

## UMCL News & Notes ~ December 13, 2015

**CELEBRATE & WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY NEXT SUNDAY!** Be sure to join us next Sunday, **December 20**, as we return to worship in our beautifully transformed sanctuary for our 9:30 & 11:00 services. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, January 10**, when our Sanctuary and Community Room will be Consecrated by the Bishop. Many and Sincere thanks to Mike Foley, the Building Committee and everyone who have worked so hard to see the fulfillment of our dreams!

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**—Plan to celebrate the birth of Christ by coming to worship in our new Sanctuary on Christmas Eve! We will have three services that day: a **Family Service at 4:00 PM** with nursery care provided; a **Traditional Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM** with nursery care provided; and a **Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion at 10:00 PM**.

**GIVING IN GRATITUDE**—Many Thanks to all those who have already submitted their **2016 Financial Commitments** for our 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 which will be completed very soon!

If you have not yet had an opportunity turn in your 2016 Financial Commitments, we would be happy to receive them in the Offering or through the mail throughout the month of December. Your generosity and faithfulness make our ministry and life together possible. Thank You!

**OUR NURSERY HAS EXPANDED!** Through Easter we are offering two nurseries—the "infant nursery" (room 100) for little ones 0-2 years and the new "toddler nursery" (room 102) for 2.5-4 year olds. (4+ will attend church programming) Contact Amanda Seibert with questions or to help.

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL GIFT CARDS**—MOOve on over to the Heifer International display in the back of Fellowship Hall **today** between services. For as little as \$10, you can purchase a share of a goat, sheep, pig, etc. Your contribution can be made in the name of a loved one, and you will receive a card explaining the program cornerstone of "Passing on the Gift."

**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK**—Your help is needed **TODAY** with the **Live Nativity and Christmas Open House**, as well as with moving into the **New Sanctuary** —

- ◆ **At 12 Noon**, volunteers are needed to help set-up for the Live Nativity at Cook Park. This involves bringing tables, stages and sound equipment over to Cook Park. Help is also needed to move our worship supplies back into the sanctuary from the fellowship hall. This will include moving hymnals, bibles, attendance pads, musical instruments and other supplies as well as some light cleaning and reorganizing of our storage spaces.
- ◆ **At 6:30 PM**, following the Live Nativity, volunteers are needed to help bring the equipment back to UMCL from Cook Park.

If you are willing to help with Live Nativity set-up or tear-down, please contact Ben Hallett. If you are willing to help with moving worship supplies, please contact Mark Mason.

**OUR FOURTH ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY** is planned for **TONIGHT at 6:00 PM** at Cook Park (or in Fellowship Hall, in case of rain). Come see our live performance of the Christmas story, acted out by our children and youth. Following the performance everyone is invited to the church to enjoy cocoa, coffee and cookies in our **New Community Room! Invitational Postcards** are available in the back of Fellowship Hall—you can still invite your friends and neighbors!

**LIVE NATIVITY COOKIES AND HELP NEEDED!** If you are able to provide 2-3 dozen small cookies for our **Live Nativity TODAY**, please sign up on the sheet in the back of Fellowship Hall or contact Mary Ann Burson. Please label any cookies containing nuts and deliver to the kitchen today. We can still use **volunteers** to help with set-up, serve and clean-up after the anticipated crowd. Contact Mary Ann Burson to help (847-270-0633 or bookwormburson@att.net).

**RUTH CIRCLE** will hold their annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on **Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 PM** 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! RSVP with Beth March.

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!** This is the **last week** to 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. If you can help with the sale, please contact Bert Kibbler at 847-858-1456.

**ONE SERVICE ONLY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 9:30 AM.** Please join us for Christmastide Worship on Sunday, December 27, when we will all worship together at our 9:30 AM service.

