



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 W South St, PO Box 347, Kirkland, IL 60146-0347

Happenings

DECEMBER
2023



PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

I love this time of year for the cheesy Christmas movies. I'm a sucker for a happy ending. I love to know that the black sheep of the family is forgiven. The town miraculously finds the needed money. The farm will be saved. The hotel won't close. And Love conquers all.

My favorite Christmas movie, *It's A Wonderful Life*, fills almost all of Hallmark's famous tropes. I don't think there is a Hotel, but there is a Savings and Loan! This amazing movie that in 1946 was an unmitigated disaster of a Christmas release, tells the story of a depressed man not seeing Christmas joyous this year because he is stressed out. He is feeling the stress of money problems, unrealized goals, family issues, and some jealousy. He's very human and a role model for a person living in America in the 21st century. It really is a movie that was made before its time.

It's release just after WWII with poignant dark themes, when the United States and the world just wanted movies to forget and celebrate, was a poor decision for the movie company. It was not until 1975 that *It's A Wonderful Life* would be considered a Christmas movie classic. It is now considered one of the 100 best American movies.

George Baily is the everyman or person. Like us he needs someone to help him along to get through the Christmas season and to see the joy that is surrounding him in his community, friends, and family. In his very life. That special person, his angel, is Clarence Odbody an angel with a good heart and poor angel skills.

Clarence proves that its not an act of heavenly intervention that saves George from the stress of his life and the holiday. It's the foundation of his community and his friends that are in place that are his real saving grace. With that lesson learned Clarence receives his wings and we hear the bells ring to celebrate.

We need to come together to support each other during this Christmas Season. Let's work together as a community of faith and friends to ease the stress on the leaders of the December Events. December 9th Cookie Extravaganza & Live Nativity need many volunteers from our congregation and community to make each event happen. Grow closer to your fellow congregants by attending Advent Classes, Sundays 4pm and learn a little more about the season and have fun with your friends and your faith. Invite your neighbors to Christmas Eve 7pm and worship with the community. Giving thanks and praise to a God who loves you and your neighbor.

That's the true message of *It's a Wonderful Life*: love is community: family, friends, church family, neighbors, we're all chosen family in one way or another. We need to work and support each other.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Pastor Dee

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist

- 3 Weston Bramm
- 10 Bret Collins
- 17 Clare Hay

- 24 Larry W. & Lori F.
- 31 Lori Finkle

Audio Visual

- 3 Bret Collins
- 10 Clare Hay
- 17 Bret Collins

- 24 Clare Hay
- 31 Lyndsay

Sidewalk Greeters

- 3 Eric Mede
- 10 Lou Ferrante
- 17 Weston Bramm

- 24 Lyndsay Myers
- 31

Indoor Greeters

- 3 Lyn Exner
- 10 Lora & Brian Stevens
- 17 Vicki Maveus
- 24 Jack Myers
- 31 The Stark Family

Children's Moment

- 3 Pastor Dee Mede
- 10 Pastor Dee Mede
- 17 Marian Collins
- 24 Pastor Dee Mede
- 31

Ushers

- Lora & Brian Stevens



December Birthdays

- 5 — Holly Way
- 21 — Jack Myers

EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS

Join us for Advent Classes
Sundays @ 4 pm
Beginning December 3rd

CHRIST IN THE SIGHTS
AND SOUNDS OF ADVENT



December Calendar

Dec 2	SPRC Meeting	12:30 pm	Church
	Annual Church Conference	1:00 pm	Church
Dec 3	1st Sunday of Advent/Worship	10:00 am	In Person, FB Live & Zoom
Dec 4	AA	8:00 pm	Basement
Dec 5	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12 to 2 pm	First Lutheran Church
Dec 9	Christmas Cookie Extravaganza	1 to 5 pm	Church
	Christmas in Kirkland Vendor Booths	1 to 5 pm	Basement
	Kirkland Library Reading Hour & Crafts	1 to 2 pm	Sanctuary & Meeting Room
Dec 10	2nd Sunday of Advent/Worship	10:00 am	In Person, FB Live, & Zoom
Dec 11	AA	8:00pm	Basement
Dec 12	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12 to 2 pm	First Lutheran Church
	Knitting Ministry	1 to 3 pm	Meeting Room
Dec 16	Women's Society Christmas Luncheon	11:00 am	Basement
Dec 17	3rd Sunday of Advent/Worship	10:00 am	In Person, FB Live & Zoom
Dec 18	AA	8:00 pm	Basement
Dec 19	Food Pantry	12 to 2 pm	First Lutheran Church
Dec 20	Deadline for Newsletter Submissions	By 12 pm	kfumcoffice@gmail.com
Dec 24	NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE	10:00 am	See you at 7:00!
	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm	In Person, FB Live, Zoom
Dec 25	Merry Christmas	All Day	Office Closed
	AA	8:00 pm	Basement
Dec 26	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12 to 2 pm	First Lutheran Church
	Knitting Ministry	1 to 3 pm	Church
Dec 31	Epiphany Sunday Worship	10:00 am	In Person, FB Live & Zoom
	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		

Pastor Dee will be on vacation Mon, 12/25 thru Sat, 1/6



Church Leadership

Ad. Council Chair

Diane Parrish

Finance Chair

TBD

Secretary

Clare Hay

Treasurer

Lori Finkle

Financial Secretary

Clare Hay

Men's Ministry President

Bret Collins

Women's Society President

Vicki Maveus

Clare Hay

SPRC Chair

Bret Collins

Trustee Chair

Peter Bramm

Worship Chair

Larry Worden

Education Chair

Peter Bramm

Lay Leader

Diane Parrish

**Food Pantry and Clothing Closet
First Lutheran Church
510 South Street, Kirkland IL 60146
815-522-3886**

December 2023

Tues. Dec 5.....12 to 2 pm

Tues. Dec 12.....12 to 2 pm

Tues. Dec 19.....12 to 2 pm

Tues Dec 26.....12 to 2 pm

Please keep this schedule handy for your convenience.

