

Dear Friends,

Advent is at hand! When we consider the clever Advent calendars in the stores, we can easily construe Advent as a simple countdown to Christmas. But Advent is deeper than that.

During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. We remember the generations of Hebrews who longed for their Messiah to arrive. Advent reminds us that we live in a time of “already and not yet,” as we long for the Kingdom of God to come in its fullness. We observe Advent as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. The celebration of Christmas holds greater meaning when we remember that time of waiting!

At Christmas, we celebrate “Immanuel” (God with us). Through God’s presence working within us, we are healed, transformed, reconciled, and made whole. I pray you have a blessed Christmas.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Vicky



All ministry begins with prayer. Keep praying!

Breakthrough Prayer- Pray this DAILY at 5:17 pm.

Loving God, thank you for giving us life and new birth. Create in us a deep trust in you, and give us the courage to overcome our fears and doubts.

Help us to be the salt and light this world needs. Guide us to find ways to share your love with others.

Lord, open us to all you would have us be for you and for others. Break through into our lives and our churches with new possibilities.

In the hope Jesus offers us, Amen.



Wednesdays
November 29-December 20

Advent Study at Boyceville
6:15 p.m. Meal & 7 p.m. Study

December 2

5 p.m. Tree Lighting in Prairie Farm in
honor of Bill & Margie Wiseman

December 8

Los Posados at Boyceville

December 9

Spirit of Christmas in Boyceville

December 17

Service of Hope/Longest Night
at Boyceville

December 24

9:30 a.m. Worship at Wheeler: Peace
4 p.m. Service at Boyceville
7 p.m. Service at Prairie Farm: Faith

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Gleaner news is due by noon on
Tuesday, December 19th. Please
contact Tammy Nelson at 715-505-2657
or rtsmnelson@hotmail.com with your
news. Thanks.

DECEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 - LaVonne Nelson
- 5 - Thomas Dummer
- 6 - Dianne Dummer
- 8 - Karen Wreford
- 9 - Mark Vos
- 9 - John & Rosanne Wurtzler (anniv)
- 10 - Kirstin Dummer
- 11 - Mary Barstad
- 11 - Eric Carufel
- 11 - Jordan Carufel
- 13- Julia Hoff
- 16- Sharon Zachow
- 17- Gail Mitchell
- 17- Kevin Smith
- 21- Merlyn & Shirley Jones (anniv)
- 24- Brooke Salsbury
- 26- Louise Roemhild
- 27- Shellie Dean



You are invited you to a
Service of Hope

Sunday, December 17 at 6 p.m.
at the Boyceville United Methodist
Church.

A quiet and reflective service for
anyone facing a difficult Christmas



Christmas Eve Services December 24th

9:30 a.m. at Wheeler: Peace
United Methodist Church

4 p.m. at the United Methodist Church
of Boyceville

7 p.m. at the Prairie Farm Faith
United Methodist Church

Advent Bible Study

You are invited to a four part Advent Bible Study, "Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the sights and sounds of Advent", for our charge. Things just look, smell, and taste differently during the Advent and Christmas season, and these differences are a sign to us that God is about to do something radical and different. Dates are Wednesdays, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13, 20. Time will be similar to our Lenten services, a light meal at 6:15, with the study at 7 pm. We will meet at the Boyceville Church.



IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Amanda Roper

Sister Alegria

Sister Confianza

Frankie Alone

Judy & Dave Wirth

Those facing the holidays alone

Victims of natural disasters

Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes

A reminder: Please remember our shut-ins with
calls and cards.

Irene Schmidt

Carol Cherney

Julie Babbit

Nancy Smith

Prairie Farm Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2nd at 5pm

At the Prairie Farm Community Center

The Village Christmas Tree will be lit in
honor of Bill & Margie Wiseman

"Light Up the Park" will follow in
Pioneer Park.

Circuit Update

On October 22nd, we attended a circuit visioning event at Elk Mound: Trinity UMC. Clergy and laity took part, and we shared a meal, brief worship and ideas for the future. Though we meet monthly as clergy, we missed the days when the clergy would meet along with the laity for fellowship and ministry. We came up with ideas that will be refined as we go along, but here are a few of the ones we gathered:

- We plan to meet quarterly, most likely on a Sunday afternoon.
- We'll rotate churches with the first one most likely in Menomonie in January.
- Suggested events include some of our favorites: food and music, but also movies, mission projects and outdoor activities.

Your ideas are welcome! Watch the Gleaner for details.

