



First United Methodist Church
418 North Rock Street
Minneapolis, KS 67467

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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THE COMMUNICATOR - 2017



Ada/Minneapolis United Methodist Community
Christ’s Ambassadors by Inviting, Sharing, Nurturing and Forgiving

From the Heart of the Pastor!

Sunday, November 26, 2017 is Christ the King Sunday, marking the beginning of the Advent Season. Advent Season is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ the Messiah. On December 25, Christmas Day, we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior and redeemer. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ the Savior marks the beginning of a long process of salvaging the world from the forces of darkness and evil. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Those who believe in Him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” It takes faith to look beyond our effort and recognize God's hand in what we do and accomplish. A farmer can look at great crops brought about through his or her planning and hard work. But they also need to acknowledge that God created the seed and that God gives growth in the soil and still God allows the sun to shine and the rain to fall. Recently in Zimbabwe, citizens experienced a miracle when a ninety-three year old dictator, who had kept the country under his thumb, fell in a peaceful military coup after thirty-seven years of suffering and hardship. Many Zimbabweans celebrated the end to Robert Mugabe's thirty-seven years of iron-fisted ruling with the hope that it would end almost four decades of an autocratic rule and herald a new era! The world marveled and wondered! The Zimbabweans gratefully received an early Christmas gift this year. Some were saying, “Can this be an answer to Isaiah’s prayer?” “They shall beat their swords into plow shears and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, and neither shall they learn war anymore!” And I was quick to remember one of my family doctor's sign in her office that says, “We dress wounds, but God heals!”

When we experience life as unfair, we may feel anger, frustration or resentment at God. If we act wisely and faithfully, we will work through our anger and frustration and resentment and find our gratitude in God. In that gratitude, we work for the church and continue its ministry, waiting for God's redemption of the world. As we celebrate this year's Advent season and later in the month, Christmas, think about these things; how do we understand the nature of our God? What is God like to you today? Why so much suffering, so much hatred, fighting and outright killing one another? We know the psalmist if God would forget him forever. And do I even need to mention the book of Job? Job practically screamed at God, “Why don’t you just leave me alone long enough to swallow my own spit?”

As we await the coming of our Savior, the Messiah who is already with us, let us pray together each day and everyday: “Jesus Christ: the word that was made flesh, the word that abides in spirit. Our hope is built on nothing less than God's Son. Come, let us welcome the living Christ into our midst! In this season of anticipation, our hearts are filled with hope. We await God's promised One who will make all things new. We await the One who was, who is, and who shall come again! The Babe in the Bethlehem manger is the One with us now! Thank you all. See you all in church! Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza

DECEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

ANNIVERSARIES

23 - Pastor and Mrs. Mukwindidza
26 - Kermit and Shirley Shipley

BIRTHDAYS

2 - Kenneth Baccus and Dakota Baccus
3 - Kadyr Fuller
4 - Eleonora Leech
5 - Stanley Briggs
9 - Alberto Contreras
11 - Phlynn Ocker
12 - Dean Johnson
13 - William Sumstine
15 - Mavrik Griffin
22 - Rachel Kuder
26 - Donna Johnson and Gracen Grimes
27 - Cameron Knox
30 - Marvin Hamm

ACOLYTES

3 - Brinley Boyer and Kaleb Ocker
10 - Joel Abell and Brinley Boyer
17 - Connor and Jordan Peck
24 - Maddy and Dalton Krueger
31 - Braxton and Gracen Grimes

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

3 - Dale Henderson
10 - Puppeteers
17 - Rosalee Tibbits
24 - Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza
31 - Dale Parker

GREETERS

3 - Blythe Atwell and Tammy Knox
10 - Dale and Colette Henderson
17 - Dale and Colette Henderson
24 - Al and Joan Miles
31 - Al and Joan Miles

NURSERY HELPERS

3 - Shayla Bailey & Becky McDuffee
10 - Rosalee Tibbits & Becky McDuffee
17 - Barb Kibler & Becky McDuffee
24 - Rosalee Tibbits & Becky McDuffee
31 - Kristi/Paul Ocker & Becky McDuffee

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES - ADULT

Adult Sunday School Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Following are the lessons that will be discussed in December.

3 - Faith in Jesus (No Class this day.)
10 - Faith to Discern
17 - Faith to Persevere
24 - Faithful Seekers of the king
31 - Faith to Unite

OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE...

Remember to save Auburn Pharmacy lids for Church Camp and Missions.

SHOPPING ON LINE AT AMAZON

Did you know you can help your church by shopping at Amazon. We can earn 0.5% on qualifying purchases. The following link will take you directly to smile.amazon.com to support our church.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0884500>

United Methodist Church,
I would like to thank Mary Ann for making the beautiful quilt I won and to all that participated in the United Methodist Quilt raffle. The quilt will be cherished. I love it, ☺ It is awesome!
Thanks,
Jutchen Cleveland



Advent Study 2017!

December 6, 2017

He healed ten lepers; only one returned to give thanks!

December 13, 2017

He touched a man born blind and transformed a confused community.

December 20, 2017

He raised Lazarus from the dead and promised our resurrection.

Weekly schedule:

6:30 PM Community meal
Opening remarks
Praise and worship music
Study of the day
Closing music and Prayer!

Fellow Ministers of the Gospel,

I wanted to write and thank you all for your part in the OCMA Thanksgiving Meal and Program. It was a huge success, and completely blessed by God. God stretched the Turkey and Potatoes till the last person was served. In fact there was probably a whole turkey left of meat. This was amazing because that meant that 9 turkeys and 1 ham feed over 300 people (We were only expecting at the most 150 people to come). God bless those church members who brought the sides.

