



# The United Methodist Church of Libertyville

December 29, 2013

9:30 AM

## Today's Scripture

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean." — **Matthew 2 NRSV**



**A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION**

**PASTORS**

**Stephen C. Williams • Jamie Hanna Williams**

*First Sunday after Christmas  
December 29, 2013*



**Greetings & Announcements**

Mr. Steve Neil, Lay Leader

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**

"Shepherd's Pipe Carol"

D. Wood

**\* Call to Worship**

Leader: We are God's beloved people!

**People: Called to lives of kindness, humility and compassion!**

Leader: God seeks to clothe us with love and to bind us together in harmony.

**People: God desires that we bear with one another and forgive as Christ forgives.**

Leader: We are God's beloved people!

**People: Called to lives of peace and patience; called to live with grateful hearts.**

**All: With joy we worship the God who calls us!**

**\* Hymn**

"Joy to the World"

No. 246

**Unison Prayer**

**Blessed are you, Holy God! In Jesus Christ, your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Blessed are you, God of light! Shine in our lives with the light of Christ that we might give you praise through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading**

Psalm 128

**Children's Message**

Sarah Mitchell

**Word of Witness**

Jonathan Dahmer

**Special Music**

"God Bless Us Everyone"  
Jane and Danna Victor

Ballard

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

Mr. Ben Hallett

**Congregational Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

No. 895

**\* Carol Medley**

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

No. 218, verses 1 & 4

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

No. 224, verses 1 & 2

Congregational Choices

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*\* 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 the sanctuary. The Pastors and Prayer Team will use the cards to guide weekly*

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 2

Sermon

Mr. Ben Hallett

Offering / Offertory

“Christmas Is Here”

D. Wood

\* Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

No. 94

\* Unison Prayer of Dedication

**For the gift of Your son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, and for all Your gracious blessings which enrich our lives, we give you thanks and praise, O God. Receive these our tithes and offerings as tokens of ourselves which we dedicate to you and for your purposes. May our gifts and our lives witness to your Love and Word. Amen.**

\* Closing Hymn

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

No. 251

\* Benediction

Postlude

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

W. Held



### **A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!**

This morning we are delighted to welcome our Youth Pastor, Ben Hallett, to the pulpit! Ben has been a member of the UMCL staff since 2011. He grew up outside of Indianapolis and attended Purdue University, where he studied sociology and psychology. His earliest ministry experience came at the Wesley Foundation at Purdue working with college students, leading worship and small groups, and coordinating activities and lessons with the high school youth at First UMC in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Sharing a Word of Witness today is Jonathan Dahmer. Jonathan grew up in this church and is presently engaged in a ministry called *Vision Beyond Borders*. *Vision Beyond Borders* is a ministry that provides Bibles to people around the world, particularly in places where they have very limited access to the scriptures. Jonathan will be available after the service to talk with any who are interested in his work and he also has written materials and info to share. We welcome Jonathan to our service today.

We are glad 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 ([joycebedell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycebedell@sbcglobal.net)), 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!

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

**Sound Tech:** Jon Elsea **Acolytes:** (9:30) Ushers

**December Ushers:** (9:30) Jay Hazlett, Charles Hetzel, Larry Leon,  
Jesse Michmerhuizen, Steve Neil, John Oberrieder, Tom Plohr, Ted Zeng

**Coffee Fellowship:** (10:30—11:00) Please join us for coffee  
and refreshments served in Fellowship Hall and hosted by Ruth Circle.

## *News & Notes*

**NEXT SUNDAY IS PAJAMA SUNDAY—January 5, 2014!** Back by popular demand! All children and youth are invited to wear their pajamas to worship and Sunday School on January 5. We will serve breakfast treats and have a special activity during Sunday School. Don't hibernate! Come and join us!

**BLESSINGS BULLETIN BOARD**—The Building Committee is hard at work to help us accomplish some of our Dreams and Wishes for the church! Please be sure to check out the Blessings Bulletin Board at the back of the sanctuary to see all the hopes that have been or are in the process of being fulfilled and the dreams we are still hoping to see realized. We rejoice at these many blessings!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for our Sunday School and Kids Own Worship programs, and also to help with our special Children and Family Events this winter, including Family Game Night, Valentine's Day Dance, Family Mission Nights and the Easter Egg Hunt. We will have a **training event on Sunday, January 5, 2014 at noon**. Lunch will be provided but you must RSVP in advance. If you cannot make the meeting but are interested in volunteering please contact Amanda Seibert at [AmandaSeibertUMCL@gmail.com](mailto:AmandaSeibertUMCL@gmail.com).

