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First UMC / Email Blast

Before Worship this Weekend...join us for these special events!

❖ **Spaghetti Fundraiser for Sarah Borgman** / First UMC wants to show its support & prayers for Sarah Borgman, our Christian Education & Youth Coordinator, who suffered a severe concussion on Sun. Sept. 23. She is improving each week, and she is now able to work a few hours each day. On **Wednesday, November 28**, we will be having a **Spaghetti Fundraiser** from 5 to 7 PM at our Outreach Center to help with Sarah's medical expenses. *Thank you to the Thursday Evening Bible Study members for coordinating the meal!*

❖ **Nebraska Brass Quintet** / A Nebraska Brass Christmas will be held on **November 30 @ 7:30 PM**. You can purchase tickets in advance, and First UMC will get a portion of all pre-sold tickets! What a wonderful event to kick off the Christmas season! Tickets can be purchased in the Church Office. Adults \$12; Seniors \$10; and Children are FREE! Invite your friends & neighbors for a great way to kick-off the Holiday season!

❖ **UMW Christmas Brunch** / This year's Annual UMW Christmas Brunch will be held on **Saturday, December 1** from **9:30 to 11 AM**. There will be excellent "brunch" food, special music by Lillian Hudnall, special offering for "Alice's" UMCOR Water Well Project and a make & take Advent Calendar! Tickets are only \$3 each OR 4 tickets for \$10. Invite your friends for a great time!

This Weekend in Worship – *We are called to Prepare the Way for Jesus in this season. Just like the time we spend to prepare our homes, we need to prepare our hearts!*

Sat @ 6 PM (OC) and Sun @ 8 AM & 10:30 AM (Church) – As we begin the Advent season Rev. Cindi will talk about how to "**Prepare the Way**" with a focus on

Hope and what it means to **Stand** before the Lord while reflecting on Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36.

Ignite on Sun @ 6 PM (OC) –This weekend join Pastor Joe @ Ignite as he discusses how we can get pulled away from what the true meaning of Christmas is, through “**Advent Conspiracy**”, he’ll talk about how to **Worship Fully**. Focusing on Luke 2:8-20 and Psalms 150:1-6. **Remember to stay for a light meal & fellowship in the evening.**

First Sunday Potluck / Check out the December First Sunday Potluck, hosted by the GROW Men! Fried Chicken is the main dish, and all are invited to bring a side dish to share!

Decorating for the Advent Season / There are some finishing touches that need to be completed at the Outreach Center. If anyone is interested in helping to decorate trees, we will be working on them on **Sunday starting at 4:30 PM**, prior to the Ignite service.

Advent Bible Studies / As the **Advent Season** is upon us, **Prepare the Way** by participating in one of our many studies!

- **Sundays**, 9 to 10 AM – Sunday School Classes
- **Sundays**, 4 to 5:30 PM @ OC – starting on 12/2 – *Characters of Christmas*
- **Mondays**, 12 to 1 PM @ OC – Bible & Bag – Studying Christmas story in Matthew & Luke
- **Tuesdays**, 9:30 AM @ Church – Tues Morning Bible Study (studying Esther, started on 11/27)
- **Tuesdays**, 11:30 to 1 PM @ El Tapatio - Taco Tuesday (Advent reflections)
- **Wednesdays**, 7:15 to 8:15 PM @ OC – Kidz Korner, Youth Groups, Advent LIVE (for adults in Meditation Room, starting 12/5)
- **Thursdays**, 8 to 9 PM @ OC (and/or off-site location) – Men’s Bible Study

Hearts & Stars / Join us in this year’s **Hearts & Stars for Missions** projects! **STARS** go toward supplies for UMCOR Cleaning Buckets. **HEARTS** represent children in our community who are in need – on each heart is the age & gender of the child and the items their parents have suggested for gifts (total for the gifts should be \$30 to \$35). Gifts need to be wrapped & returned to the Church by **Dec. 9**. This is important: **SIGN** the tablet next to the tree with the number that you have taken. Each family unit will receive a Gift Card for groceries,

Golden Book Christmas Story and a bag of Cuties! Thank you for your support! *At the Church, tree is located in the Gathering Area; at our Outreach Center, there will be a tree with “ornaments” soon in the Wesley Room.*

PBJ4JC / **Peanut Butter and Jelly for Jesus Christ Holiday Giving Drive for the Food Pantry and Backpack Program.** As a way to honor Baby Jesus, the Lamb of God, we are extending an invitation to our Sunday School children, youth, and entire congregation to help feed the hungry children in our community by bringing offerings of Peanut Butter and Jelly as gifts to Baby Jesus during this Holiday Season. These gifts will be shared with the Backpack Program and Food Pantry. (There will be gift boxes or bags in Sunday School rooms or near the Sanctuary) **FYI: The Backpack program requires plastic jars.** *Jesus commanded us to feed his lambs; and He also informed us that whenever we give to those in need, we have given to Him.*

Sunday School Christmas Program / This year’s Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 16** at the **10:30 AM** service. MYTT will begin practices on Sunday evening (after Ignite). Parents, please plan to have your students in Sunday School classes to participate this year! NOTE: all Sunday School students & MYTT members are invited to rehearsal on Sun. Dec. 16 at 9 AM in the Sanctuary.

Prayer & Healing Service / The monthly **Prayer & Healing Service** is returning to the **Third Monday at 6:30 PM at our Outreach Center** in the Meditation Room. The next service will be held on December 17. *All are invited & welcome to come, to pray & to receive an optional anointing of oil.*

Can you help? / We have a family in need of a twin mattress and a couple of dressers. Contact Rev. Cindi @ the church office if you can help out!

CALENDAR: <https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/74025457/month/2018-12-01>

Mark Your Calendars:

November 28 – Sarah Borgman Benefit at OC (5-7 PM)

November 30 –*Nebraska Brass Concert @ First UMC*

December 1 – UMW Christmas Brunch / Advent Worship with Holy Communion

December 2 – Advent Worship with Holy Communion / Fair Trade Items - Christmas Edition /
First Sunday Potluck

December 6 – College-Age Students FREE Meal @ OC

December 7 – *Clark-Hash Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner*

December 8 – *Clark-Hash Wedding in Sanctuary*

December 9 – *Christmas Tree Hearts & Stars Due*

December 9 – AAA (Actively Aging Adults) Caroling @ Cecil & Janet Jones House

December 14 - **Circuit Rider Articles Due**

December 16 – Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17 – First UMC Blood Drive

December 17 – Prayer & Healing Service / Care Team Open House & “Handling the Holidays”

Community Connection! – *Please check-out the Community Bulletin Board located outside of the Church Office! Click on the hyperlinks to go to learn more about the events listed below.*

- [Phil Stacy Concert](#) – November 29
- [Bowling Fundraiser for Suicide Awareness & Prevention](#) – December 1
- [Blue Christmas Service](#) – December 6