

Contemporary Service ~ 11:00 am



Countdown

Welcome & 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.

* Song "The First Noel" D. Crowder

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Introduction The Velez Family
 Scripture Reading Luke 1:68-75, 78-79
 An Advent Reading
 Lighting the Candle of Love
 Advent Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful" D. Shipps

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

Video "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Meditative Music of the Season "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
 Alexandria Hibbard-Brown, cello

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16, 18

Sermon "The True Light That Gives Light" Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams

* Closing Song "I Saw the Light" H. Williams

* Benediction



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 takes place following the Children's Message. For those who wish, nursery care is available for infants and toddlers during the service in Room 100.

Please fill in the registration sheet that is passed around so you will be kept informed about what's happening at the church. Thank you for including your email address.

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.

The Offering we give is both an act of thanks and faith – a way to offer back to God some of the blessings we have received and a response of trust that God will take care of us as we rely upon him. You are invited to place your gifts in the Offering Plate on the back table as you leave.

Worship Team: Julie Bakus, Woody Bedell, Jeff Brown, Jeff Davis,
 Jeanette Frisbey, Tim Tonon, Jamie Twedell

Multimedia Coordinators: Mark and Janet Mason

Refreshments: Becky and Sue Ratzer

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 21, 2014

8:00 AM—Adult Sunday School Class
 8:15 AM—First Light Worship Service
 (Nursery care available for ages 0-5 years)
 9:00 AM—Coffee Time
 9:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class
 9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service
 (Nursery care available for ages 0-3 years)
 9:30 AM—Sunday School for all ages
 (Children begin in service and leave
 after Children's Message)

10:30 AM—Coffee Time
 10:45 AM—Adult Sunday School Class
 11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship Service
 (Nursery care available for ages 0-3 years)
 11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship (Children begin in
 service and leave after Children's Time)

Monday, December 22, 2014

7:30 PM—Adult Choir

Tuesday, December 23, 2014

11:00 AM—Toddler Play Group
 12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free/AA

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

~ Christmas Eve ~
 ~ Office Closed ~
 4:00 PM—Family Christmas Eve Service
 7:00 PM—Traditional Christmas Eve Service
 10:00 PM—Communion Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25, 2014

~ Christmas Day ~
 ~ Office Closed ~
 12:00 PM—Living Free/AA

Friday, December 26, 2014

~ Office Closed ~

Saturday, December 27, 2014

4:30 PM—PADS Set-Up & PADS

Sunday, December 28, 2014

9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service
 (Nursery care available for ages 0-3 years)
 9:30 AM—Sunday School for all ages
 (Children begin in service and leave
 after Children's Message)

10:30 AM—Coffee Time

Monday, December 29, 2014

No Scheduled Activities

Tuesday, December 30, 2014

12:00 AM & 7:30 PM – Living Free/AA

Wednesday, December 31, 2014

~ New Year's Eve ~

~ Office Closed at Noon ~

Thursday, January 1, 2015

~ New Year's Day ~

~ Office Closed ~

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA

Friday, January 2, 2015

6:30 PM—Young Couples (off site)

Saturday, January 3, 2015

4:30 PM—PADS Set-Up & PADS



The United Methodist Church
 of Libertyville
 December 21, 2014
 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 AM



Today's Scripture Passage

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

— John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16, 18

UMCL Staff

Pastor Stephen C. Williams	pastorswilliams@umcl.org
Pastor Jamie Hanna Williams	pastorjhwiliams@umcl.org
Business/Operations Manager: Ruth Ross	Ruth.Ross@umcl.org
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New Member/Ministries Coordinator: Joyce Bedell	Joyce.Bedell@umcl.org
Church Office / Administrative Secretary: Karla Bolkema	info@umcl.org
Communications Secretary: Valerie Baker	Valerie.Baker@umcl.org

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 429 Brainerd Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

PASTORS

Stephen C. Williams • Jamie Hanna Williams

First Light Service ~ 8:15 am



Gathering Music "I Wonder as I Wander" J. Sanborn

Welcome & Greeting (Please pass the attendance pads at this time.)
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.

* Opening Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230

* Call to Worship
Leader Our souls magnify the Lord!
People **Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**
Leader The Lord has done great things for us!
People **And we are filled with joy!**
Leader See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
People **And that is what we are!**
Leader This is love: not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent Jesus into our world.
People **God is love! Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in them. May God's light shine in our worship today.**

*Musical Prayer "Come and Fill Our Hearts"
Come and fill our hearts with your love. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your love, Alleluia!
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The organist will play this song once, the congregation joins to sing the second time through.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Introduction
Scripture Reading Luke 1:68-75, 78-79
An Advent Reading
Lighting the Candle of Love
Advent Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234, verses 1 & 5

Quiet Reflection and Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
Solo "Peace Has Come" B. Hastings
Jane Victor

Scripture Reading John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16, 18

Sermon "The True Light That Gives Light" Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams

Offering / Offertory
* Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 94
* Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion UM Hymnal, page 13
Gluten free wafers are available in the center tray.

