

On Thursday, December 14, 2017 10:58 AM, Program Coordinator
<ProgramCoordinator@columbusfumc.com> wrote:

First UMC / Email Blast

This Weekend in Worship...celebrate the season of Advent!

Sat @ 6 PM, Sun @ 8 AM – This weekend, the Advent sermon series “More” continues with “more joy” from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. In what ways do we have the JOY down in our hearts?

10:30 AM, Sunday School Christmas Program: The program will be **Sunday, December 17** during the 10:30 AM worship service. Our Children’s Christmas Program will include the Pre-K to High School Groups. Last Practice at 9 AM on Dec. 17. Please have children to church no later than 9 AM on this day!

4 to 6 PM, Pastor’s Open House – Come greet the pastors and visit our Outreach Center on **Sunday, December 17 from 4 to 6 PM** in the Community Room!

Ignite on Sun @ 6 PM – This weekend’s the sermon series, “Return of the King” with a focus on John 1:6-8, 19-28. Remember to stay afterward for snacks & fellowship!

Special Advent Studies & Activities:

Sunday School Classes, *please check with your class leaders!*

Mondays, Bible & Bag: Women’s Bible Study (*Pauses for Advent*) from 12 to 1 PM.

Tuesday Mornings, Bible Study (*Christmas Gifts That Won’t Break*) at 9:30 AM.

Tuesday Nights, Serendipity Group – all are welcome (*Because of Bethlehem*) @ 7 PM.

Starting **Wed. Dec. 6**, Wednesday Evening Line-Up at Outreach Center (*Christmas Gifts That Won't Break* – three-week version) @ 7:15 PM.

Blue Christmas Service – For some, the holiday season is a lonely time for those who are alone and/or grieving the losses they have experienced in their lives. There will be a **Blue Christmas Service** held on **Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 PM** at Federated Church. This service is being sponsored by Federated, First UMC, Grace Episcopal & St. Luke's UCC.

Nativity Pieces/Scenes – Children, nativity pieces will be handed out at each worship service during the month of December! *Previous years' Nativity Scenes* are available in the office for a small donation. Complete your sets!

Youth Bake Sale – On **December 16 & 17** the youth will be doing a bake sale in chapel parlor after each service. The money raised goes to the holiday spirit co-op to help purchase gifts for children this holiday season.

Care Team Appreciation & Open House / Special Advent

Prayer & Healing Service: All who volunteer with our various caring ministries of the church are valuable to First UMC! The Care Team would like to invite all to a Care Team Appreciation & Open House on **Monday, December 18 at 7 PM** at our Outreach Center (spouses & guests are welcome to attend). *Please join us for a special Advent Prayer & Healing Service at 6:30 PM in the Wesley Room.*

CALENDAR:

December 14 / Mission Committee Mittens Due / 12 PM AWARE @ Dusters / 6 PM Prayer Team / **6:30 PM Blue Christmas @ Federated Church** / 7 PM Serendipity Group (Zehring House)

December 15 / **Circuit Rider Due**

December 16 / Peanut & Stretch Offering / 9 AM Youth Bake Sale / 6 PM Worship

December 17 / Peanut & Stretch Offering / 8 AM Worship / 9 AM Sunday School / 10 AM Fellowship Time / 10:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Program / 12 PM Noon Connections in Omaha / 4 PM Pastor's Open House / 6 PM Ignite! / 6 PM Children's Church

December 18 / 12 PM Bible & Bag (OC-WR) / 6 PM ARC (FH) / 6:30 PM Prayer & Healing Service (OC-WR) / 7 PM Care Team Appreciation & Open House (Special Advent Prayer & Healing Service) @ OC-WR

December 19 / 9:30 AM Bible Study (CP) / 6:30 PM Serendipity Group (RM 207) / 6:45 PM Administrative Committee Chairs (CR) / 7 PM Board of Trustees & Finance Meetings

Mark Your Calendars:

December 22 – 12 to 6 pm First United Methodist Blood Drive @ OC

December 23 – 6 PM, Regular Worship Service (Fourth Sunday Advent)

December 24 – 8 AM, Regular Worship Service (Fourth Sunday Advent)

December 24 – 10:30 AM, Family Christmas Eve Service @ Church; 6 PM, Ignite Christmas Eve Praise @ OC; 11 PM, Candles, Carols & Communion @ Church

More Announcements

“Piece by Piece” Capital Campaign – The Capital Campaign Team wants to challenge the church family members to **PRAY @ 3:12 PM/AM** each day for the Church and the Campaign. The time is from 2 Corinthians 3:12, *Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.* Please pray for hope, courage, boldness and faith! For more information about being a part of the “Piece by Piece” Prayer Team, talk to Lois Smith and/or Rev. Cindi Stewart.

