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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



December 2024



St. Paul's UMC

Worship:
10:10 a.m.


Sunday School:
9 a.m.

Address:
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

Office Telephone:
(712) 225-3955

Pastor Mike's Cell:
(563) 506-7412

Website:
www.cherokeemethodist.com

 Find us on Facebook
and your podcast app.

Pastor Mike's Email:
michael.agnew@iaumc.net

Jennifer's Email:
cherokeespumc@gmail.com

Jennifer's Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike's Day Off:
Friday

St. Paul's Staff

Pastor:
Mike Agnew

Financial Secretary:
Sarah Cook

Administrative Assistant:
Jennifer Agnew

Custodian:
Betty Harman

Organists/Pianists:
Betty Point
Meribeth Adams
Chris Andersen
Becky Lickiss

Chancel Choir Director:
Becky Lickiss

Bell Choir Director:
Dusty Basten

The season of Advent is here. This four-week season, leading up to the celebration of Christmas, is a time of anticipation as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, recognize that in Christ, God is with us, and seek to live in such a way that we are ready when he returns. Of course, in our culture, preparations begin long before Advent. Those who own retail businesses know that they have to prepare for their Christmas inventory plenty early to be ready in time, grocery stores need to stock their Christmas themed food, and some radio stations play Christmas music starting the day after Halloween! Some are annoyed by this, although it is hardly a moral failing.



As we officially enter Advent now, Christmas music will begin in our church as well. Many of you have favorite Christmas hymns. Some are well known, and others less so, but regardless of when we prefer Christmas music to get started, many of us like it when the time is right. That's why I am excited to let you know that we will be focusing on Christmas hymns in this year's Advent sermons. In some ways, this is a continuation of the Advent sermon series from 2022, except we will focus on a new batch of hymns. Each week, we will focus on one hymn and see what the lyrics have to tell us about the meaning of the Christmas story.

One of my favorite Christmas hymns, which just so happens to not be in our hymnal, is "O Holy Night." In the first verse, it says, "A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices." Do you feel as though our world is weary right now? I think most of us do! We have been through so much in these last few years with wars abroad and division in our country. Regardless of where you stand on our cultural issues, I think we can all agree that we are weary. "O Holy Night" tells us that the world was weary back then too, and yet, the weary world rejoiced at the thrill of hope brought to them in the announcement of the birth of Jesus.

I think it's safe to say that our weary world needs a thrill of hope as well. The good news of Christmas is that this holiday is a thrill of hope each year, if we allow it to be so. God has not given up on us. He didn't then, and he doesn't now. In spite of a world weary from the effects of sin and brokenness, God came to bring us hope and salvation. So, hopefully, in the midst of our weariness, we can find a thrill of hope in the birth of Jesus Christ.



God Bless,
Pastor Mike Agnew

*"A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6 (Common English Bible)



November Happenings

All Saints Sunday



November 3rd was All Saints Sunday. Pastor Mike read the names of the 10 members of our congregation who passed away since November 2023, and Ervina Scott rang a bell after each name was read. There was also an extra candle for others we hold in our hearts. If you would like to see the service, it is available on our YouTube page and Facebook page. If you were gone that Sunday and would like a color copy of the photo insert, please stop by the church office. Thanks to Ervina for helping with the ceremony.

Veterans Day Sunday

On November 10th, we honored the veterans in our congregation.



Presentation by Mark & Becky Scherbring

Around 30 people attended a presentation given by Mark and Becky Scherbring, and assisted by their son, Tyler, on November 13th. Mark and Becky shared about Mark's time in the U.S. Army, and Mark showed a slide show of photos and shared mementos from his travels. A big "thank you" to the Scherbrings for taking time from their busy schedule for this interesting presentation!



Election Day Luncheon Prep

Thank you to everyone who helped set the tables and prepared casseroles on November 4th.