* Closing Hymn "Angels From The Realms of Glory" No. 220

* Pastoral Benediction

Postlude



* Those who are able are invited to stand.

Traditional Service ~ 9:30 am



Greetings & Announcements (Please pass the attendance pads at this time.)
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.

Prelude "I Wonder as I Wander" J. Sanborn

* Call to Worship
Leader Our souls magnify the Lord!
People **Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**
Leader The Lord has done great things for us!
People **And we are filled with joy!**
Leader See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
People **And that is what we are!**
Leader This is love: not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent Jesus into our world.
People **God is love! Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in them. May God's light shine in our worship today.**

* Opening Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Clausen Family
Introduction
Scripture Reading Luke 1:68-75, 78-79
An Advent Reading
Lighting the Candle of Love
Advent Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234, verses 1 & 5

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Jamie Hanna Williams

A Christmas Cantata "What Child Is This" J. Leavitt
Adult Choir; Dr. Jeffrey Brown, director
James Grace, organ; Miranda Farmer, piano

I "Arise, Shine"
II "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"
III "Magnificat"
My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoiceth; in God my Savior.
Because He hath looked down on the lowliness of His handmaid: for behold henceforth all generations will call me blessed. Because the Mighty One hath done great things for me: and holy is His name.

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

IV "What Child Is This"
V "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
VI "Gloria Deo"
Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you. We give you thanks for your great glory. Glory to God in the highest.
VII "A Stable Lamp Is Lighted"

Scripture Reading John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16, 18 Jeris Boyce

Sermon "The True Light That Gives Light" Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Williams

Offering / Offertory "What Shall I Give to the Child in the Manger" D. Wagner
* Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 94
* Prayer of Dedication

* Closing Hymn "Angels From the Realms of Glory" No. 220

* Pastoral Benediction

Postlude "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" J. Schaffner



A Warm Welcome to All!

We are delighted to have all of you sharing with us in worship! If you are visiting for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Table in the foyer 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 in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, refreshments, and community sharing from 9:00-11:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you there!



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in honor of Joel and Karilyn Parrott's 53rd Wedding Anniversary!

Many thanks to the following people for helping with our Services this morning!

Sound Tech: Tom Seibert
Greeters (9:30): Sharon Holy and Jennifer, Katelyn Emma, Evan Viant
Acolytes (9:30): Ushers
December Ushers (8:15): Wayne Buck Pat Conn, Larry Pflederer (9:30): Jay Hazlett, Charles Hetzel, Jesse Michmerhuizen, Steve Neil, John Obberrieder, Ted Zeng
Coffee Fellowship: Please join us for coffee and refreshments served in Fellowship Hall (9:00—11:00 AM) and hosted by the Building Committee.

UMCL News & Notes ~ December 21, 2014

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Celebrate the birth of Christ by coming to worship on Christmas Eve!

- * 4:00 PM ~ Family Service
- * 7:00 PM ~ Traditional Service
- * 10:00 PM ~ Traditional Service with Communion

Nursery Care available for 4:00 & 7:00 PM Services.



THANK YOU! We are in the Commitment Follow-up phase for our Building on Our Dreams Campaign. If you have not yet responded to our campaign we hope you will do so today! Commitment forms are available in the foyer. We are thankful for the many generous commitments received to date. We will be announcing the response to the appeal on Celebration Sunday in January.

LIVE NATIVITY THANK YOU! Amanda Seibert and the Children's Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone that helped out with the Live Nativity on December 14. A BIG thanks to Blair Brockman, Mary Arendt, Mary Ann Burson, Jim Grace and Bonnie Lill, John Brockman, Kevin Garren, Ben Hallett, Al Kuhlman, Dan Mullen, Steve Neil, Tom & Jonathan Palmieri, Bryan Rounds, Tom Seibert, Jeff Welch and all the other men that helped with stage set-up and tear-down! We would also like to thank our talented cast and their parents for braving the rain, the United Methodist Women and congregation members for the delicious cookies and hot cocoa, the 8th grade Confirmation class, our pastors, and many others for making this event a success!

ONE SERVICE ONLY NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 9:30 AM. Please join us to welcome Rev. Steven Bullmer who will bring the message next Sunday. We will all worship together at the 9:30 AM service.

CHOIR REHEARSAL—The Adult Choir will rehearse for Christmas Eve on **Monday, Dec. 22, 7:30-9:00 PM.** Anyone who would like to sing on Christmas Eve is welcome to attend!

YOUNG COUPLES will meet **Friday, January 2, 2015, 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). 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.

PAJAMA SUNDAY—**January 4, 2015!** 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 worship and Sunday School on Jan. 4, 2015. We will serve breakfast treats and have a special activity during Sunday School. But please find the motivation to at least brush your teeth!!

PRIME TIME will meet **Monday, January 5, 2015 at 12:00 PM.** There is a \$5 charge for lunch and please RSVP to the church office no later than Friday, Jan. 2, 10 A.M. We will have fun after lunch playing games to celebrate the New Year. Please bring your favorite game to share!