**TEACHERS NEEDED!** B.I.G. Time (Sunday School) and Kids Own Worship classes are in need of teachers for **January, February & March**. If you are able to teach or assist a teacher please contact Amanda Seibert at [Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org](mailto:Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org)

## UMCL News & Notes Continued

### FINANCIAL UPDATE ~ FOURTH QUARTER CRITICAL

The final quarter of the church year is critical to our overall financial health. As we move into December, we begin to close the gap between income and expenses, but our gap at this point is still about \$58,300 more than we expected. It's very important that we have a strong December to make up this shortfall.

If you have gotten behind in your regular giving, we hope that you will be able to catch up as we close the year. 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.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE**—Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store---maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more. (Dr. Suess.) If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister, please contact Kevin Garren (847-816-7340), Mary Spooner (847-548-3703), or the Pastors.

**PAJAMA SUNDAY!** Do you lack the motivation to get dressed and come to church on cold, snowy Sunday mornings? We have a solution for you—**PAJAMA SUNDAY!** All ages are invited to wear their comfy, warm pajamas to church during the 9:30 and 11:00 services on **January 3, 2016**. We will serve breakfast treats and have a special activity during B.I.G Time and Kids Own Worship. But please find the motivation to brush your teeth!!

**2015 CONTRIBUTIONS** will be accepted through **December 31, 2015**. This includes any additional cash or check contributions received in the office through the end of the day.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**—You can select weekly or monthly/periodic offering envelopes or no envelopes at all (for electronic and annual contributors). No notice is needed if you are not making a change from last year's schedule of envelopes. Notify the Finance Office by **December 15** if you'd like to make a change to your envelope plan. Offering envelopes will be available for pick up December 15-20. Everyone will be given a number to use for their contributions regardless of the envelope option chosen. Questions? Contact Ruth at 847-362-2112 or [ruth.ross@umcl.org](mailto:ruth.ross@umcl.org)

**AD BOARD MEETING**—Our next Administrative Board meeting will be held **Saturday, January 16, 2016, at 8:30 AM** in Room 206. All are welcome to attend!

**FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS** will meet **Friday, January 1, 2016, 6:30 PM** to celebrate the new year with our tradition of Jambalaya, white bean chicken chili and White Elephant Gift Exchange at the home of Scott and Charlotte Allen (1201 Hampton Lane, Mundelein, 847-968-4565, [rsclallen@gmail.com](mailto:rsclallen@gmail.com)). White Elephant Gift Info—this should not be something that you purchase new. These are gag gifts, things that you may prefer to re-gift, etc. The rule is that you leave with as many gifts as you arrived with. So if you choose to bring 2 gifts, you should expect to go home with 2 gifts. Please call if you have questions.

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will begin an 8-week study of 2 Timothy on **Wednesday, January 13 at 1:00 PM** in room 103 at church. If you would like to join the study, please contact Terry Johnson at [JGTAJohnson@aol.com](mailto:JGTAJohnson@aol.com). Books will be ordered on Dec 22, 2015, cost \$7, and will be available for pick up in the office in early January. Everyone is welcome to join the study.

**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!

**SECOND MILE GIVING FOR DECEMBER** will help support—1) **Larry & Jane Kies**, Northern Illinois Conference sponsored missionaries who visited our church some years ago, based at Africa University in Zimbabwe. Jane teaches English and Larry works within the agricultural curriculum. ([www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu)). 2) **United Methodist Global Aids Fund (UMGAF)**. This UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) sponsored program supports education, prevention, care and treatment programs for people with HIV/AIDS. ([www.umcor.org/Projects](http://www.umcor.org/Projects))

**COLLECTING STYROFOAM TO SAVE LANDFILLS**—We are collecting packaging styrofoam for recycling for the next few weeks as you unwrap large gifts this Christmas. Tubs will be placed strategically at church (depending on construction). We can also accept foam egg cartons, food containers (clean) etc. Thank you, The Earth

United Methodist Church of Libertyville  
429 Brainerd Avenue, Libertyville, Illinois 60048  
847-362-2112 ▪ [www.umcl.org](http://www.umcl.org) ▪ [info@umcl.org](mailto:info@umcl.org)



The United Methodist Church  
of Libertyville  
December 13, 2015  
9:30 & 11:00 AM



### Today's Scripture Passage

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."  
— Luke 1:5-17, 24-25



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

PASTORS

Stephen C. Williams • Jamie Hanna Williams

## Traditional Service ~ 9:30 am



### Greetings & Announcements

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.