Election Day Luncheon & Bake Sale



Children's Time on November 17th

Madi Stief talked to the kids about following the leader and how we can show God's light and show others how to do that too.



Photo credit to Ava Agnew.

Follow us on Facebook!



Additional photos and videos of events here at St. Paul's can

be found on our Facebook page. Follow us to stay up-to-date on the most recent news here at St. Paul's. As of November 22nd, we have 554 followers!

Announcements & Updates

Why the Different Newsletter Format?

We have gotten feedback that many of you read the newsletter online, on your computer via email, on your phone, or via Facebook. Therefore, we are trying out a different newsletter format this month that will hopefully make it easier to view on your computer and/or easier to print at home, since this new format is on 8.5" x 11" paper instead of 11" x 17" paper.



December Devotionals Available

The December *The Upper Room* devotionals are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office.

Carillon Update

The carillon has been repaired and is back to playing beautiful music every day at noon and 5 p.m. Thanks to Dean Parrish, Jeff Fiedler, and Chris Andersen for getting the carillon and speaker working again and to Andrea Cook for letting us know that it had stopped working. If you aren't local and would like to hear it, a short video of the carillon playing was posted on our Facebook page on October 31st.



December Office Closures



The church office will be closed for Christmas on Wednesday, December 25th, and Thursday, December 26th, so the Agnews can visit their family.

Advent Devotionals Available

Free Advent devotionals are available on the table in the narthex and on the table outside the office. These were provided by the Society of St. Andrew, a ministry that works to harvest and share healthy food for the hungry. Learn more at <https://endhunger.org/>.



Christmas Tea in Peterson



The United Women in Faith of the Peterson United Methodist Church (103 E. 3rd St.) invite all women to attend their annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 7th. A program will begin at 2 p.m. Arrive early to view the beautifully decorated tables.

2024 Advent Studies

Option 1

Sundays

6:30 p.m.

December 1, 8, 15, & 22

Feller Lounge

Option 2

Thursdays & One Monday

10 a.m.

December 5, 12, 19, & 23

Feller Lounge

An online option (Zoom) is also available for either group.

The Advent studies will be reading the book *The Christmas Letters: Celebrating Advent with Those Who Told the Story First* by Magrey DeVega. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus—fully human and fully divine. By spending time with these holy, ancient words this Advent, you'll come to know the meaning of Christ's coming like never before. Read the New Testament letters, Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians as your first Christmas letters of the season, and find within them an invitation from God to deepen your understanding of the Incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ.

The cost of the study is \$17, but financial assistance is available, if needed. Sign up in the narthex on Sunday, or call the church office during the week.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee
cherokeemethodist.com
(712) 225-3955



Announcements & Updates

What is Advent?

“The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning ‘coming’ or ‘visit,’ begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate, the coming of Christ.” To learn more, visit <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/seasonal/advent> or <https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-advent-about>.



Mitten Tree



Beginning November 26th, there will be a Christmas tree at the north entrance and another one in the narthex to collect hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, and socks for those in need in our community.

Christmas Undecorating

Stay tuned to our weekly bulletins and Facebook page for a date to help undecorate the sanctuary after Christmas. It will likely be January 6th or 7th.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing



At the time of newsletter printing, plans are in the works for Salvation Army bell ringing. Stay tuned to our weekly bulletins and Facebook page for updates on this ministry. If you have questions, contact Glenda Parrish or Jeff Blum.

St. Paul's Christmas Cards & Gifts Available



As you think about your Christmas cards and gifts, remember that we have five different Christmas cards, featuring Christmas photos from the sanctuary, available for purchase in the narthex. Two magnet styles and a few puzzles of St. Paul's are also available and would make nice Christmas gifts. Proceeds go to the General Fund, which funds both ministry and monthly bills. (Please note: Due to the busyness of the season, we are not able to mail these items.)