The program started 10 minutes late and it went 25 minutes over, but there was such a spirit of God's joy with all the kids and adults who contributed to the program. Those kids were sure shocked when President Lincoln took time to address us.

The event from the very beginning (2 1/2 months ago) was to have a free-will donation to Love INC. This money was to go to Love INC, not the ministerial association. It is with great pleasure to inform you that \$1,001.00 was given last evening at the MGS, in addition someone dropped off a \$100, before the event began. Let us not grow content or comfortable with what we have done for Love INC. God provided those funds (way above our true expectations) and most of the time, God gives those kinds of blessings to be the answers to exact problems or circumstances that He alone knows about, that are yet future. If anything, now more than ever we ought to increase our giving to Love INC, with thankful hearts to the God who provides more richly than we can ever dream of.

Sincerely, Pastor James Blake
Chair of the OCMA Thanksgiving Committee



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Hanging of the Greens Communion	4	5	6 6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study	7	8 6:30 – 7:30 pm 4-H Meeting	9
10 Dinner hosted by Noah's Ark Preschool Noah's Ark Preschool Christmas Program	11 8:00 a.m. Ada/Mpls UMC @ Co. Comm. Mtg	12 7:00pm Ada/Mpls UMC @ City Council Mtg.	13 6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study	14 10:30 a.m. OCMA Mtg @ Good Sams	15 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. 4-H Meeting	16
17 Bell Choir plays for church 1-4 p.m. Parker Roth's Piano Recital	18	19	20 6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study	21	22 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. 4-H Meeting	23
24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28	29 6:30-7:30 pm 4-H Meeting	30
31 New Year's Eve	Jan. 1 2018 <i>Have A Blessed New Year!</i>	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6

Ottawa County Ministerial Association
Advent/Christmas Calendar

2017-18

December/January

Make this Christmas season an ADVENTURE!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Volunteer at Christmas Store. Contact Donna Johnson. d167467@gmail.com	4 Make Christmas Ornaments to keep or give away.	5 Call Virginia at Love INC to sign up for Bell Ringing. 785-392-3474	6 Celebrate St Nicolas Day by doing a secret act of kindness.	7 Prophecy and fulfillment: Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-23.	8 Pick a name off the Angel Tree.	9 Take Cookies to Shuttles.
10 Bake and take doggy treats to SRL. Go to www.savehthtdog.com for recipes.	11 Send Christmas to deployed troops. For more info, visit www.amysoldier.com	12 Take time to let loved ones know how important they are to you.	13 Make pinecone bird feeders to care for God's creatures.	14 Read 1 John 4:7-8. What random acts of love can you commit today?	15 Send a care package to a missionary.	16 Wear Santa hats and pick up trash in your neighborhood.
17 Make cards to take to rest home.	18 Scaling Rescue Mission has lots of volunteer opportunities! (785) 823-2610	19 Take a drive to look at Christmas lights.	20 Invite friends and family to a prayer circle. Give thanks to God!	21 Contact a rest home or long-term care and ask if you can decorate a resident's room!	22 Go Christmas Caroling	23 Take Christmas goodies to those having to work Christmas Eve/Day.
24 Attend a Christmas Eve Service.	25 All are welcome to Christmas Dinner at the United Church of Bennington at Noon. Bring a dish if you wish.	26 Jesus was born to save. Read Isaiah 1:18. Make snowflakes to hang up, reminding us of what Jesus has done.	27 Play or sing Christmas songs to rejoice, praise God, and share the Christmas Message!	28 Begin a journal to keep notes of blessings, prayer answers, and Scriptures. Make it a treasured keepsake.	29 God is faithful. Use a red pen to make a list of God's promises. Keep it in your Bible.	30 Make a vow to spend time every day reading the Bible and in prayer. Not sure where to start? Find a reading plan.
31 Read Acts 6-7. Pack a box with toys, clothes, or food to give away. Pay your blessings forward.	1 What are your goals for mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health for 2017?	2 Pick a random Christmas card you received. Make plans for face time with the one who sent it.	3 Express 3 things you want for self, country, and world.	4 Bake cinnamon rolls to share with someone, use the opportunity to invite them to your home church.	5 Look up the legend of the candy cane, share it with others as you pass out leftover candy canes!	6 Name 6 blessings in your life. Do 6 things to bless others.

ANNUAL STEAK DINNER HAPPENINGS!!!



THANK YOU!
Paula Baccus and Tamala Lott thank you for your help with the Annual Church Dinner. Everyone's help was needed and greatly appreciated. The youth did a wonderful job and will carry this tradition on for years to come, doing a grand job. Keep up the good work for the Lord! We served 242 meals, netting \$2,728.00.

Pictured top to bottom, starting with the left column:
1. Kristi Ocker, Tammy Knox and Melanie Kuder helping youth prepare food;
2. Pat Baccus and Colette Henderson;
3. Shirley and Kermit Shipley;
4. Darda Wedel with others dishing up desserts;
5. Doris Davis and Eleonora Leech;
6. Pastor Kennedy greeting Eleonora Leech;
7. Pastor Kennedy and Melba Bruce greeting people;
8. Guests assisted by Eldin and Jane Smith;
9. Corey and Cassie Bohl ready to serve drinks;
10 & 11. People helping serve people in the serving line;
12. Guests enjoying the delicious food!
13. Men preparing steaks and hamburgers on the grill.