**

Jared Koverman

### **Percussion**

Michael Miller

### **Bass**

Warren Minarik

## ☞ *The Handbell Trio* ☛

Sallie Miller, Linda Pillow, & Steve Semrau.

## ☞ *The Conductor* ☛

Michael Emshwiller

## ☞ *The Sound Technicians* ☛

Vito Carollo & Rick Lyon



If you are interested exploring and lending your talents and joining in with the any of the Choirs, Orchestra, or the A/V Ministry, speak with Michael Emshwiller, Director of Music & Worship, or contact him through the Church Office!

*Poinsettias are Given in Honor of:*

- ◆ The Music Department of First Church by Michael Emshwiller
- ◆ Bonnie Robbins-McCormick by Michael Emshwiller
- ◆ My children & grandchildren by Elaine Walton

*Poinsettias are Given in Memory of:*

- ◆ James U. DeFrancis by Marjorie DeFrancis
- ◆ John E. Donahue, Jack & Delores Largent, Amanda Lynn Donahue Young, Merry Kinderman & Ruthann Barker by Nancy C. Donahue
- ◆ Virginia Emshwiller, Tom & Jean Emshwiller, & Broshia Hylton by Michael Emshwiller & Brent Ruby
  - ◆ Jean Emshwiller & Broshia Hylton by Jon & Joyce Emshwiller
  - ◆ Tom Fowler, June Winbigler, & Helen Laney by Kenneth & Joanna Fowler
- ◆ Loved Ones by Gaer & Bobbie Guerber
- ◆ Merlin Damon by Linda L. Johnston
  - ◆ Louis & Jewell Meyersieck by Marilyn Nielsen
- ◆ Tekla Noteware and Roy & Shirley R. Champion by Kathy, Ben & Jon Oakley
  - ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd R. Strait & Lynn C. Strait by Linda Strait
- ◆ Mary Swistock, Stephen Swistock, Kenneth Swistock, & Philip Tedesco by Ruth Swistock
- ◆ Chuck Walton by Elaine Walton
- ◆ George W. Wiggins, Jr. & Nathan Chad Peterson by Gladys Wiggins

*Ornaments on the “Building Our Future” Tree are Given in Honor of:*

- ◆ Our Families by Aaron & Bethany Gimm
- ◆ Chase & Desi Grigsby by Kitty Kinic
- ◆ Drew & Brady Donovan by Dan & Linda McLatcher
- ◆ Lou Anella by Christopher Miller
- ◆ Dr. Arnall by Christopher Miller
- ◆ Janet Cole by Christopher Miller
  - ◆ All Cancer Survivors by Kim Miller
  - ◆ All Fighters & Survivors of Cancer by Lauren Miller
    - ◆ Parents & Kim, Christopher, & Lauren by Sallie & Mike Miller
  - ◆ Our Many Renovation Volunteers by Revs. Carman & Donna Minarik
    - ◆ Gavin Mathew Paul by Richard & Sandra Paul
    - ◆ Our Grandchildren by Paul & Sue Tregembo

***The dedications are listed in alphabetical order by the last names of those who gave them.***

*Ornaments on the “Building Our Future” Tree are Given in Memory of:*

- ◆ Jeanette Hill by Thomas & Lois Hill
- ◆ Barbie Lynch by Marty & Marsha Lynch
- ◆ Jack Prescott by Christopher Miller
- ◆ Patty Clegg by Kathy, Ben, & Jon Oakley
- ◆ Our Parents by Bob & Jocelyn Prevost

*Ornaments on the “Honoring Our Past” Tree are Given in Honor of:*

- ◆ Kaitlyn, Christopher, & Autumn French by Cheryl & Mark French
  - ◆ My Mother by Linda L. Johnston
  - ◆ Loved Ones by Keith & Mary Philo

*Ornaments on the “Honoring Our Past” Tree are Given in Memory of:*

- ◆ Ruth & Frank Yohe by Thomas & Lois Hill
- ◆ Christine Arnone by Mike & Betty Keller
- ◆ Jackie Word & Joseph Kinic by Kitty Kinic
- ◆ Shirley & Evelyn Corsaut by Marty & Marsha Lynch
- ◆ Lloyd & Rosemary McLatcher & Dallas West by Dan & Linda McLatcher
  - ◆ Bruce T. Miller by Andrea L. Miller
  - ◆ Family Gone Before Us by Sallie Miller
- ◆ Mom, Dad, Jack, & Dick by Revs. Carman & Donna Minarik
  - ◆ Edward Nielsen by Marilyn Nielsen
  - ◆ Patty Clegg by Kathy, Ben & Jon Oakley
  - ◆ Ralph Paul by Richard & Sandra Paul
  - ◆ Emma Momany by Micki Schichtel
  - ◆ Nancy M. Eagle by Linda Strait
- ◆ Tom & Justine Lucky by Paul & Sue Tregembo