Men's Breakfast



Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th, at 8:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall, with Jeff Blum providing breakfast. All men are welcome, so invite a friend or neighbor to join us for a light breakfast and short devotion.

Sleeping Mat Weaving Update



Sleeping mat weaving will pause until February, which means we are **not** accepting any more plastic bags at this time. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

Weather Cancellations

As winter weather approaches, please stay tuned to our Facebook page, KCHE radio, KTIV TV, and KCAU TV for worship cancellations.



Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships for college students and high school seniors are available through the United Methodist Church. It really is worth applying. Last year, two St. Paul's students received significant funds for college through these scholarships. Follow the links to learn more.

Iowa UM Foundation

- <https://iumf.org/scholarships/>



United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

- <https://umhef.org/scholarships/>

GRASP Scholarship

- <https://www.gbhem.org/international/global-education-programs/>

Newsletter Assembly Update from Jennifer Agnew

Group newsletter assembly is tabled through the holiday season. Compiling the newsletter is a big project that I (Jennifer) usually complete in the evenings and over a weekend. Like November, the month of December will be very busy for me, both personally and in the church office. I don't want to publicize a date for folding and then have to potentially cancel at the last minute. I really appreciate everyone who has assisted with newsletter folding in previous months! Stay tuned for updates in the new year.



Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mon. & Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door and downstairs)
Mon., 12/3	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
Sat., 12/7	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	S. Dining Hall reserved
Tues., 12/10	9 a.m. 5 p.m. 7 p.m.	Missions Comm. (Feller) Outreach & Connections Team Finance Committee (Schuldt Dining Hall)
Wed., 12/18	10:30 a.m.	Bible study at The Gardens Newsletter deadline

There won't be communion at Accura in December.

Financial Information

Stewardship Information

Our 2025 stewardship mailing, including a pledge card, was mailed out on November 9th. The mailing list included those in our database who had a recorded giving or pledge from November 2, 2023, through November 6, 2024. If you haven't received the mailing and would like a copy, please pick up a copy in the narthex. Please return pledge cards in the offering plate or to the office as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting the ministry of St. Paul's UMC!

Automatic Giving Available

Automatic monthly giving is an option here at St. Paul's. If you are interested in setting that up, please contact Sarah Cook, our Financial Secretary, or call the office and leave a message for her.

Boxed Offering Envelope Sets Available

Beginning December 1st, we will have a limited amount of boxed offering envelope sets available on the table in the narthex for those who prefer to have a specific envelope for each week's offering.

2024 Finance Update

As of the Finance meeting on November 12th, we are quite behind on 2024 giving to the general budget (ministry, utilities, building repair, staff, etc.). However, we are happy to report that expenses are under budget. It's not too late to give for the 2024 budget! For the giving to count for 2024, please have it submitted or post-marked by December 31st. Thank you for your help in being "God's Love in Action."

Thank You Notes



Your kind expression of sympathy, love, and support is greatly appreciated during this very difficult time. Thank you for your help and support in celebrating Josie's life.

Thank you to Glenda Parrish for giving a program about sleeping mat weaving at the Rotary meeting on November 11th.

Thank you to the anonymous donor who purchased a collapsible, folding wagon cart. The cart will arrive this week and will be available for anyone who needs to load or unload items here at church. The weight capacity of the cart is 360 pounds.

CAP Food Bank would like to thank St. Paul's United Methodist Church for the food donations that we received. These donations will help us continue to provide food for families who need food. Thank you.

