

## UMCL News & Notes ~ December 20, 2015

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD!** Today we celebrate and worship in our beautiful sanctuary! Many Thanks to Mike Foley and Building Committee and all who have contributed!

Please also join us on **Sunday, January 10, 2016 at the 9:30 or 11:00 AM** services as we consecrate our renovated sanctuary, new front entrance and community room to the Glory of God. Our Bishop, Rev. Dr. Sally Dyck, will be preaching. We will recognize the wonderful people who have helped us make this great dream a reality. Between services and after the 11:00 service we invite you to a joyous time of food and fellowship in the New Community Room. Don't miss this important celebration in our life together!!

**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**.

**COME SING** with the Choir on Christmas Eve. The Adult Choir will sing at the 7:00 and 10:00 PM services and members of the congregation are invited to sing with us if they can. Rehearsal will be **Wednesday, December 23 at 7:30 PM and Thursday, December 24 at 6:00 PM**. Please contact Jim Grace ([jim.grace@umcl.org](mailto:jim.grace@umcl.org)) or Jeff Brown ([jeff.brown@umcl.org](mailto:jeff.brown@umcl.org)) if you have any questions.

**READERS AND COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED**—If you are willing to serve as a Scripture Reader at the 7:00 or 10:00 PM or Communion Server at the 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, please contact Pastor Jamie at [pastorjhwilliams@umcl.org](mailto:pastorjhwilliams@umcl.org). Thank you!

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

**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.

**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)

**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'd like to participate, please contact Terry Johnson at [JGTAJohnson@aol.com](mailto:JGTAJohnson@aol.com) today! Books cost \$7, and will be available for pick up in the office in early January. Everyone is welcome to join the study.

**PRIME TIME POTLUCK LUNCH AND GAME DAY—JANUARY 4** Join us for a **potluck lunch** at Noon followed by fun after lunch playing games to celebrate the New Year. Please bring your favorite game. PLEASE remember to make a reservation BEFORE WEDNESDAY, Dec. 30!

**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!!

**STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE**—May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope, the spirit of Christmas which is peace, the heart of Christmas which is love. 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.

## 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.

### FROM THE CHURCH FINANCE OFFICE —

- **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 and those postmarked on or before that date.
- **Electronic Giving Options**—UMCL offers monthly electronic funds transfers (EFTs), moving funds from your bank account to the Church's on or around the 15th of each month. Enrollment forms for this option are available from the Finance office or the Main office. If you're already enrolled in electronic giving, you only need to contact the Finance office if you want to change your contribution or decide to contribute in another way. Contributions to UMCL can also be made through your bank's online payment option.
- **OFFERING ENVELOPES**—are available for pick up TODAY in the Community Room. Thank you for picking up your envelopes and helping to save on postage! 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!

**GREETERS WANTED**—Please sign up on the website at [www.umcl.org/worship](http://www.umcl.org/worship) to be a greeter starting January in our new Sanctuary. Volunteers stand at the doors to meet and greet worshippers as they arrive for the traditional services (from 9:15-9:30 AM) Sunday mornings.

**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR NEW SANCTUARY!** Thank you to everyone who has donated Altar Flowers during the last year! Altar flowers may be given each Sunday in honor of, or in memory of, special people and events. Call the church or go to our website ([www.umcl.org/altar\\_flowers](http://www.umcl.org/altar_flowers)) to donate altar flowers. Questions? Contact Joannie Foley at [foleyszoo@aol.com](mailto:foleyszoo@aol.com).

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE TIME** volunteers are appreciated for making and serving coffee from 8:30 AM through approximately 11:15 AM. Would you and your family or church group consider helping? Call Jan Grigsby at 847-362-8473 to sign up or with questions.

**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: \$325. Contact Steve Neil ([sbneil@comcast.net](mailto:sbneil@comcast.net) or 224-475-8701).

**PADS**—We will be moving back to UMC in January and need your help! Volunteers are needed for overnight shifts and clean-up shifts, as well as folks willing to bring in dinners on the 2nd or 4th Saturdays of the month. The PADS signup book is in Fellowship Hall after Sunday services or call Cathy O'Brien 847-367-8062. Thank you for serving. If you have **PADS blankets** at home that you washed over the summer, please return them NOW!