***The dedications are listed in alphabetical order by the last names of those who gave them.***

## **The Next New Member Orientation**

Our next New Member Orientation gathering is scheduled for Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. If you are interested in joining the church or just want to learn more about this congregation, we'd love to have you as part of this gathering, so please do fill out a Ministry Opportunity Sheet (which can be found on the clipboards in the pews) and checkmark this and any other options that interest you.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship This Saturday**

Join us for Christmas Eve worship at either or both 7:00pm and 11:00pm on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Communion will be celebrated at both services. At each, you will have an opportunity to sing some of your favorite carols and light a candle to celebrate the light that Jesus' birth brings to our lives. Whatever your traditions are on this holy night, be sure to set aside an hour for worship and come as you are (even pajama attire is welcome!) to remember and reflect on the story of the birth of our Savior. If you have family and friends visiting at your house, bring them to the Lord's house! See you there!

## **Child Care on Christmas Eve & Beyond**

Child care is available (for children through three years of age) at most all worship services. This includes the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service. The only exception at this time is the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service, during which the Nursery will not be staffed. The Nursery is through either door in the hall outside of the double doors at the sides of the Sanctuary's Chancel stage.

## **Christmas Day Single Worship Service Next Sunday**

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, so we will worship our blessed Savior together with a carol sing, reflection time, and some surprises. Join us on that wondrous Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, for a 10:00am single service.

## **New Year's Day Single Worship Service**

New Year's Day falls on a Sunday as well, join us Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, at 10:00am, as we welcome the New Year in praise and celebrate communion during a very informal single service.

## **Check out the *Parish Week Plus***

As the holidays take hold here at church, some programs are "on vacation" and others are not, so be sure to take a careful look at the *Parish Week Calendar* at the back of this *Sunday Bulletin!* The surrounding articles will also offer more information about a lot of these dates.

## **Holiday Season Church Office Hours**

The Church Office will close at 4:00pm on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, for limited hours (8:30am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm) for that day's "Stowing of the Greens" (please see the article on page 12 for more information). Regular hours resume Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. And thanks from the staff to the whole congregation for this time to recharge after this most busy if most joyous season in the life of the church's work.

## **Helpers Will Be Needed to “Stow the Greens”**

You and yours are invited to join in that decidedly modern tradition, “The Stowing of the Greens,” which, due to New Year’s Day falling on a Sunday this year, will take place on a Tuesday this time around, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, to be precise, at 11:00am. Please join us for pizza, some fun, and a little work as we pack up our Christmas decorations. We’ll meet in the Sanctuary. See you there!

## **Confirmation Begins**

The first Confirmation Class is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, at 6:00pm in the Church Library. If you are in sixth grade (or older) and wish to explore our faith in preparation for joining the church, this is the place for you. Classes will meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month, and participants will be confirmed on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Please call the church office to register for the class, so we can best prepare for our first meeting.

## **The Next Gathering of Women With Faith**

Women With Faith will meet Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 1:00pm at the Mount Clemens Library. Truman Guard will be giving the program explaining First UMC’s Endowment Fund. Please join us! The Women With Faith group is open to all women. See page 14 for information on Women With Faith’s collection for the up-coming First UMC/January 2012 hosting of the Warming Center.

## **The Epiphany Sing**

Come and join in the wonderful tradition of the Epiphany Sing, this year, here at First UMC on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 4:00pm. The choirs of four Mount Clemens churches will sing their favorite anthems and then also sing some glorious pieces together as one choir. We look forward to seeing you in January!

## **Next Reading for & Gathering of the Book Club**

First Church’s Book Club will meet Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, to discuss *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. The story is set in Afghanistan against the political changes of three decades, from soviet occupation through civil war and the rise of the Taliban. Two women married to the same man survive and bond in a patriarchal society where custom and law allow the abuse of women. The meeting will be at 7:00pm in the Church Library and all are invited.