CAP Volunteers

Action Items



Response Needed About Newsletters



We are thinking about our financial resources and considering a change to our monthly newsletters. Currently, we have a bulk mail permit, which requires that we send 200 units to receive the reduced cost of \$0.208 per newsletter for local addresses and \$0.236 per newsletter for out of area newsletters. We spend around \$43 each month, plus the annual bulk mail fee, which was \$320 in 2024. In addition to mailing those newsletters, Jennifer also emails the newsletter as a PDF to 217 email addresses, posts it on our Facebook page, Pastor Mike posts it on our website, and physical copies are available outside the office and in the narthex. In 2024, the number of people wanting a physical copy mailed to them has decreased, in part due to deaths, and we now have to send quite a few newsletters back to the church address to meet the 200 required for bulk mail. We are considering the option of letting our bulk mail permit expire. This would mean that those wanting a physical copy of the newsletter would need to pick one up on a Sunday. **We could also mail—with a \$0.73 first-class stamp—a limited amount to those who are homebound or out of the area and don't have email, Facebook, or website access. As we consider this option, we would like to know a good estimate of how many people would still need a physical copy mailed to them.** If 95 households or less need a physical copy mailed to them, we would save money going with first-class stamps versus going with bulk mail. Again, we would continue having physical copies available in the narthex and outside the office and would continue emailing copies and having them available online. **When this announcement was posted in the November newsletter, only two people contacted the office to request that the newsletter still be physically mailed to them. If you would only be able to access the newsletter by having one physically mailed to you, please contact the office as soon as possible, so we can make an informed decision.**



Poinsettia Pick-up Plans

Thank you to everyone who donated the 25 lovely poinsettias that will be gracing the sanctuary at the Christmas Eve service. **Please take your poinsettia(s) home with you following the service.** If you won't be here on Christmas Eve, please make plans to have a friend collect your plant. The office will be closed Dec. 25th and 26th, and the Agnews will be out of town. **The plants will meet their demise if you leave them in the sanctuary.**



Christian Education News

Children's Sunday School



Sunday School for PK - 5th grade meets from 9 - 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. **Please note that there won't be Sunday School on December 29th, due to the Christmas holiday.**

Recent Sunday School Fun

On November 10th (pictured right), the Sunday School students learned about manna, quail, and trusting God to provide all we need. They made bread dough, used an air fryer to make biscuits, and sang "Manna in the



Morning" from our 2023 Vacation Bible School. Photo credit to Miranda Cook.



On November 17th (pictured left), the kids learned about Abigail, David, and how to be helpers. Photo credit to Heidi Gerstandt.

Children's Christmas Program, Soup Lunch, & Santa

The Children's Christmas program, *A Puppet Story Christmas*, has been rescheduled to Sunday, Dec. 15th, during worship. Following worship,



you're invited to stay for a soup lunch and visit with Santa. The Adult Class will be hosting lunch, with a menu of soup, chili, hot dogs, and ice cream for a freewill offering.

Rehearsal for Children's Program

A rehearsal for the children's Christmas program will be held on Thursday, December 12th, from 5 - 7:30 p.m., with pizza provided for supper. All Sunday School students are encouraged to attend, and parents are welcome to stay to help supervise.



Bottled Water for Sunday School

Thank you for the donations of bottled water for the Sunday School kids.

Adult Class Welcomes New Attendees

The Adult Class meets on Sundays from 9 - 10 a.m. in Feller Lounge. Their current topic concludes on Dec. 1st, and they will prepare cookie plates on Dec. 8th. Beginning Dec. 15th, they will discuss *An Unlikely Advent*, a four week series that focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the nativity story. All adults are welcome to join this study!

Confirmation Class

In December, the confirmation class will meet in Feller Lounge on December 8th and 15th at 5 p.m. Pictured below, the class attended mass at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on November 16th.



Paxton Robinson, Lance Van Roekel, Linda Christensen, Charley Grant, LunaRai Crannell, Rylan Thill, and Cord Lucas

Teen Time at the Movies on November 13th




Thank you, St. Paul's, for your willingness to give to the youth ministries through the noisy change offering and all the other times through the year. You are so generous. Our Teen Time youth all enjoyed the movie *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* on November 13th. Thank you for "giving," so we could enjoy that movie.

Craig & Monica Schmidt and all the Teen Time youth

Editor's note: 21 teens and three adults attended!