**Prelude** "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" K. Strepka  
Heritage Bells

### \* Call to Worship

**Leader** Come, let us be about our preparations for a new advent of love among us.

**People** **The wastelands of life around us cannot shut out the promises of God.**

**Leader** Hatred and warfare, injustice and suffering, are not the last word.

**People** **We hear again the promise of peace, coming in the One who lived shalom among us.**

**Leader** We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness.

**People** **We feel again the love that comes through the birth of the Christ Child.**

**Leader** May our worship recall us to what is central in our lives, the One who came among us to open our hearts and draw us to one another and to God.

**People** **We come to embrace the new advent, to be renewed in faith, hope and love.**

\* **Opening Hymn** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" No. 203

### Unison Prayer

Gentle God, you know that for us, this is a season of hopes and fears. We are caught up in our excitement and plans. We worry whether everything will get done, and whether our relationships will blossom, bend, or break in the stress of the season. Slow us down, God, and help us to place our hope in you. Be our calm center, that we may be channels of peace and love to the people around us; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** The Fouts Family  
Introduction  
Scripture Reading Luke 1:67-69, 76-79  
Advent Reading  
Lighting of the Candle of Love  
Advent Song "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" No. 204

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 138:1-6, 8 Jeris Boyce

\* 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.

**Anthem** "What Shall We Sing for the Child?" H. Helvey  
Adult Choir

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns\*\***

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

\* **Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 196

**Second Scripture Reading** Luke 1:5-17, 24-25

**Sermon** "Tender Mercies" Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams

**Offering / Offertory** "Silent Night" M. Hayes

\* Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 94

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* **Closing Hymn** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" No. 384

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" B. Nix



## *A Warm Welcome to All!*

*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: Darin Chartier*

*December Ushers: John Aten, Eric Fouts, Mike Fennewald, Tom Plohr*

*Coffee Time: Please join us for coffee and refreshments between services., hosted by Jan Grigsby.*

## Contemporary Service ~ 11:00 am



**Gathering Into Worship**

**Greeting**

\* **Song** "Build Your Kingdom Here" Rend Collective

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** The Nixon Family

Introduction

Scripture Reading

Advent Reading

Lighting of the Candle of Love Luke 1:67-69, 76-79

\* **Song** "How He Loves" D. Crowder

**Announcements**

**Community Sharing**

**Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**Message & Scripture** Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams

"Tender Mercies" ~ Luke 1:5-17, 24-25

**Offering** "Happy Birthday" S. Stevens  
Ben & Jaqueline Hallett

**Prayer**

**Song** "Come Thou Fount" B. Dunn

**Scattering into the World**



**Worship Team:** David Bedell, Woody Bedell, Ben Hallett, Jacqueline Hallett, Heidi Nelson, Christina Parmar, Tom Seibert, Tim Tonon, Jennifer Whittington

**Multimedia Coordinators:** Connor Clausen, Mark and Janet Mason

**Children are welcome in worship.** We enjoy having kids with us in worship but there is also a special program for them called *Kids Own Worship* that meets in room 201 during the service. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers in Room 100.

**Thank you for completing the registration sheet** that is passed around (including email) so we can keep you informed on news of the church.

**We welcome you to Holy Communion** to experience the grace and love of God. We celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of the month. All who are seeking the grace of God through the presence of Jesus Christ are welcome to the table.