## **Set Sail With Wednesday J.A.M. (Jesus And Me)**

Kids four years old through eighth grade, come on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 5:00pm, to join in the fun at First UMC’s new, re-vamped Wednesday program! With a new name, *Wednesday J.A.M.*, comes an exciting new approach to First UMC’s mid-week education ministry. There will be singing and playing, learning and crafting, and a meal for everyone. Just picture the fun of Vacation Bible School EVERY Wednesday... don’t miss it! This exciting ministry will need many excited volunteers, so contact Kim Evans, Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries, to volunteer and for more information for all interested kids and grown-ups!

*Parish News Continues on the Next Page.*

# *Parish News* (Continued)

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## **Calling All Ninth-thru-Twelfth Graders!**

Starting on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 4:30pm, we will start Youth Group. We will have music, dinner, and Bible Study time. Please plan on coming and join in on the fun. Plus we need to make plans for our next Summer Mission Trip! If you have any questions, please contact Kim Evans, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries at church.

## **Open Hearts & Helping Hands Needed at the Warming Center**

The Macomb County Warming Center returns to First Church on Sunday evening, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and continues through Sunday Morning, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Warming Center seeks to provide a safe, warm place to spend the night for those who would otherwise have no shelter. Macomb County churches partner with the Macomb County Warming Center to provide shelter to those in need. The Warming Center opens at 8:00pm each night and provides a simple supper and breakfast. Floor space is provided for sleeping with a blanket and pillow. The only requirement for admittance is good behavior. Many volunteers will be needed in order to host the Warming Center. To find out where you can help, check the Bulletin Board in the Multipurpose Room. For more information, contact the Church Office and/or visit [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org). **Please note that the section of the Sign-Up Sheets with all of the Saturday Night/Sunday Morning slots is now posted too; sorry for any confusion.**

## **Year-End Contributions**

Please note that any contributions you would like to see credited on your final giving statement for this year would best be received at the Church Office by 4:00pm on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, as the Church Office will be closed for the entire week following Christmas Day and will not re-open until Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. There will be a last chance to get these contributions included on your statement by coming to the Church Office between 8:30am and 10:00am on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Someone will be at the Church Office during that time.

## **Offering Envelopes for the New Year Available for Pick-Up Today**

You can pick up your box of 2012 First UMC Offering Envelopes in the Multipurpose Room on top of the Collections Area (next to the Office Lobby Stairwell). Please contact the Church Office if you're not sure you are added to our envelope system, and to learn more about using offering envelopes or other ways to expedite your giving and insure an accurate giving statement for tax purposes.

## **Up-Date on First UMC Shirt Orders**

Speak with Kim Evans, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries, to get any Youth Shirt Sale shirt you may have ordered! And look for more on sale after the holidays. *And* thanks again for supporting our Youth!

## **Hold On to This *Bulletin!***

News items will not be printed in the next couple of *Sunday Bulletins*, so you may want to refer back to this issue for your own scheduling and for sharing about your church to acquaintances during the holidays!

# *Bible Study Opportunities*

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## **Sunday School Classes**

All kids three years of age through Fifth Grade are welcome to attend Sunday School. Classes take place during 9:15am Service, immediately following the *Children's Message*. If today will be your child's first time attending, we ask that a parent or guardian accompany them to the Sunday School Room to register. **Please note that Children's Sunday School is on recess until Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, when two service Sundays resume.**

## **Men's Bible Study**

All men of First UMC are invited to attend this study on the First & Third-Mondays of each month from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Multipurpose Room. The men are studying along with author and pastor Timothy Keller's book *Gospel in Life* on the gospel and how to live it out in everyday life. **The Men's Bible Study group will not meet tomorrow Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The men will resume their regular schedule on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

## **Women's Bible Study**

All women of the church are welcome at any time to be part of this study. This group gathers in the Multipurpose Room on Second & Fourth-Mondays. The study runs from 9:30am to 11:00am. The group is studying the book *If the Church Were Christian* by Philip Gulley. **The Women's Study group will not meet on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The women will resume their regular schedule on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

# *Ministry Opportunities*

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## **Women With Faith/Warming Center In-Gathering Continues**

Women With Faith, as an on-going outside mission project, is collecting items from the "wish list" of the Macomb County Warming Center and Ray of Hope. Donations may be placed in one of the baskets marked "Women With Faith" at the Collections Area in the Multipurpose Room by the Office Lobby Stairs. Copies of the "wish list" can be found inside the baskets. If you have any questions, speak with Jocelyn Prevost or contact the Church Office during office hours. Also see page 12 for more information on Women With Faith's activities, and page 13 for other ways to help with the Warming Center homeless shelter when it comes to First UMC from Sunday night, January 29<sup>th</sup>, to Sunday morning, February 5<sup>th</sup>!