**YOUNG COUPLES** will celebrate the New Year with our tradition of Jambalaya and white bean and chicken chili with a White Elephant\* gift exchange on **Friday, January 3, at 6:30 PM**. We'll meet at the home of Scott and Charlotte Allen (1202 Hampton Lane, Mundelein, 847-968-4565.) (\*White Elephant information: this should not be something that you go to the store and purchase new. These are gag gifts, things you may prefer to re-gift, etc. Please call if you have questions.)

**PRIME TIME** meets on **Monday, January 6, at Noon** for lunch (\$5). Back By Popular Demand—The White Elephant Gift Exchange!! Find your "White Elephant" around the house, wrap it and bring it for the exchange. The more unusual the gift, the more fun it will be! Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 3rd. We look forward to seeing you. Mary Montgomery, Priscilla Mortland

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will begin meeting again on **January 8, 2014 at 1:00 PM** with an 18-week study of Exodus in preparation for a study of the Book of Revelation. If you are interested in joining this group, call Joyce Jeffries at 847-566-6944. Join before December 30 and take advantage of the group discount on study materials.

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!** We are hosting the Nebraska- Wesleyan Choir for dinner, a **concert** and an overnight stay in host homes on **Friday, January 10, 2014!** Plan to attend the concert at **7:30 PM** to support these young musicians! Contact Jim Grace (847-362-3116) if you are willing to host two students overnight. We need 25 homes to host two young women or two young men overnight and then bring them back to the church on Saturday morning after a light breakfast.

**AD BOARD MEETING**—Our Administrative Board meets on **Saturday, January 11, at 8:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall. All members are welcome to attend!

**NEW MEN'S SATURDAY MORNING STUDY** will begin **January 11, 2014 at 8:00 AM** with a 10-week study of "Good to Great in God's Eyes, Ten Practices Great Christians Have in Common." Each week will focus on one of the ten practices, viewing a 15 minute video on the subject, followed by lively group discussion. Please let Scott Allen (847-968-4565) know if you plan on attending, so he can order books (\$10/book).

**RUTH CIRCLE**—Come join Ruth Circle members as they host an Outreach Craft Project on Wednesday night, **January 15th**, in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own sack dinner at **6:00 PM** and after dining together we will get to work! Hope you can join us for a fun evening. No "real" crafty talents needed to participate!!! For more information call Mickey Donahue (847.367.4906)

**SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES CLASS**, taught by Woody Bedell, will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM, beginning **January 20**. Please call the church if you are interested.

**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, Mary Spooner or the Pastors.

**2013 CONTRIBUTIONS** will be accepted through December 31, 2013. This includes any additional cash or check contributions received in the office through the end the day.

**2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES**—Boxes of 2014 offering envelopes are available in the Heritage area of the Church Foyer. Please stop by to 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.

**ALL-CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT COMING SOON!** Save the Date! An overnight All-Church Women's Retreat entitled "Nature, Prayer and the Grace of God" will be held from **Friday evening, February 28 though Saturday afternoon, March 1, 2014** at a nearby retreat center. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead!

**PADS HELP NEEDED**—We are called by Jesus to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Please consider serving with PADS! Volunteers are ALWAYS needed for **overnight shifts** (11 PM—3 AM or 3-6:30 AM) or **clean-up** (5:30-7:15 AM). The PADS sign-up book is in Fellowship Hall during coffee time and in the foyer for our third service, or call Cathy O'Brien at 847-367-8062.

**CHURCH SIGN VOLUNTEER NEEDED!** If you would be willing to change the message on our church sign on an occasional basis to let our community know of our worship schedule and special events, please contact the church office at 847-362-2112.

**COLLECTING FOAM FOR RECYCLING.** Again we will collect white packing foam for recycling. Please do not put this in your trash or your recycling bin—it needs special recycling. The city of Highland Park recycles it at 1180 Half Day Road, Tuesday—Friday, 7 AM - 1 PM, but we are willing to collect it and take it there sometime in January. The bin will be in the foyer of Fellowship Hall. Thanks - The Green Team.

**BOOKS AND BRUNCH ADVANCE NOTICE**—Save **February 22** for Books and Brunch, featuring Neta Jackson, author of Yada Yada Prayer Group series and others (most recent title Derailed). For information, contact Mary Ann Burson or Terry Johnson.

**FABRIC NEEDED** for sewing school bags! The fabric should be sturdy; it may be used, if it is in good condition (such as drapery). Please leave donations in the office or in Room 101. Contact June McCoy with questions. Thank you!

**SOUND BOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**—We're looking for several volunteers to help with the sound system during Sunday morning services about once every 6-7 weeks. No technical background needed. This is a great opportunity for our youth, as well as adults. For more information, please contact the church office or Jon Elsea (847-362-8653).