If special help is required, please call
815-885-4035.

**Food Pantry Report for the month of
August**

105 Families Served

399 Persons served, 158 were Children



Morning Worship

We are worshipping in person, and online via Facebook Live & Zoom, Sundays @ 10am.

Please contact Pastor Dee for the zoom link, 224-805-9513 or 224-804-9514

RETIREMENT CENTER & NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Bill Byers
Wesley Willows



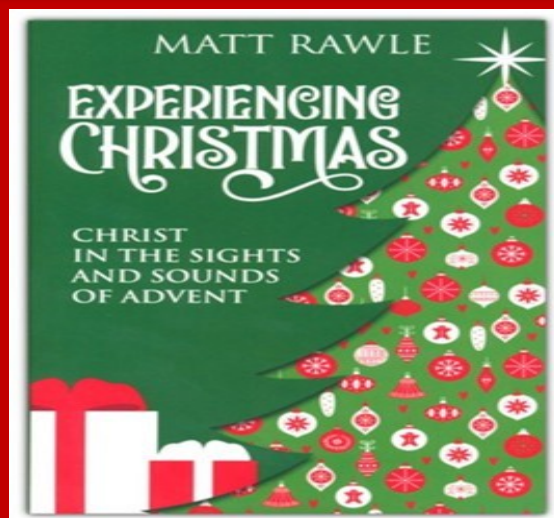
Have a prayer request? We would love to pray for you. Fill out the contact card at church, & put in the offering plate, or you can email the church office & we will add you to the list, or give to Pastor Dee if it is confidential... kfumcoffice@gmail.com

- Mike Roach
- Peter Silvus

- Ron Johnson
- Jamie Burkhardt

Worshipping Together in December

Hope • Peace • Joy • Love



Dec 3	1st Sunday of Advent: Hope "Do You Taste What I Taste?" Communion Sunday	Psalm 34: 8 NRSVUE Luke 22: 14-20 NRSVUE *Luke 1: 26-28 & 30-31 CEB
Dec 10	2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace "Do You Hear What I Hear?"	Isaiah 42: 9-10 CEB Luke 2: 20 CEB *Luke 1: 39-41 CEB
Dec 17	3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy "Do You See What I See?"	Isaiah 42: 9-10 CEB Luke 22: 14-20 CEB *Matthew 2: 18-20 & 24-25 CEB
Dec 24 7 pm	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i> <i>"A Pleasing Aroma"</i>	Matthew 25: 31-45 NIV
Dec 31	Epiphany Sunday Christmas Carol Sing Along	Matthew 2: 1-12 NRSV * <i>Advent Candle Reading</i>



Mission Sunday: December 10, 2023

Local Mission:

Food Pantry: Capron Food Pantry

Broad Mission:
Outdoor Ministry

5th Sunday:
Good Neighbor Fund

Christmas in Kirkland Saturday, December 9



Kirkland Public Library Story Time & Crafts

1 to 2 pm

in the Sanctuary and Meeting Room (off the Sanctuary)

Cookie Extravaganza & Craft Show

1 to 5 pm

In the Sanctuary and Basement



Live Nativity in Franklin Park

5 pm

Come say hello!



Bakers needed. Also needed are volunteers during our Cookie Extravaganza sale hours. Please see Connie Worden to sign up.



Women's Society Christmas Luncheon

Ladies of the church, please mark December 16th on your calendar.

Our Women's Society group is planning to do something fun for December (even though our regular meetings are fun too.) We will be having a salad luncheon Saturday, December 16th at 11:00 am in the church basement.

We will eat and have a couple activities and have PRIZES.

Everyone is asked to bring their favorite salad. If you are new to the group, we would like you to be our guest and you do not need to bring a salad.

Please let Clare, Connie or Vicki know if you are able to attend. We hope to see you.



AMAZON IS NO LONGER OFFERING THEIR AMAZON SMILES PROGRAM. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED KIRKLAND 1ST UMC IN THIS WAY THROUGH THE YEARS!.....THERE IS HOWEVER A PROGRAM THAT YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN A SIMILAR WAY:



Support Kirkland UMC When You Shop Through the UMC Market (powered by iGive.com)

Every time you shop at any of the 2,000+ online stores in the iGive network, a portion of the money you spend benefits First UMC Of Kirkland. It's a free service, and you'll never pay more when you reach a store through iGive. In fact, smart shoppers will enjoy iGive's repository of coupons, free shipping deals, and sales.

To get started, just create your free iGive account.

> Start iGiving at: www.iGive.com/FirstUmcOfKirkland

Or scan the QR code above & it will take you right to the signup page!



ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH IS BY ENROLLING YOUR SCHNUCKS LOYALTY CARD TO BEGIN SENDING DONATIONS TO KIRKLAND 1ST UMC WHEN YOU BUY YOUR GROCERIES. VISIT: [HTTP://WWW.ESCRIP.COM/MERCHANTS/IDENTITY/SCHNUCKS/INDEX.ISP](http://www.escrip.com/merchants/identity/schnucks/index.jsp) TO SIGN UP. YOU CAN FIND THE CHURCH IN THE ORGANIZATION SEARCH BY ZIP CODE OR OUR GROUP ID IS 500009733.

AND OF COURSE YOU CAN STILL SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THIS CHURCH THROUGH ONLINE GIVING BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW

Donating is as easy as taking a picture: Kirkland First's QR code for donations Or visit www.kirklandumc.org



Have a PayPal account? Scan here



~~~~~  
Don't have a PayPal account, scan here