Pastor Vicky

Spirit of Christmas

The Spirit of Christmas celebration will be held in Boyceville on Saturday, December 9th.

It will include a Live Nativity at 4:30 p.m.

Lighting of the Christmas Tree at 5 p.m.

and Lighted Holiday Parade at 5:30 p.m.
all on Main Street

Craft sales and other activities will also be happening around town that day.

Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity

The twin home in Menomonie (Faith Build) went up this week! A "ground blessing" is scheduled for December 10 at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to join. Also, the first volunteer days are scheduled for December 9 & 16, 2023. For event details and to register, please go to cvh4h.volunteerhub.org and search for these dates. If you are interested in providing lunch/snacks/beverages for the volunteer days, these events are listed as well. We appreciate your participation.

Sermon by Phone

The Boyceville church is offering a Sermon by Phone service. Each week you can call into our Sermon by Phone telephone number and listen to the scripture reading and sermon. The phone number is 715-309-5114. This is a Menomonie number, and it is a local phone number for Boyceville and Wheeler. There is no charge to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available to call Sunday after 4 pm. Each service will be available till the following Saturday afternoon. If you have any questions call Marguerite at 715-651-7880.

Sermon by Phone - call 715-309-5114. The message will change each week, but the phone number stays the same.

The sermon is also available on the United Methodist Church of Boyceville facebook page: and their website: boycevilleumc.org.



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Luke 2:1-20 KJV

United Methodist Church of Boyceville

Worship Time: 9:45 a.m.

Scripture Readers for Boyceville

Starting in December, the lay reader on Communion Sunday is asked to help Pastor Vicky with communion

	Reader
December 3	Earl Blodgett
December 10	Doreen Olson
December 17	Glenise Thomas
December 24	in Wheeler
December 31	Carol Cherney

Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee Time will be after the service on December 10th. Doreen Olson and Carol Cherney will serve on the 10th. There will be no coffee time on the 24th.

The Zebro & Hall families will be the ushers during the month of December



Mission Project December: Angel Tree

The Boyceville Mission project for December is the Angel Tree. We “adopted” 12 children to purchase gifts for. You don’t have to buy everything on a tag. Numerous choices are given so if you can’t find one item, you can shop for a different one. Needs and wants are clearly indicated on the tags. We do like to make sure each child gets a mixture of needs and wants. Gifts are due back December 10. Gifts should be unwrapped and have the tag attached. If you don’t want to shop, cash donations are welcome too. The mission team is happy to shop for you. Thank you for your support.

Los Posadas

The Boyceville congregation extends an invitation to the congregations at our sister churches of Faith and Peace to join us for Los Posadas on Friday, December 8th at 6 pm. Los Posadas is a progressive dinner where we share a part of the Christmas story at each stop. We will start at the Boyceville church with appetizers, progress to Zebro's for salads, soups are at the parsonage, and desserts at the Halls. Volunteers are needed to provide the food as well. A sign-up sheet will be at the Boyceville church or contact Marguerite at crazy2quilt@gmail.com or 715-651-7880.

Food Harvest Ministry News

The next Food Harvest Ministry distribution will be from 8-9 a.m. on Saturday, December 16th at 1002 Main St., Boyceville, WI. Items will be boxed and ready for pick up. Volunteers are needed to unload the truck and pack boxes on Thursday, December 14.



Mission Restoring Hope

Do you need help? Mission Restoring Hope is here to help. We offer a variety of essential items, from clothing and household goods to tools, health and beauty supplies, and baby items. Our mission is to provide access to these necessities at absolutely no cost to you.

If you, or someone you know is experiencing a hardship or crisis, please connect them to us to see if we can assist. We are located in Boyceville and are here to help our local community.

The last donation collection day for 2023 will be Saturday, December 1st from 9-11 a.m. They are open by appointment.

Please contact Doreen at 715-505-1621 or Doreen@missionrestoringhope.org or use our contact us page on our website: missionrestoringhope.org

Blessing Box

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Blessing Box. If you don't want to shop, we do it for you. Cash donations are always appreciated. Marguerite works hard to make our dollars go as far as possible when shopping for the box.

Faith United Methodist Church Prairie Farm

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.



Thank you:

- To Chris and Robin Burke for donating the potatoes for the Pancake Supper.
- To all who have done their cleaning duties. This is something that UWF members have done over the years.
- To Roger and Anita Smith for a monetary donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Jim Miller. He was Merlin and Ruth's son.
- To Robert J. Strupp for a monetary donation to the church budget.
- To Lay Readers: Bill Wiseman, Pastor Vicky, Jim Strupp.
- To Coffee Servers: Margie Wiseman, Robin Burke.