## **Fellowship Hour Volunteers Needed**

If you would like to help out with setting up juice, coffee, pastries and the like on Sundays or want more detailed information, please contact the Church Office during office hours, and/or mark your Ministry Opportunity Sheet in the pews, and/or sign up at the Bulletin Board in the Multipurpose Room.

# On~Going Activities

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## Yoga Up-Date

If you've ever been curious about yoga, but were afraid you couldn't do it or didn't want to go to a studio, this is your chance to give it a try. This FREE yoga class is open to all adults attending First UMC. It is a basic class offering a safe introduction for those who are new to the practice, as well as options for more challenging poses to those with more yoga experience. All poses are modified to fit YOUR ability and medical needs. The current schedule will continue as is through March: First & Third-Saturdays from 9:40am to 10:40am, and Second & Fourth-Thursdays from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Please contact our yoga instructor, Deb Chymiak-Isanhart, before your first class, by calling 248.506.9076, Monday thru Friday from 10:00am to 7:30pm. The classes are held in the Fellowship Hall. Check the *Parish Week Calendar* in this *Bulletin* for any dates in the weeks ahead.

## Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are offered at First Church on Wednesdays at 9:00am at a cost of \$5.00 per hour class. Great for physical and mental health and growth, Tai Chi's slow pace and tempo are perfect for adults of all ages. The group gathers in the Multipurpose Room. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact the Church Office during office hours. **Please note: no class on Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## Knit, Crochet, & Chat

This group gathers every Thursday at 9:30am in the Church Library. Folks just wanting to visit are always welcome too, but if you have a project you're wanting to finish, bring it along! Besides being creative, they try to solve the problems of the world! For more information, speak with Elaine Walton or contact the Church Office. **Please note: the Knitters will not meet on either Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.**

## The Men's Koffee Klatch

This group gathers every Thursday at 9:45am in the Multipurpose Room. There is always fresh coffee, donuts, and lots of discussion. All First Church men and their friends are welcome. **Please note: the Klatchers will not meet on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

## Prayer Quilting

This group gathers for quilting every Tuesday from 10:30am to 3:30pm in the Multipurpose Room. Their quilts are given to members of the church who need encouragement in prayer and strength, and to the Turning Point shelter for abused women. Everyone is welcome for sewing and fellowship. The Quilters eat lunch around noon, so bring your lunch and come see what's happening. Speak with any of the Quilters or contact the Church Office for more information.



# Community News

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## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

Central United Methodist Church in Waterford, will be hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 4:00pm. This year's theme is *The Beloved Community: Then My Living Shall Not be in Vain* with Keynote Speaker Reverend Faith Fowler. Attendance is open to all. For more information, call Central UMC at 248.681.0040.

## **Join Meijer Community Rewards, Shop, & Earn for Our Church**

Signing up for Meijer Community Rewards is as easy as *one phone call!* Dial Meijer Customer Service twenty-four hours a day at 800.962.7011 and press "3." Someone will take care of the whole process, even if you don't have e-mail, or a Meijer1 Rewards Card (this card will be sent to you when you're done signing up). First Church's Meijer Community Rewards Organization Number is 223491. Please note: all purchases (including gasoline) made with cash, debit card, or Meijer credit card, count towards points for First UMC's Children's & Youth Ministries! If you've already signed up before, there's no need to call, Meijer is a one-time sign-up and you're registered indefinitely... but you might want to double-check.

## *Odds & Ends*

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### **If You Appreciate Beautiful Flowers, Take Note!**

Most every Sunday you may choose to dedicate the two side vase arrangements, the centerpiece, or both, for presentation to God's glory. (Check the altar flower dedication calendar for open dates.) Your choice of arrangement can be given in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event. Of course, the flowers are yours to take after Sunday worship services conclude. The cost is \$20.00 for both of the side vases, and/or \$20.00 for the centerpiece. Payment can be placed in the offering plate, or mailed to or dropped off at the Church Office. The calendar is located in the Sanctuary's East Parlor, which is to your far right when you're facing the Altar and Chancel stage.

### **Winter Weather Guidelines**

Here are some guidelines that apply to Sunday worship and office hours in the case of bad weather. Where Sunday morning is concerned, your pastors have the blessing of living within walking distance of the church and also have a four-wheel drive vehicle, and so will be here on Sunday morning as long as the snowfall is less than, say, five feet. In other words, we will be here in any weather and there will be a worship service and we will praise God with those who are able to be here. This, of course, does not mean that you should take any risks to be here. All roads and driveways are different, so safety should be the deciding factor as to whether or not you venture out. In regards to weekdays, if the Mount Clemens Schools are closed due to snow and ice conditions for the day, the Church Office will be closed and all programs and meetings scheduled for that day will be cancelled as well. You can dial 586.469.6100 (extension 2) to confirm Mount Clemens Schools' closings.