# UMCL Church Calendar

## Sunday, December 13, 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)  
4:00 PM—Confirmation  
4:00 PM—Live Nativity Rehearsal  
6:00 PM—Live Nativity (in Cook Park)  
6:30 PM—Christmas Open House (in our New  
Community Room!)

## Monday, December 14, 2015

1:00 PM—Book Talkers  
7:00 PM—Inquirers' Study  
7:00 PM—Outreach Committee  
7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)

## Tuesday, December 15, 2015

11:30 AM—Priscilla Circle (off site)  
12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free/AA  
7:00 PM—Resource Committee  
7:00 PM—Sound System Training

## Wednesday, December 16, 2015

8:45 AM—Memos  
9:15 AM—Staff Meeting  
9:45 AM—Lectio Divina  
7:00 PM—Ruth Circle (off site)  
7:00 PM—JrHI TIDE  
7:00 PM—“Under Wraps” Advent Study  
7:00 PM—Sound System Training

## Thursday, December 17, 2015

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA  
6:15 PM—Sanctuary Tech Rehearsal  
7:00 PM—Disciple 4  
7:30 PM—Adult Choir  
7:30 PM—Praise Band (off site)

## Friday, December 18, 2015

~ No Scheduled Events ~

## Saturday, December 19, 2015

8:00 AM—Men's Study  
8:45 AM—“Watch for the Light” Advent Study  
5:00 PM—PADS (off site)

## Sunday, December 20, 2015

### **Return to Sanctuary for Worship!**

8:00 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
8:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
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  
11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-3.5 years)  
11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship (room 201)  
6:30 PM—Sr HI TIDE

## Monday, December 21, 2015

7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)

## Tuesday, December 22, 2015

12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free/AA  
7:00 PM—Faithful Threads (Off site)

## Wednesday, December 23, 2015

9:15 AM—Staff Meeting  
9:45 AM—Lectio Divina  
7:00 PM—“Under Wraps” Advent Study  
7:30 PM—Adult Choir

## Thursday, December 24, 2015

~ Christmas Eve ~  
~ Office Closed ~  
12:00 PM—Living Free/AA  
4:00 PM—Family Christmas Eve Service  
7:00 PM—Traditional Christmas Eve Service  
10:00 PM—Traditional Christmas Eve Service  
with Communion

## Friday, December 25, 2015

~ Christmas Day ~  
~ Office Closed ~

## Saturday, December 26, 2015

5:00 PM—PADS (off site)

## Staff

Pastor Stephen C. Williams	<a href="mailto:pastorswilliams@umcl.org">pastorswilliams@umcl.org</a>
Pastor Jamie Hanna Williams	<a href="mailto:pastorjwilliams@umcl.org">pastorjwilliams@umcl.org</a>
Business/Operations Manager: Ruth Ross	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Ross@umcl.org">Ruth.Ross@umcl.org</a>
Director of Contemporary Worship & Spiritual Growth: Ben Hallett	<a href="mailto:Ben.Hallett@umcl.org">Ben.Hallett@umcl.org</a>
Director of Children & Family Ministries: Amanda Seibert	<a href="mailto:Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org">Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org</a>
Youth Pastor: Brittney Stephan	<a href="mailto:Brittney.Stephan@umcl.org">Brittney.Stephan@umcl.org</a>
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>
Director of Adult Choir: Jeff Brown	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Brown@umcl.org">Jeff.Brown@umcl.org</a>
Children's Choir Director: Blair Brockman	<a href="mailto:Blair.Brockman@umcl.org">Blair.Brockman@umcl.org</a>
Church Office/Administrative Secretary: Karla Bolkema	<a href="mailto:info@umcl.org">info@umcl.org</a>
Communications Secretary: Valerie Baker	<a href="mailto:Valerie.Baker@umcl.org">Valerie.Baker@umcl.org</a>

## **United Methodist Church of Libertyville**

429 Brainerd Avenue, Libertyville, Illinois 60048 ▪ 847-362-2112 ▪ [www.umcl.org](http://www.umcl.org)