Call to Action – Attention, Congregation! **Have you ever wanted to take action regarding issues but were unsure how to make your voice heard?** Or wondered if it does any good? Every voice counts and matters. The Christian

Social Witness Team is compiling a list of people's email addresses that would like information on how to take Action. The **"Call to Action" list** will provide you with information on how to contact organizations, or law makers, to voice your opinion on topics. Emails will contain information regarding topics and explain, when, how and who to contact. If interested in receiving information and being part of the "Call to Action" list please contact Delanie Hudnall, djhudnall@columbushosp.org.

WANTED: Chancel Choir Accompanist – The Chancel Choir of the Church is looking for an accompanist to rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM, and to play for choir presentations on the first & third Sundays of the month. This is a paid position. For more information, please contact Rev. Cindi and/or Chancel Choir Director Sarah Cunningham. *Feel free to forward this information to others.*

Blood Drive: First United Methodist Church Blood Drive is on **Friday, December 22** from 12 to 6 PM @ our Outreach Center. Call Connie Jensen at 402-563-4123 to schedule a time. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Taste of Alpha: new Alpha Course begins **Thursday, January 11** at **6 PM** with the "Taste of Alpha" Dinner Party in Fellowship Hall. Come find out why over 400 people have met new friends, deepened their faith, and had a lot of fun attending Alpha at First United Methodist Church. Oh, and then there's the food...a great meal every week! Come on the 11th to learn what an Alpha evening is like, then decide if you'd like to sign up for the 10 week session on the basics of the Christian Faith in friendly and informal atmosphere. Come if you are single or married, young or "mature", always in church or hardly ever (or never) in church, have lots of questions or know it all, don't like to talk or love to ask questions...you get the idea. Everyone is welcome. Please call the church office (402) 564-8463 to make a reservation. Childcare will be available upon request.

Discipleship & Leadership Opportunities: – Want to **VOLUNTEER / SERVE** in the Church? Watch this ***newly added*** section for opportunities! Email Erin Landon for more info: ProgramCoordinator@columbusfumc.com

Care Team needs a few more Caring People to serve in a variety of ways: provide transportation to & from worship on the weekends and/or to medical appointments; make hospital visits and/or visits to homebound members; help to coordinate health & wellness activities. Care 101, 202 & 303 trainings available as scheduled. Talk to Rev. Cindi, Dee Kinkaid and/or Martha Davidson for more info. Trainings are open to all church family members & friends who want to develop their caring skills. Sign-up in the Church Office with Rev. Cindi. Thank you!

Sound Techs serve in weekly worship services and/or special events as scheduled (funerals, weddings, etc). **Training available!** Expectation would be to serve once a month (if we have enough volunteers). Talk to Jim Hanna or Kevin Whited for more info!

Community Connection!

Center For Survivors- The center is now in its 27 year of serving our families and individuals in six counties. We have served over 1,000 individuals in 2016. One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, and one in seven men will experience severe physical violence by their partner. Churches have been vital in providing our center resources for families and individuals impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. We have many families and individuals on our Christmas wish lists that are in need of new winter clothing. If you would like to adopt a family, for our Christmas wish list program, please call 402-564-2155 or email outreach@centerforsurvivors.net. Our need list is in the office at First United Methodist Church. Some of the items include garbage bags, laundry detergent, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, cereal, soups, diapers, Ziploc bags, and gift cards.

Prairie Rivers District Mission Trip Opportunity – PLEASE SIGN-UP ASAP!!! The Prairie Rivers District is forming a district wide missions team to go to Texas this coming January to help with the recovery work from Hurricane Harvey. Please join Pastors Russ Anderson and Martin Leeper **January 28 – February 3**. The exact location is yet to be determined. This mission opportunity is for laity and clergy alike. Call Pastor Russ at 308-382-1952, or Pastor Martin at 402-741-2362 for more information. The Prairie Rivers District will help with some of the expenses keeping the cost per person low. The expected cost per person is \$200 (housing, food budget, fuel cost sharing, ect.). Volunteer in

Mission (VIM) team training events will be held throughout the district for those wishing to join the mission team. Please look for information on when and where they will be held. ***PLEASE SIGN-UP ASAP!!!***