

## UMCL News & Notes Continued

**DECEMBER FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS** will gather **December 4, 7:00 PM** at Brad and Jen Johnson's Home (1033 Garfield Avenue, Libertyville) for a pre-Christmas KISS party—Keeping it Simple, Silly! Serving a light supper of Portillo's beef sandwiches; feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. We will have a few games from the Chicago Toy and Game Fair to preview and play. Meet our new puppy, Snickers. Just hang out and have fun. Please RSVP by Wed., Dec. 2—847-902-0998 (Jen cell) 847-680-7288 (home)

**PRIME TIME** will meet **Monday, December 7**. Lunch (\$5) will be served at noon. December is time for our 'White Elephant' exchange... wrap up that item around the house you no longer want or the gift you received last December! Where else can you give a gift that cost you zero \$, receive an interesting gift in return and socialize with friends! PLEASE remember to make a reservation with the church office before Friday, December 4 at 10:00 AM.

**POINSETTIAS:** It's time to begin ordering the poinsettias which will decorate our New Sanctuary December 20 and 24! If you'd like to place an order, forms are available in the back of Fellowship Hall. Orders and payment are due **December 10**. Or order online at [www.umcl.org/poinsettias](http://www.umcl.org/poinsettias)

**SAVE THE DATES—**Help will be needed to move into the New Community Room on Saturday, **December 12** and into the New Sanctuary following worship on **December 13**. Stay tuned for details!

**RUTH CIRCLE** will hold the annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on **Wednesday evening, Dec. 16** at the home of Beth March (15660 Timber Lane, Libertyville, 847-367-5175). It is a time for special Christmas fellowship so please feel free to join in. If you are interested, please call Beth to tell her what you will be contributing for the meal.

**2015 CONTRIBUTIONS** will be accepted through December 31, 2015. This includes any additional cash or check contributions received in the office through the end the day. For those considering security contributions, a copy of the Church security contribution procedure and the other forms are available from the Finance office or can be emailed to you on request. Security contributions need to be initiated no later than December 10.

**OUR NURSERY IS EXPANDING!** Due to an increase in young families and little ones, we are outgrowing our nursery! Beginning December 6 and running through Easter we will offer two nurseries. The "nursery" (room 100) will be for little ones 0-2 years and the new "toddler nursery" (room 102) will be for 2.5-4 year olds. (4+ will attend church programming) Parents of little ones will receive a letter in the mail with more details. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering please contact Amanda at the church office.

**ASP 2016** (Appalachian Service Project) is scheduled for **June 11-18** in Kentucky, for high school youth and adult leaders. Anyone (incoming freshman in fall 2016 or older) is welcome to participate. Total cost of the trip is \$325; \$100 deposit due December 1. Contact Steve Neil ([sbneil@comcast.net](mailto:sbneil@comcast.net) or 224-475-8701).

**PADS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**, especially overnight and clean-up shifts, as well as folks willing to bring in dinners on the 2nd or 4th Saturdays of the month. Contact Cathy O'Brien at 847-367-8062 or [cobrien1021@hotmail.com](mailto:cobrien1021@hotmail.com) to find out how you can help!

**NOVEMBER'S SECOND MILE GIVING** will help support: 1) **ChildServ**, which provides counseling, group therapy, life skills education, social activities recreation to the underserved in Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties. ([www.childserv.org](http://www.childserv.org)) 2) **Justice for Our Neighbors** (JFON) is a unique United Methodist ministry which provides free high quality legal assistance for immigrants in need. ([www.nijfon.org](http://www.nijfon.org), or Rev. Michael Mann at 847-931-0710 x20).

### FINANCIAL UPDATE - FOURTH QUARTER CRITICAL

The final quarter of the church year is critical to our overall financial health. At the beginning of November, the gap between actual income and actual expenses was \$112,000. We always anticipate a gap due to the pattern of giving throughout the year, but our gap at that point was about \$29,000 more than we expected. We have made some progress in November, but December will be a critical month to help us end the year in the black.