**ALTAR FLOWERS AND WORSHIP GREETERS:** Sign up on our website ([www.umcl.org](http://www.umcl.org)) or call the church office to serve as a Sunday worship greeter or to donate altar flowers. The altar flowers each Sunday are given in honor of, or in memory of, special people and events. Questions? Contact Joannie Foley at [foleyszoo@aol.com](mailto:foleyszoo@aol.com).

#### UMCL Staff

Pastor Stephen C. Williams	<a href="mailto:pastorswilliams@sbcglobal.net">pastorswilliams@sbcglobal.net</a>
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Youth Director: Ben Hallett	<a href="mailto:BenHallett@sbcglobal.net">BenHallett@sbcglobal.net</a>
Junior High: Sarah Mitchell	<a href="mailto:sarahmhartley@yahoo.com">sarahmhartley@yahoo.com</a>
Children & Family Ministries: Amanda Seibert	<a href="mailto:AmandaSeibertUMCL@gmail.com">AmandaSeibertUMCL@gmail.com</a>
Contemporary Worship Director: Jeff Brown	<a href="mailto:jeffbrown418@yahoo.com">jeffbrown418@yahoo.com</a>
Director of Adult Choir: Jeff Brown	<a href="mailto:jeffbrown418@yahoo.com">jeffbrown418@yahoo.com</a>
Children's Choir Director: Blair Brockman	<a href="mailto:texasbrockman@sbcglobal.net">texasbrockman@sbcglobal.net</a>
New Member/Ministries Coordinator: Joyce Bedell	<a href="mailto:JoyceBedell@sbcglobal.net">JoyceBedell@sbcglobal.net</a>
Church Office / Administrative Secretary: Karla Bolkema	<a href="mailto:libertyvilleumc@sbcglobal.net">libertyvilleumc@sbcglobal.net</a>
Communications Secretary: Valerie Baker	<a href="mailto:Valerie.umcl@gmail.com">Valerie.umcl@gmail.com</a>



Church Office • 847-362-2112  
Website • [www.umcl.org](http://www.umcl.org)



## Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 29, 2013

9:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-2 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 30, 2013

No Scheduled Events

### Tuesday, December 31, 2013

~ Office Closed at Noon ~  
12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free/AA

### Wednesday, January 1, 2014

~ New Year's Day ~  
~ Office Closed ~

### Thursday, January 2, 2014

12:00 PM—Living Free/AA

### Friday, January 3, 2014

6:30 PM—Young Couples (off site)

### Saturday, January 4, 2014

8:30 AM—Praise Band  
4:30 PM—PADS Set up & PADS

### Sunday, January 5, 2014

~ 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  
9:00 AM—Cherub Choir  
9:15 AM—Adult Sunday School Class  
9:30 AM—Traditional Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-2 years)  
9:30 AM—Sunday School for all ages  
(Children begin in service and leave  
after Children's Message)  
10:30 AM—Coffee Time  
10:40 AM—Children's Choir for grades 1-6  
11:00 AM—Contemporary Worship Service  
(Nursery care available for ages 0-2 years)  
11:00 AM—Kids' Own Worship (Children begin in  
service and leave after Children's Message)  
12:00 PM—Volunteer Training Lunch  
4:00 PM—Confirmation  
7:00 PM—Cub Scout Committee

### Monday, January 6, 2014

12:00 PM—Prime Time  
7:00 PM—Monday Night Study Group  
7:00 PM—Boy Scout Troop #72

### Tuesday, January 7, 2014

9:30 AM—Women's Spiritual Growth  
12:00 & 7:30 PM – Living Free/AA  
1:45 PM—Disciple 4 Bible Study  
7:00 PM—TNT (Senior High Group)  
7:00 PM—Women's Retreat Planning Meeting

### Wednesday, January 8, 2014

9:00 AM—Staff Meeting  
9:00 AM—MEMOS  
9:45 AM—Lectio Divina  
9:45 AM—Faith Study  
1:00 PM—Women's Bible Study  
5:30 PM—All Stars  
7:00 PM—Building Committee  
7:00 PM—Heritage Bells  
7:00 PM—Jr. High SYNERGY  
7:00 PM—BSA District Committee

### Thursday, January 9, 2014

9:00 AM—Faith Circle  
12:00 PM—Living Free/AA  
7:00 PM—20-Somethings @ Ben's  
7:30 PM—Disciple 2 Bible Study  
7:30 PM—Adult Choir

### Friday, January 10, 2014

6:00 PM—Young Life Capernaum  
7:30 PM—Nebraska Wesleyan Choir Concert

### Saturday, January 11, 2014

8:00 AM—Men's Study  
8:30 AM—Praise Band  
8:30 AM—Ad Board  
4:30 PM—PADS Set up & PADS