

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 if you have questions, please contact Luis Villa-Arce at lou12sue13@gmail.com.

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

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** are available in the Heritage area of the foyer. 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).

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE—If, at the end of a hard year, you more honestly loved and are loved than at the beginning, it hasn't been a hard year — it has been a very good year. 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.

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 847-362-0

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).

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.

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.

Church Calendar

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 & 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

Sunday, January 4, 2015

~ Pajama Sunday ~
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)

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Monday, January 5, 2015

12:00 PM—Prime Time

7:00 PM—Boy Scouts #72

7:00 PM—Inquirer's Study Group

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth

12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free/AA

1:00 PM—Disciple 5

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

9:00 AM—MEMOS

9:30 AM—Staff Meeting

9:45 AM—Lectio Divina

1:00 PM—Women's Bible Study

7:00 PM—JrHil TIDE

7:00 PM—Heritage Bells

7:00 PM—BSA District Committee

Thursday, January 8, 2015

9:00 AM—Faith Circle

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA

6:30 PM—Praise Band

7:30 PM—Disciple 3

7:30 PM—Adult Choir

Friday, January 9, 2015

6:00 PM—Young Life Capernaum

Saturday, January 10, 2015

8:00 AM—Men's Study

8:30 AM—Ad Board

4:30 PM—PADS Set-Up & PADS



The United Methodist Church
of Libertyville
December 28, 2014
9:30 AM

First Sunday After Christmas

Today's Scripture Passage

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

— Isaiah 43:16-21



UMCL Staff

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A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION PASTORS
Stephen C. Williams • Jamie Hanna Williams

First Sunday after Christmas



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 "Christmas Pastorale 'In Dulce Jubilo'" J. S. Bach
Mary Kuhns, organ

* Call to Worship

Leader God calls us now in this Christmas season to become new,
People To make room for our own nativity, even where there is
no room at our inn.

Leader Where we are busy —
People Peace.

Leader Where we are lost—
People Guidance.

Leader Where we are broken—
People Healing.

Leader Where we are bitter —
People Love.

Leader Let this time of worship be a time to hope for all these gifts of God.
Amen.

* Hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" No. 218

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, we pray this day for all who have come with us to Bethlehem. We pray for those who are poor and cold and hungry like the shepherds, that they may hear good news. We pray for those who are wandering and searching like the magi, that they may find the place to leave their gifts and their burdens. We pray for those who are busy, hurried, and preoccupied like the innkeeper, that they may know the presence of Christ in their midst. We pray for those like Herod who have power, that they may use it for good. We pray for ourselves—we who each need comfort and peace, and joy; this day, and all the days of our lives. Amen.

Children's Message Rev. Steve Bullmer

Anthem "Mary's Little Boy Child" J. Hairston
The Waund Family Singers

** Sharing Our Joys and Concerns Ben Hallett

Congregational Prayer & The Lord's Prayer No. 895

* Carol Medley
"Away in a Manger" No. 217
"Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 238 verses 1 & 3
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" No. 224

Scripture Isaiah 43:16-21

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

Sermon "Activate Your Faith" Rev. Steve Bullmer

Offering / Offertory Anthem "You Are the Light" D. Steele, T. Fettke
The Waund Family Singers

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

* Prayer of Dedication

* Closing Hymn "There's a Song in the Air" No. 249

* Pastoral Benediction

* Musical Benediction "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" B. McGee
The Waund Family Singers

Postlude "Glory to God" G. F. Handel



A Warm Welcome to All!

This morning we welcome Rev. Steven Bullmer to our pulpit! Steve Bullmer grew up in the Des Plaines United Methodist Church. He earned a B.S. from Eastern Illinois University, an M. Div. from The Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, and a D. Min. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. For thirty-eight years Steve served churches in the Northern Illinois Conference, the most recent being First UMC in Crystal Lake. In 2013 he retired from full-time ministry. He lives in Crystal Lake with his wife, Sharon, who is also a retired UM pastor. Steve and Sharon have three daughters and four grandsons.

Special Music today is provided by Denise Gibson and her family—The Waund Family Singers—and we thank them for their ministry.

We are also 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 following the service. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

*Sound Tech: Bert Kibbler Acolytes: Ushers
December Ushers (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 following the service.*

Sermon Outline

INTRODUCTION – 2014 Year in Review

- I. CLAIM GOD'S PROMISE TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE
 - A. The Bible is our GPS device
 - B. Never outrun God. Wait for God to make a way in your wilderness
- II. OVERCOME WHAT HOLDS YOU DOWN AND HINDERS YOUR FORWARD PROGRESS
 - A. Root out and weed out before you step out
 - B. If we don't face it, God can't fix it.
- III. ACTIVATE YOUR FAITH
 - A. It's not enough to *hear* God's word. You have to *heed* God's word.
 - B. God will deal with your "giants."



News & Notes

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!

NEW SUNDAY CLASS! "The Jesus Lifestyle," a 6-week Sunday morning class begins Jan. 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.