If you have gotten behind in your regular giving, we hope that you will be able to catch up. If you have been blessed this year and would like to make additional offerings and gifts to the church, this would be greatly appreciated.

God is faithful. There is much to celebrate in our life and ministry together!  
Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, November 29, 2015

~ **Family Sunday - First Sunday of Advent** ~  
8:00 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
8:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
9:00 AM—Cherub Choir  
9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)  
9:30 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
10:30 AM—Coffee Time  
10:40 AM—God's Soul Girls  
11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)  
4:30 PM—Joyful Noise & Choristers  
6:30 PM—SrHI Tide

### Monday, November 30, 2015

10:00 AM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study  
7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study  
7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)  
7:00 PM—Troop #72

### Tuesday, December 1, 2015

9:15 AM—Staff Meeting  
9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth  
12:00 & 7:30 PM—Living Free/AA  
7:00 PM—Resource Committee

### Wednesday, December 2, 2015

8:45 AM—Memos  
9:45 AM—Lectio Divina  
7:00 PM—Heritage Bells  
7:00 PM—BSA District Committee  
7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE  
7:00 PM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study

### Thursday, December 3, 2015

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA  
7:00 PM—Disciple 4  
7:30 PM—Adult Choir  
7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)

### Friday, December 4, 2015

7:00 PM—First Friday Friends (off site)

### Saturday, December 5, 2015

8:45 AM—"Watch for the Light" Advent Study  
5:00 PM—PADS (off site)

### Sunday, December 6, 2015

8:00 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
8:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
9:00 AM—Cherub Choir  
9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)  
9:30 AM—B.I.G. Time (Believers In God / Children's Sunday School; room 206)  
9:30 AM—Youth & Adult Sunday School  
10:30 AM—Coffee Time  
10:40 AM—God's Soul Girls  
11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)  
11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship (room 201)  
3:00 PM—"Love in Action" Advent Event  
4:30 PM—Joyful Noise & Choristers  
6:30 PM—SrHI Tide

### Monday, December 7, 2015

10:00 AM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study  
12:00 PM—Prime Time  
5:45 PM—Daisy Girl Scouts  
7:00 PM—Trustees

7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study

7:00 PM—UMW Leadership

7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)

7:00 PM—Troop #72

### Tuesday, December 8, 2015

9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth  
12:00 & 7:30 PM—Living Free/AA  
7:00 PM—Blue Christmas Service  
(at St. Lawrence Church)

7:00 PM—Faithful Threads (off site)

7:00 PM—Cub Scout Committee

### Wednesday, December 9, 2015

8:45 AM—Memos  
9:15 AM—Staff Meeting  
9:45 AM—Lectio Divina  
7:00 PM—Heritage Bells  
7:00 PM—Troop #72 Committee

7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE

7:00 PM—"Under Wraps" Advent Study

### Thursday, December 10, 2015

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA

7:00 PM—Disciple 4

7:30 PM—Adult Choir

7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)

### Friday, December 11, 2015

6:00 PM—Young Life Capernaum

7:00 PM—Cub Scout Committee

### Saturday, December 12, 2015

8:45 AM—"Watch for the Light" Advent Study  
5:00 PM—PADS (off site)



### Today's Scripture Passage

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us.  
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

— Luke 1:68-79

### Staff ~ United Methodist Church of Libertyville

Pastor Stephen C. Williams	<a href="mailto:pastorscwilliams@umcl.org">pastorscwilliams@umcl.org</a>
Pastor Jamie Hanna Williams	<a href="mailto:pastorjhwilliams@umcl.org">pastorjhwilliams@umcl.org</a>
Business/Operations Manager: Ruth Ross	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Ross@umcl.org">Ruth.Ross@umcl.org</a>
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Junior High Youth Minister: Heidi Nelson	<a href="mailto:Heidi.Nelson@umcl.org">Heidi.Nelson@umcl.org</a>
New Member/Ministries Coordinator: Joyce Bedell	<a href="mailto:Joyce.Bedell@umcl.org">Joyce.Bedell@umcl.org</a>
Director of Music: Jim Grace	<a href="mailto:Jim.Grace@umcl.org">Jim.Grace@umcl.org</a>
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A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