Corrections:

The donations for Gary and Gloria Kahl to the Memorial Fund came from Chuck Kahl.

The donation to the Memorial Fund from Gary and Ila Knutson was for Gary Moen.

Reader/Greeter

Usher, Advent Candle

Coffee/Snack

Dec. 3	Bill Wiseman	Salsburys
Dec. 10	Roxanne White	Robin Burke
Dec. 17	Robin Burke	Roxanne/Barb
Dec. 24	Frisles	
Dec. 31	??	

Faith United Methodist Women - United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith met on November 14th for our Thank Offering service. Robin Burke had the program. We decided that we would give gift cards instead of fruit baskets this year. We did the Mission Today report and planned the program for 2024. We decided to have meetings on Thursday nights at 5:00 p.m. We will have our Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 14th at 5:00 p.m. beginning with potluck supper and the meeting to follow.

On Thursday, November 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. Barb Bender and Roxanne White attended the Emerald UMC to hear and show slides from Temba Nkomozepi. He is the Global Missionary to Mujila Falls in Zambia where Paul Webster worked before retiring from there. Paul was also at the meeting as he is living in his home area again.

Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings!!!!

**Peace United
Methodist Church
Wheeler**

Worship Service at 11 a.m.

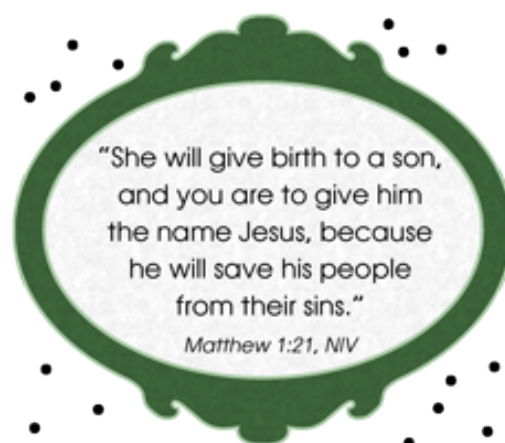
thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Meatball Dinner a success! We couldn't do this without you!



**Christmas Eve Service
December 24th**

9:30 a.m. at Wheeler: Peace
United Methodist Church





Why December 25th? December 2023

Did you ever wonder why we celebrate Christmas on December 25th? Jesus didn't have a birth certificate, so how do we know when Jesus was really born? Because the Bible offers no date for Jesus' birth, the placement of the nativity is up for debate. But there are three explanations that land us on December 25th.

First, the Christian historian Sextus Julius Africanus had identified the 25th as Christ's nativity in the 3rd century. Chronographers reckoned that the world was created on the spring equinox and four days later, on March 25th, light was created. Since the existence of Jesus signaled a beginning of a new era, or new creation, the Biblical chronographers assumed Jesus' conception would have also fallen on March 25th, placing his birth in December, nine months later.

The second theory proposes that early Christians were convinced that Jesus must have lived upon earth for an exact number of years. Therefore, the date on which he died would also have been the same as the date of his conception. Because they believed that he was crucified on March 25 (and therefore conceived on March 25), his birth would have been placed nine months later, on December 25th.

The final theory concludes that December 25th was chosen at Rome because it was also the date of the winter solstice in the Julian calendar and a popular pagan feast celebrating the birthday of the invincible Sun. The pagan feast was established by Emperor Aurelian in 274 A.D. After Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, he wanted to draw people away from these pagan festivities and point to Christ as the true Sun of Righteousness, and so instituted at Rome the feast of the Nativity on the same date.

So, you can take your pick as to which theory you believe has us celebrating Christmas on December 25th. No matter what option you choose—or even if you believe we have the date all wrong — Christmas is a reminder that God has come near and that the world and our lives will never be the same.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
Contact me at: 608-837-9582 or jmahnke@wumf.org
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or
[Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org) or call 1-888-903-9863

United Methodist Church
PO Box 94
804 St. John St.
Boyceville, WI 54725

Return Service Requested



Newsletter of Boyceville, Prairie Farm Faith and
Wheeler Peace United Methodist Churches
Pastor Vicky Strupp
Parsonage: 715-749-6351
Prairie Farm: Faith Worship Service 8:30 a.m.
Boyceville Worship Service 9:45 a.m.
Wheeler: Peace Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Welcome

December 2023

The Gleaner