AD BOARD MEETING—Our Administrative Board meets on **Saturday, January 10, at 8:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall. All members are welcome to attend!

TEACHERS NEEDED! Our Sunday School and Kids Own Worship classes are in need of teachers for 2015. We ask volunteers to commit for a month at a time, or find a friend to share a month with. Please sign up at the bulletin board across from the nursery or contact Amanda Seibert at Amanda.Seibert@umcl.org

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY GROUP resumes meeting on **Jan. 10, 8:00-9:00 AM.** The new class will be based on "Ethics 101, There's only one Rule for Making Decisions" by John Maxwell and will run approximately 7 weeks. The group will be using video as well as the book to explore how to apply the Golden Rule in life and in leadership positions. To join or any questions, please contact Luis Villa-Arce at lou12sue13@gmail.com.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—If you would be willing to help with Sunday morning Coffee Time, please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall! Questions? Call Shirley Mason at 847-362-0523.

UMCL News & Notes Continued

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE—*Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it is Christmas.* If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister, please contact Kevin Garren (847-816-7374), Mary Spooner (847-548-3703) or the Pastors.

NEW SUNDAY CLASS! *"The Jesus Lifestyle," a 6-week Sunday morning class begins **January 11 at 10:30 AM.** Do you feel strong in resolve on Sunday morning but challenged to live a Christian lifestyle as you move into Monday? Join speaker Nicky Gumbel (from the Alpha series) for this class to explore the ways that Jesus words' can reverberate in our very real and messy lives. Contact Kathy Locke (klocke@ameritech.net) or Jim Stewart (jstew0819@aol.com) for more information, or just show up!*

NEW SUNDAY CLASS starts soon: *Do you crave simplicity and yearn for peace? Do you struggle to break free of the "too many good and important things" that flood your life? Then join us for the eight-week study titled "Spiritual Simplicity: Doing Less, Loving More" by Chip Ingram starting **January 11 at 9:30 AM.** This DVD-based study will help you experience a shift from complex to simple, from hurried to peaceful, from 'never enough time' to 'time enough for those you love'. This study is open to all adults—no advance preparation needed, and drop-ins are welcome. Contact Scott Allen (Scott.R.Allen@jci.com) for more information.*

SOUPER SATURDAY! *The whole congregation is invited to Souper Saturday, **January 31, 12:00—3:00 PM.** Start thinking of a soup recipe and your favorite games!! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.*

FROM THE CHURCH FINANCE OFFICE

- **2014 CONTRIBUTIONS** will be accepted through December 31, 2014. This includes any additional cash or check contributions received in the office through the end the day.
- **BOXES OF 2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available in the Heritage area of the foyer starting this Sunday. Please pick up your box, making sure to verify your name and address. Those of you who have chosen not to receive a full box of envelopes will be notified by the end of December with your new tracking number. Please contact the Finance Office if you have questions or have trouble locating your offering envelopes.
- **NEW ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION**—The next phase of our electronic giving implementation will be electronic transfers from your bank account to ours. To participate, you'll need to complete an authorization form. Those forms and the details on this new capability are available from the Finance office and will also be mailed with your 2015 commitment confirmations. The current capability of making your contribution through an online bill paying system will continue to be available for those who prefer that method. Questions? Please contact Ruth Ross, our Business/Operations Manager, at the Church (847-362-2112) or via email (ruth.ross@umcl.org).

PADS HELP NEEDED especially for overnight shifts (11:00 PM—3:00 AM or 3:00-6:30 AM) or clean-up (5:30-7:15 AM) and to make lunches (a good project for a group). Sign up in the PADS book on Sundays or call Cathy O'Brien at 847-367-8062.

STYROFOAM COLLECTION—We are collecting packing foam so that it can be properly recycled. Please drop off all the packing foam (large or small pieces) into the tubs which you will find in the Fellowship Hall foyer and in the main foyer (parking lot entrance). Thank you, The Earth.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND WORSHIP GREETERS: Sign up on our website (www.umcl.org/worship) or call the church office if you would be willing to serve as a Sunday worship greeter or would like to donate altar flowers in honor or memory of special people or events. Questions? Contact Joannie Foley (foleyszoo@aol.com).

HOW ARE WE DOING? As of November 30, 2014

	Month-end	Year-to-Date
Offerings/Revenues	\$87,826.88	\$726,198.24
Expenses	\$60,521.95	\$776,477.93
Difference	\$27,304.93	(\$50,279.69)
Anticipated Difference	\$15,030.63	(\$48,199.97)

Thanks to our generous congregation we are seeing the increased offerings we were hoping for and therefore closing the gap between actual income and expenses. While that gap is still slightly larger than anticipated (\$50.3K as opposed to \$48.2K), we are hopeful that income in December will be as generous as in previous years and that we will end the year in the black. Your continued generosity and faithfulness will make it possible for us reach that goal.