PASTORS

Stephen C. Williams • Jamie Hanna Williams

## Family Service ~ 9:30 & 11:00 am



Prelude "O Come, Emmanuel" M. Hayes

**Greetings & Announcements** Amanda Seibert & Ben Hallett  
We welcome you to our service today and invite you to greet each other with words of grace and peace. May God's blessing be upon us all as we worship together in spirit and truth. Thank you for passing the attendance pads at this time.

**\* Call to Worship**  
Leader We wait in the darkness on this first Sunday of Advent.  
**People But one small candle can banish the darkness.**  
Leader We believe that Jesus, the Light of the World, is coming.  
**People As we worship together, we share our glimmer of hope.**

**\* Opening Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. C. Thile  
Praise Band & Congregation

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** 9:30 AM—The Socie Family  
11:00 AM—The Nostrand Family

Introduction  
The Advent Wreath  
Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2  
Lighting of the Candle of Hope  
Advent Song "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 196, vs. 1

**Children's Message** Amanda Seibert

**Special Music** "Your Grace Is Enough" M. Maher  
Children of UMCL

**Prayer Together** Hey & Yay God's Heidi Nelson

**Duet** "Oceans" M. Crocker  
Emma and Sama Beltramo

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1:68-79 Sue Elsea

**Sermon** "Lighting the Way to Christmas" Amanda Seibert

\* Those who are able are invited to stand.

\*\* Please consider completing a "Joys and Concerns" card and placing it in the box at the back of Fellowship Hall. The Pastors and Prayer Team will use the cards to guide weekly prayer. Thank you.

**\* Song** "This Little Light of Mine" Traditional  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine; let it shine, let it shine.  
All throughout the night, I'm gonna let it shine!  
All throughout the night, I'm gonna let it shine; let it shine, let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**Offering / Offertory** "Softly and Tenderly" J. Raney  
**\* Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 94  
**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**\* Closing Song** "Let Us Adore" C. Brown  
Praise Band & Congregation

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude** "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" J. Sanborn



### A Warm Welcome to All!

Thanks for coming to Family Sunday! We are delighted to have all of you sharing with us in worship. You will notice that the services are a little different from our usual services. There may be some extra noise and activity while our children get to experience church on these Family Sundays. All children are welcome to grab a kid's bulletin, coloring pages and/or busy bag for extra activities (back of Fellowship Hall). Nursery care is available up to age 5 today.

If you are visiting for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Table at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall to pick up a Visitor Packet and meet our Welcoming Ministries Coordinator, Joyce Bedell (Joyce.Bedell@umcl.org), for more information about our church family. All are invited to join us for coffee, refreshments, and community sharing between the services. We look forward to seeing you there!

Many thanks to the following people for helping with our service this morning:  
Sound Tech: Bert Kibbler  
Worship Team: David Bedell, Woody Bedell, Ben Hallett, Jacqueline Hallett  
Heidi Nelson, Tom Seibert, Tim Tonon, Jennifer Whittington  
Multimedia Coordinators: Mark and Janet Mason  
Worship Leaders: Amanda Seibert, Director of Children & Family Ministries and Ben Hallett, Director of Contemporary Worship & Spiritual Growth  
November Ushers: John Aten, Bob Kowal, Chris Skinner, Wes Swearingin  
Coffee Time: Please join us for coffee and refreshments between services.

## UMCL News & Notes ~ November 29, 2015

**GIVING IN GRATITUDE**—Many Thanks to all those who have already brought or mailed to the church their 2016 Financial Commitments for our fall Stewardship Campaign, "Giving in Gratitude." We appreciate both the commitments to the 2016 Annual Ministry Fund and the ongoing or new commitments to the Building Fund for our renovations, soon to be completed! If you have not yet given your 2016 Financial Commitments, we would be happy to receive them in the Offering throughout the month of December or you can mail them to the church. Your generosity and faithfulness make our ministry and life together possible. Thank You!