# *The Parish Week Plus*

Sunday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	<p><i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>            9:00am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall  <b>10:00am ~ Worship/Cantata</b>            After Service ~ Fellowship Time, Multipurpose Room</p>
Tuesday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	<p>8:30am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall            10:30am ~ Prayer Quilting Session, Multipurpose Room (until 3:30pm)            11:00am ~ Article Submissions &amp; Flower Dedications for Next <i>Sunday Bulletin</i> Due            6:00pm ~ Carillon Bells Rehearsal, Music Room            7:30pm ~ Narcotics Anonymous, Multipurpose Room</p>
Wednesday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	<p>9:00am ~ Tai Chi Class, Multipurpose Room            10:00am ~ First Church Crew serving Meal at Salvation Army of Mount Clemens            5:00pm ~ Wednesday J.A.M. Planning Session, Church Library            5:30pm ~ Children's &amp; Youth Choir Rehearsals, Music Room</p>
Thursday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<p>8:30am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall            9:45am ~ Men's Koffee Klatch, Multipurpose Room            6:00pm ~ Chapel Bells Rehearsal, Music Room            7:30pm ~ Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room</p>
Saturday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	<p><i>Christmas Eve</i>  <b>7:00pm ~ Candlelight Worship</b> (childcare available)  <b>11:00pm ~ Candlelight Worship</b></p>
Sunday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	<p><i>Christmas Day</i>            9:00am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall  <b>10:00am ~ Worship/Hymn Sing</b>            After Service ~ Fellowship Time, Multipurpose Room</p>
Monday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Church Office Closed &amp; Programs on Break (unless noted otherwise) (until Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>)</p>
Tuesday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	<p>8:30am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall            10:30am ~ Prayer Quilting Session, Multipurpose Room (until 3:30pm)            7:30pm ~ Narcotics Anonymous, Multipurpose Room</p>
Thursday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	<p>8:30am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall</p>

*The Parish Week Calendar Continues on the Next Page.*

## *The Parish Week Plus (Continued from Previous Page)*

Friday, December 30 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am ~ Last Chance to Turn In Year-End Donations, Church Office (until 10:00am)
Saturday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>New Year's Eve</i>
<b>Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>New Year's Day &amp; Epiphany Sunday</i> 9:00am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall <b>10:00am ~ Worship/Hymn Sing</b> After Service ~ Fellowship Time, Multipurpose Room
Monday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Church Office Closed & Programs on Break
Tuesday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:30am ~ Church Office Re-Opens (until 11:00am) 8:30am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall 10:30am ~ Prayer Quilting Session, Multipurpose Room (until 3:30pm) 11:00am ~ Stowing of the Greens, Throughout the Building 1:00pm ~ Church Office Re-Opens (until 4:00pm) 6:00pm ~ Confirmation Class, Church Library 7:30pm ~ Narcotics Anonymous, Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am ~ Church Office Re-Opens for Regular Days/Hours Beginning Today 9:00am ~ Tai Chi Class, Multipurpose Room 7:00pm ~ Oasis Praise Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thursday, January 5 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall 9:30am ~ Knit, Crochet, & Chat Group Meeting, Church Library 9:45am ~ Men's Koffee Klatch, Multipurpose Room 1:00pm ~ Women With Faith Meeting, Mount Clemens Library 6:00pm ~ Chapel Bells Rehearsal, Music Room 7:30pm ~ Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
Saturday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:40am ~ Open Yoga Class (free to all adults attending First UMC), Fellowship Hall
<b>Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:15am ~ Worship</b> After the 9:15am Service's <i>Children's Message</i> ~ Children's Sunday School, Sunday School Rooms Between Services ~ Bread Ministry Wrapping Session, Fellowship Hall Between Services ~ Fellowship Time, Multipurpose Room <b>11:00am ~ Worship</b> <b>4:00pm ~ Epiphany Sing, Sanctuary</b> 4:00pm ~ Eighteenth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Central UMC, Waterford
<i>First Church's Recent Sunday Bulletins are Also Available on the Church Website (<a href="http://www.mountclemensumc.org">www.mountclemensumc.org</a>)</i>	



I AM

the light of the world,  
whoever follows me  
will never walk in darkness  
but will have the light of life.

~ From John 8:12