December Teen Time Schedule (H.S. Youth Group)

Wed., 12/4	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Fellowship of Christian Athletes (Trinity Lutheran)
Wed., 12/11	6 p.m.	Teen Time meets at Godfather's Pizza & goes grocery shopping for the food pantry
Wed., 12/18	—	No meeting. 
Wed., 12/25	—	No meeting.

All high school students are welcome at Teen Time! You don't have to be a member of St. Paul's to attend. Invite a friend, and join us!

Missions News

Food or Funds Drive Update

The Food and Funds drive has concluded, and non-perishable food items and toiletries have been delivered to Mid-Sioux Opportunity, the Trinity Lutheran Church's food pantry, and CAP Food Pantry. \$230 was also donated and will be divided and sent to the food pantries. Thank you to the Missions Committee and helpers for packing up and delivering the donations and to all of you for helping your neighbors!



Jeff Blum, Sue Paulsen, Gigi Boothby, Peg Corrington, Karla Wilkie, Nancy Sears, and Jim Corrington

Alternative Christmas Gift Guide



The Missions Committee will be offering their Alternative Christmas Gift Guide again this year. This is an opportunity to support missions projects during the Christmas season. This year's missions projects include Heifer International, Church World Service, Iowa United Methodist Camps, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). The gift guides will be available in the narthex on Sun., December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

Ingathering Update from Roni Timmerman

I am overwhelmed to say "thank you" to all the people that have sent me good wishes for being part of the Ingathering. I have enjoyed working with all of you. It is a special feeling to be part of giving to the world. I want to thank Jeff Blum for helping every year since we have done it here at our church—17 years! He has done all the setting up and tearing down. He has made all the coffee and hot chocolate for us. The other person who has helped for over 20 years and has never missed is Mark Wilkie from Larrabee United Methodist Church. Can't thank them enough. Now, for our confirmands and pastor. You are great help, thank you. I just want to thank all of God's people that show up and work. I never call anyone. They come! I am truly blessed to have St. Paul's as my church. Praying that we can continue to serve. Our District Superintendent said, "God is good all the time," and that is true here at St. Paul's."

(continued next column)

Ingathering Update (continued)

100 school kits	\$ 1,600
Shipping	\$ 200
Sleeping mats	\$ 150
Hunger relief offering	\$ 300
UMCOR	\$ 300
Hurricane recovery	\$ 1,325

Thanks again, and bless you,
Roni Timmerman

Editor's note: This year marked Roni's 40th year coordinating the Ingathering! Thank you, Roni!!!



The confirmation class helped unload cars and loaded the truck.

Pictured above are Charley Grant, Luna Rai Crannell, Carter Knippel, Lance Van Roekel, Cord Lucas, Westin Stubbe, and Paxton Robinson with Roni Timmerman, Ingathering Site Coordinator.



Left: Ervina Scott greeted visitors in Feller Lounge, where there were displays about missions opportunities.

Music Notes

Bell Choir News



Bell Choir will practice at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary on Wednesday, December 4th and 11th, and will perform during worship on Sunday, December 8th. New members are always welcome to join the group. If you would like to join Bell Choir or if you have any questions, please contact Dusty Basten or the church office.

Chancel Choir News

Chancel Choir, our choir for high school through adult singers, will not be practicing in December. They will sing during worship on December 1st, the first Sunday in Advent. New members are always welcome! If you would like to join Chancel Choir or if you have any questions, please contact Becky Lickiss or the church office.



Cherokee Sings Community Choir



Cherokee Sings Community Choir practices in our sanctuary on select Wednesdays, and new members are welcome! In December, they will practice on December 4th at 7:15 p.m. and will perform on Monday, December 16th, at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium (Enter the main doors at the top of the steps, and go right.) If you'd like to join the community choir, just show up at practice, or contact Becky Lickiss with any questions.

