

This Week's Connections Dec. 3 — Dec. 10, 2017

Sunday, December 3

9 & 10:30am Blood pressure screening-Library

9:30am Children's Christmas Pageant-Sanctuary

9:30am Run for God-53

11am Worship service

11am Bible Moths-53

11am Yokefellows-CR

11-1pm Advent wreath project-Lounge

3:45pm Jazzy Bells-Vestry

5:30pm Youth meal & fellowship-YL

7pm Merge practice-FH

Monday, December 4

11am Book study-Chapel

Tuesday, December 5

4pm Rule of Benedict study-Lounge

6pm New Hope Circle-Lounge

Wednesday, December 6

9am FIT-Rm. 53

5:30pm Youth Bible study-YL

7pm Chancel Choir-Sanctuary

9pm Merge-FH

No Meal Served

Thursday, December 7

12pm Slow & Steady-53

4pm Missions-Library

Friday, December 8

1:30pm Prayer Ministry

Saturday, December 9

5pm Worship service

5pm Parents Night Out

Sunday, December 10

9:30am Worship service

9:30am Sunday School

9:30am Run for God-53

11am Worship service

11am Bible Moths-53

11am Yokefellows-CR

3:30pm Candlelight Service-Sanctuary

5:30pm Second Sunday Out-Panera, Normal

5:30pm Youth Christmas party

First UMC Staff

309-452-2096

www.normalfirst.org

Co-Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kent King-Nobles

Co-Pastor, Rev. Kathy King-Nobles

Dir. Student Ministries, Rev. Kim Burke

Director of Music, Janna Peterson

Dir. Children & Family Ministries, Jill McNiff

Congregational Care Coordinator, Barb Todd

Finance Manager, Leta Buhrmann

Administrative Asst., Theresa Garrett

Dir. Building/Grounds, Mike Sweeney

Organist, Dr. Dennis Gotkowski

ISU Wesley Foundation Staff

Director, Rev. Jennie Edwards-Bertrand

Guest Wireless Information Wi-Fi Network FUMC-GUEST Password-normal1st

Weekly Announcements

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 3 @ 9:30am

T'was the Night Before Christmas

Family Advent Wreath December 3

Anytime between 11-1, stop in the lounge to create your own Family Advent Wreath to take home. Families will leave with their wreath and a daily devotion. These resources are an opportunity to ensure that the season of Advent is not just an at-church experience.

UPCOMING DATES

- Dec. 10 3:30pm Candlelight Carol Service
- Dec. 16 5pm Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 17 9:30am Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 17 11am Worship service
- Dec. 21 12pm The Longest Night-Chapel
- Dec. 21 6pm The Longest Night
- Dec. 23 5pm Worship service
- Dec. 24 **10am** Worship service (no Sunday School)
- Dec. 24 4pm Christmas Eve service
Childcare provided
- Dec. 24 7pm Christmas Eve service
Holy Communion
- Dec. 30 5pm Worship service
- Dec. 31 **10am** Worship service (no Sunday School)

SMART ENERGY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, December 12 10 AM Lounge

Are you interested in saving money on energy bills & reducing your environmental impact? Join us to learn more about your Smart Energy options. We'll help clear the confusion around incentives, rebates, hourly pricing, smart meters, electrical grip updates, and more.

Contact Kathy Gossard (662-5745) for more information.

YOKEFELLOWS Sunday School Class

"Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life" by Harold Kushner is our next book. We will be starting in 2 weeks. The books are at the Welcome Center.

Stewardship 2018 News

Together We Can

Thank you for your pledges of support for the ministries of First UMC in 2018. We are close to reaching our goal of 240 pledging units!

THE FRIENDSHIP TREE

There it is- in the Narthex! What? The Friendship Tree - waiting for NEW gloves, mittens, scarves and hats which will be distributed to Fairview School, The Boys and Girls Club and Home Sweet Home Mission just in time for Christmas! Once again experience warm fuzzies for the children and yourselves. Blessings are coming your way as you place each item on the tree.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING-DEC. 16 & 17 & DEC. 24

Our 2017 Recipients

*ISU Wesley Foundation

*Habitat for Humanity local UM Build 2018
Envelopes will be available.

BAGS OF BLESSINGS

As of this week, we have delivered gift cards, cash and 160 bags of food to the *Center for Hope* food pantry. If you have not had time to fill your grocery bag, they are welcome anytime and can be brought to the table at the west entrance.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL DEC 10 @ 3:30PM

Come share the joy of the Christmas story told through song, scripture, and the glow of candlelight as the United Methodist Women present Candlelight Carols in the Sanctuary. After the program, join with family and friends for a time for food and fellowship in the lounge.

UMW COOKIE SALE-DEC. 9 & 10

Dec. 9 from 10-11 and before and after services on the 9th and 10th. Cost is \$12 for 2 dozen homemade cookies. Bakers are needed and can bring cookies to the Lounge on Fri, Dec. 8 or by 9am on Saturday. Let's bake and eat to support UMW missions.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Thank you to all who were able to be photographed for the church directory! Please be patient as we await the arrival of the copies around the first of the year. Copies for those who have their photograph included will be distributed at the Welcome Center. Watch for an announcement of their arrival!