**ADVENT STUDIES!** Sign up **TODAY** to be part of one of these 4-week Advent Studies:

- \* "Under Wraps"
  - Sunday Morning @ 8:00 AM, started this morning, with Karen Kuhlman
  - Monday Morning @ 10:00 AM, starts November 30, with Mary Ann Burson
  - Wednesday Evening @ 7:00 PM, starts Dec. 2, with Kara Lehnhardt & Jim Stewart
- \* "Watch For The Light"
  - Saturday Morning @ 8:45 AM, starts November 28, with Ben Hallett

Please sign up in the back of Fellowship Hall or by emailing Ben (ben.hallett@umcl.org) with which class you'd like to attend. Daily Devotionals are also available for personal study.

**LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS PARTNER ANGELS!** Come to the back of Fellowship Hall TODAY between the services to select your angel. Gifts must be returned next Sunday, December 6, for the Blessing of the Gifts. Gifts will be distributed the week of December 7, and on Saturday, December 12. You may choose to purchase a gift card or gifts for children. Thank you for helping to make this a Merry Christmas for many! Questions? Contact Jeris Boyce.

**SUPPORTING HUMBOLDT PARK**—Our friends at Humboldt Park are collecting good winter boots for men (mostly larger men), thick winter socks, and blankets and sleeping bags (thick and ideally waterproof). Drop them off at the church through next Sunday!

**LOVE IN ACTION** is an opportunity for faith, fellowship and service during the Advent season! Women and children of all ages are invited to come together to celebrate the season on **Sunday, December 6, 3:00-5:00 PM**. In lieu of the UMW Advent Tea, we will assemble UMCOR health kits and learn about their purpose, as well as enjoy snacks, holiday music and fellowship. Watch for details about the items needed for the kits and how to make a financial donation if you'd rather not shop. Sign up today!

**THIS YEAR'S THANKSGIVING OFFERING** will go in its entirety to help the neediest in our community through the Benevolence Fund. Thanksgiving offering envelopes can be found in the attendance folders; checks can be made payable to UMCL with "Thanksgiving" noted on the check.

**WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL ADVENT SERVICE**—All women are invited to come together to begin Advent with prayer, music, and contemplation at First Presbyterian Church, (219 W. Maple Avenue, Libertyville) on **Wednesday, December 2**. Refreshments will be served in the Social Hall at 7:00 PM; Worship will begin in the Chapel at 7:30 PM. Invite a friend to join you!

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE....** For all the joy Christmas can hold, it holds the potential for sorrow as well. The holiday season can be a painful time because of a death in the family, a lost or broken relationship, or painful memories of the past. Stephen Ministry of UMCL is offering an ecumenical remembrance service on **Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 PM** at St. Lawrence Episcopal Church (125 W Church Street, Libertyville). We invite you to attend this worship service for those suffering with pain, loss, isolation and grief in the holiday season. Details: Mary Spooner (847-548-3703), Kevin Garren (847-816-7340) or the Pastors.

**OUR FOURTH ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY** is planned for **Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 PM** at Cook Park. Come see our live performance of the Christmas story, acted out by our very own children and youth. Following the performance everyone is invited to our church to enjoy cocoa, coffee and cookies in our New Community Room! Christmas Invitational Postcards are available in the back of Fellowship Hall—use these cards to invite your friends and neighbors!

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!** Help support our Boy Scout Troop 72, Lake County ministries sponsored by United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Youth by getting your beautiful fresh tree, wreath, and greenery at UMCL! The sale runs **daily through December 19**.

**Tree Sale Hours:** Saturdays, 9:00 AM—9:00 PM; Sundays, 12:00—8:00 PM., Monday-Friday: 6:00—9:00 PM. Help needed with the sale—please contact Bert Kibbler at 847-858-1456.