United Women in Faith Buzz

United Women in Faith Executive Board

Monday, December 9th

9:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall

No Circle Meetings Until February



Election Day Luncheon Update

A huge "thank you" from United Women in Faith for all the help received before, during, and after the Election Day Luncheon and Bake Sale. Each of you had a big impact on the success of this. Around 265 were served between dine-in, carry-out, and delivery orders. We were able to surpass last year's total! The bake sale netted \$604, and the luncheon netted \$3,403, which is about \$500 more than last year. Thank you to all! (Total net receipts: \$3,565.03)

Note: Please see the November Happenings page for photos from the Election Day Luncheon and Bake Sale and from Mark Scherbring's presentation at the Grace Circle's November meeting.

Church Family News

With Sympathy & Prayers

Charlene C. Lickiss, 81, of Aurelia, formally of Storm Lake, passed away on November 2nd at Accura Health Care in Aurelia. A visitation was held on November 7th at First United Methodist Church in Aurelia, with a funeral service there on November 8th. Burial was in the Pitcher Township Cemetery, Aurelia. Charlene is the mother of Stephen (Becky) Lickiss.

Carol Elaine Pohl, 79, passed away peacefully at her home on November 2nd after a short battle with brain cancer. Visitation and a celebration of life service were held at River Hills United Methodist Church in Burnsville, MN, on November 8th. Carol is the sister of Joanne Lundquist.

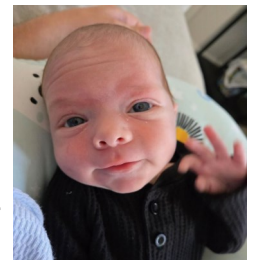
Kim Margo Barrett, 69, of Cherokee passed away on November 9th, following a 15-month battle with lung cancer. Visitation was held on November 15th at the Greenwood-Schubert Funeral Home, with a rosary and prayer service to follow. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on November 16th at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Burial was at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Kim is the sister of Pandora (Dana) Phipps.

Welcome, Little Ones!



Colin and Kaylee Jorde are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, **Lenora Rae Jorde**, who was born on Tuesday, November 12th. Lenora was 7 lbs. 2 oz. and 19.5" long. Her proud great-grandparents are Al and Barb Henn. Congratulations!

Allison and Seth Curtis are proud to announce the birth of their son, **Elijah David Curtis**, who was born on October 28th in Fort Cavazos, Texas. Elijah was 8 lbs. 13 oz. and 21.5" long. His proud grandparents are Stacie and David Driggs of Quimby, Glenn and Tammy Curtis of Aurelia, and Renee and Kelly Schulz of Hospers, Iowa. Congratulations!



Summer Job Opportunity

Looking for a fun way to spend your summer? Apply for a job at one of the two Iowa United Methodist Camps! Your summer will be filled with lots of time outdoors, fun with friends, and opportunities to work with children and youth every day in an impactful way. Summer staff serve in a variety of areas, such as cabin leadership, activity leading, kitchen, multimedia, and more. Learn more at <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/were-hiring-iowa-um-camps-seeks-summer-staff-for-2025-season-18754096?>

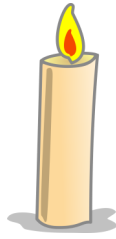
Worship Notes

North Door Greeters

North door greeters are needed for December.
Sign up in the narthex on Sundays, or call the office.