**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  
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847-362-2112 • [www.umcl.org](http://www.umcl.org) • [info@umcl.org](mailto:info@umcl.org)



The United Methodist Church  
of Libertyville  
December 20, 2015  
9:30 & 11:00 AM

### Today's Scripture Passages

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

— Luke 1:39-45

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

— Luke 1:46-55

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** "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" R. Hobby

### \* Call to Worship

Leader Sing for joy to God, all the earth!

**People** **Worship with songs and shouts of joy!**

Leader Behold! God is doing a new thing.

**People** **Here. Now. In the midst of our daily lives.**

Leader The Holy One who created heaven and earth, has guided us in the recreation of our new worship and community space.

**People** **The Holy One who created heaven and earth, is coming to live among us.**

Leader Let our spirits rejoice in all the great gifts God is giving us this day!

**People** **Let our spirits rejoice in the coming of the Savior. Amen.**

\* **Opening Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234, verses 1-3

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

Introduction

Scripture Reading Isaiah 12:2-6

Advent Reading

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Prayer

Advent Song "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" No. 89, verse 1

**First Scripture Reading** Luke 1:46-55 Amy Sharer

**Anthem** "Breath of Heaven" L. Larson  
Adult Choir

### Celebration of Building Remodeling

Many Thanks to the Building Committee!

Mike Foley (Chairperson), Peg Berryman, Don Boyce,  
Sue Hamilton, Bruce Locke, Mark Mason, Herb Spooner,  
Pastor Jamie Hanna Williams, Pastor Stephen C. Williams

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

\* 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.

### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

\* **Hymn** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

**Second Scripture Reading** Luke 1:39-45

**Sermon** "Surprised By Joy" Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

**Offering / Offertory Anthem** "O Come, Divine Messiah!" H. Helvey

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* **Closing Hymn** "Joy to the World" No. 246

### \* Pastoral Benediction

**Postlude** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" J. Payne



## A Warm Welcome to All!

*If you are visiting for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Community Room 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:*

*Tech Crew: Connor Clausen, Janet Mason, Mark Mason, Tom Seibert*

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

*Coffee Time: Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the new Community Room between the services, hosted by Patrick and Peg Berryman.*

## Contemporary Service ~ 11:00 am



### Gathering Into Worship

\* **Song** "Let Us Adore" C. Brown

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

Introduction

Scripture Reading

Advent Reading

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Prayer

Luke 1:46-55

\* **Song** "The Glory of It All" D. Crowder

### Announcements & Greeting

### Celebration of Building Remodeling

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Mike Foley (Chairperson), Peg Berryman, Don Boyce,  
Sue Hamilton, Bruce Locke, Mark Mason, Herb Spooner,  
Pastor Jamie Hanna Williams, Pastor Stephen C. Williams

### Community Sharing

### Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**Scripture & Message** Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

"Surprised by Joy" ~ Luke 1:39-45

### Offering

### Prayer

\* **Song** "Alleluia, Sing" D. Crowder

### Blessing & 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.

## UMCL Church Calendar

### 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)

### Sunday, December 27, 2015

8:00 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
8:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
9:30 AM—Christmastide 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

### Monday, December 28, 2015

7:00 PM—Young & Board (off site)

### Tuesday, December 29, 2015

12:00 & 7:30 PM—Living Free/AA

### Wednesday, December 30, 2015

9:45 AM—Lectio Divina

### Thursday, December 31, 2015

~ New Year's Eve ~  
~ Office Closed ~  
12:00 PM—Living Free/AA

### Friday, January 1, 2016

~ New Year's Day ~  
~ Office Closed ~  
7:00 PM—First Friday Friends

### Saturday, January 2, 2016

5:00 PM—PADS @UMCL

### **Staff**

Pastor Stephen C. Williams	<a href="mailto:pastorswilliams@umcl.org">pastorswilliams@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>
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>

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Children's Choir Director: Blair Brockman  
Church Office/Administrative Secretary: Karla Bolkema  
Communications Secretary: Valerie Baker

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**United Methodist Church of Libertyville**