Acolytes

- 12/1 Carter Knippel
- 12/8 Cord Lucas and Paxton Robinson
- 12/15 LunaRai Crannell and Charley Grant
- 12/22 LunaRai Crannell and Charley Grant
- 12/24 Paxton Robinson
- 12/29 Cord Lucas



Advent Readers

- 12/1 Jim & Peg Corrington
- 12/8 Dr. Wes & Sue Parker
- 12/15 Roni Timmerman and Gigi Boothby
- 12/22 Don & Jeanne Blackstone
- 12/24 John & Jan Cook



Liturgists

- 12/1 Roni Timmerman 12/22 Don Blackstone
- 12/8 Chuck Tolzin 12/24 N/A
- 12/15 Linda Appleby 12/29 Jason Cook

Children's Time

- 12/1 Roni Timmerman
- 12/8 Ervina Scott
- 12/15 Children's program
- 12/22 Craig & Monica Schmidt
- 12/24 N/A
- 12/29 Miranda Cook



Ushers

- 12/1 Jim & Peg Corrington, Austin & Megan Lucas, and Dave & Donna Lucas
- 12/8 Dr. Wes & Sue Parker, Curt & Kristal Phillips, and Donna Lucas
- 12/15 Scott Osborn & Marla Conley, Bonni Conley, and Dave & Donna Lucas
- 12/22 Dr. Wes & Sue Parker, Austin & Megan Lucas, and Dave & Donna Lucas
- 12/24 Tim & Jen Gaydo, Scott Osborn & Marla Conley, Austin & Megan Lucas, and Dave & Donna Lucas
- 12/29 Scott Osborn & Marla Conley, Curt & Kristal Phillips, and Bonni Conley

Altar Flowers

- 12/1 The Rochleau Family
- 12/8 Bonni Conley
- 12/15 The Lucas Family 12/24 Poinsettias
- 12/22 The Jones Family 12/29 Bonni Conley

The 2024 altar flower sign-up is available on the table in the narthex on Sundays, or you can call Jennifer during the week. If the date you prefer has been taken, it is okay to have more than one arrangement per Sunday.

Nursery Attendants

Needed for the month of December. Sign up online.

Attendance

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Confirmation	Wed.	Teen Time
-	-	-	-	10/30	20
11/3	113	27	7	11/6	FCA
11/10	117	31	10	11/13	24
11/17	112	31	9	11/20	12

Podcast and Online Services Available

Sermons are available on 92.1 FM KCHE on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and are also available via podcast. You can find a link to a podcast app on our website (green icon in the upper right on the homepage). Our full service is available live on our YouTube channel and as a recording after the fact both on our YouTube page and on our Facebook page. A link for our YouTube page can be found on our website (red and white icon in upper right on the homepage), and a link for our Facebook page can also be found on our website (blue and white icon in upper right on the homepage). If you need assistance, please stop by the office.

Advent Sermon Series: Singing the Christmas Story

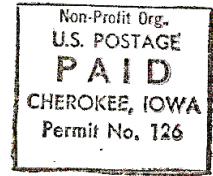
In this series, we will take a look at aspects of the Christmas story as told in the lyrics of some of the most well-known Christmas hymns.

- 12/1 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymn #211
Zechariah 9:9-16; Isaiah 7:10-17
- 12/8 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Hymn #234
John 1:1-14
- 12/15 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" Hymn #218
Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:8-15
- 12/22 "The First Noel" Hymn #245
Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12
- 12/24 "Silent Night, Holy Night" Hymn #239
Luke 2:1-20
- 12/29 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Hymn #224
Romans 5:1-5



Thank you to the many volunteers who help the worship services go smoothly throughout the year! We appreciate each of you!

 **ST. PAUL'S**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
God's Love in Action
531 W. Main Street
Cherokee, IA 51012



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



**Christmas
Cookie Exchange**

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Suggested \$5/plate donation to receive a baker's dozen (13)

To Donate Cookies:
Please bring donated cookies to Feller Lounge from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, December 7th.
Please note that the dining hall is reserved for a private event during that timeframe.
If you need pick-up service instead, please contact the office.

To Purchase Cookies:
Cookie plates will be assembled during the Sunday School hour on December 8th and will then be available for purchase in the narthex before and after our 10:10 a.m. worship service.

Proceeds support the ministries of the Adult Class and St. Paul's UMC.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee
Cherokeemethodist.com
(712) 225-3955



Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24
5:30 p.m.