

# Sanford United Methodist Church

# Messenger



DECEMBER 2018

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of the United Methodist Church

## Advent Arrives

There is no advent day on the calendar. No one says, "Happy Advent!" or "Merry Advent" to everyone as we approach Christmas Day. Advent is a season of the Christian year. The Christian calendar begins four weeks before Christmas with the season of Advent. Adventus means coming. Advent helps us prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

We all prepare our homes for guests by cleaning, dusting and preparing food. I texted my son-in-law to see if we could visit him when he had the kids. Our daughter and son-in-law are going through a divorce and we wanted him to know we care about them all. He and the kids had cleaned the living room well for our visit. All looked so good. He laughed though when the kids opened the bedroom door to get a game. He said they hadn't gotten that far in their cleaning!

Advent is: a journey to Bethlehem, for newness to awaken with a pilgrimage of the soul, a child's delight, a time of waiting.

Advent is: responding to a deep yearning, going on a quest, following the star.

Advent is: bright lights and Christmas trees, waiting and anticipating, preparing our homes and our lives for the birth of Jesus, for the sound of angel's wings, for the world rejoicing together.

Advent is our journey to the manger.

Advent is a time for us to prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus into the world... again. It seems we would get tired of this waiting game, but instead the Advent season is filled with decorating, planning, singing and cheer. We wait for Jesus by preparing for his arrival.

We prepare for the coming of Jesus by lighting candles on the Advent wreath, each week, along the way. The Advent wreath was first created by Rev. Johann Heinrich Wichern in Germany in 1839. Children in his mission kept asking if it was Christmas yet, so he put 24 red candles on a wreath, representing the days and four white ones representing the weeks to Christmas. It has been simplified to just four weekly candles, which stand for the hope, peace, joy and love that come into our world through Jesus. We typically use three



purple candles and one rose pink candle. The different pink candle is used on the third Sunday, also called Gaudete Sunday, to signify rejoicing and joy. In Latin Gaudete means rejoice. From Philippians 4:4 we read, "Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again I say rejoice!"

We prepare for the coming of Jesus by setting up and decorating Christmas trees. One minister I know had eight decorated Christmas trees in his parsonage. We currently have four in our church. The Christmas tree tradition started in Germany in the 1500s. Martin Luther first put candles on the tree to recapture the beauty of starlight shining through the forested evergreens. Queen Victoria popularized placing gifts under the tree.

One of the many ways to decorate Christmas trees is by using Chrismons. These are tree ornaments using the monograms for Jesus. We have displays of handmade Chrismons in our hallway leading into the sanctuary. I hope you get a chance to stop and see them.

Advent is a time of waiting for Jesus to arrive again. We await him with rituals, plans and patience. God has much in store for us. As we wait.

Peacefully awaiting,

Rev. Lisa Cook

## CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

Have you always wondered why and how we use Advent candles, Advent calendars, nativity sets, and more to celebrate the birth of Jesus almost 2,000 years ago? Join the 10:30-11:30 Tuesday morning Bible Talk Back class as we study the book by Larry Peacock called *The Living Nativity*.

Rev. Lisa Cook

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2019 offering envelopes are at the west entrance of the church ready to be picked up. If you cannot find yours, or if you would like offering envelopes, please call the church office, 989-687-5353.

## READERS FOR ADVENT

Dec. 2	Chris & Jean Thompson
Dec. 9	Dan, Angie, Hunter & Kelsey Merillat
Dec. 16	Mike & Judy Gorthy
Dec. 23	Sherry Numbers
Dec. 24	4 p.m. Marcus, Lisa, Tucker & Roland Schriener
Dec. 24	7 p.m. The Swanson Family

## Christmas Worship Services

The sanctuary looks beautiful! Thank you to all who stayed for the Hanging of the Greens potluck after church on Nov. 25th and decorated the church, top to bottom, for Advent and Christmas. I hope you get a chance to experience all that we have going this Christmas season. We are offering two Christmas Eve services, at 4 pm and 7 pm, on Monday evening, Dec 24, 2018. The 4 pm service will be a family friendly Christmas service that the whole family can enjoy. The 7 pm service will be filled with candlelight and we will have communion together in this service before we go home to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. We hope you not only choose to come to church for one of these Christmas Eve services but that you invite your friends and family to join you. Perhaps this is the moment when they experience the joy, peace, hope and love that you know by being a Christian. God calls to each one of us and we are blessed when we follow God's leading. Come to a Christmas Eve service that fits you best and bring others to worship with you. You will be glad you did!

Merry Christmas,  
Rev. Lisa Cook

## OUTREACH

Our Outreach for the month of November was Homelessness and we received \$52.61 in the buckets.

Our Outreach giving (loose change buckets) for December will go to Heifer International, which works with communities around the world to fight poverty, improve child nutrition, and care for the earth. Our Sunday school children will also be collecting for Heifer International in December.

Thank you to those who took Sharing Tree tags to help others in our community to have a better Christmas. The gifts that you purchased from those tags need to be back at the church by Sunday, Dec. 2. It is still possible to purchase gifts, or donate money, online until Dec. 22.

You can do this by going to the online Sharing Tree Impact Store at

[www.SharingTreeMidland.com](http://www.SharingTreeMidland.com).



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### Attendance & Giving

Nov. 4	57	\$4,339.00
Nov. 11	70	\$8,029.00
Nov. 18	51	\$10,010.00
Nov. 25	57	\$1,129.00

## MARVELOUS MONDAYS

### Attendance & Giving

Nov. 5	23	\$85.00
Nov. 12	29	\$295.00
Nov. 19	20	\$98.00
Nov. 26	16	\$80.00

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS

Don't forget our shut-ins during the  
Holidays

**Carmen Adams** Washington Woods, 821 S. Cambridge, #375, Midland, MI 48642

**Luella Glesner** Bickford, 101 Joseph Dr., Midland, MI 48642

**Carol McCallum** 2517 Iowa Ave., Saginaw, MI 48601

**Mildred Reinhart** Washington Woods  
821 S. Cambridge, #380, Midland, MI  
48642

Sanford United Methodist Church  
 2560 N. West River Road  
 Sanford, Michigan 48657  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Church Office: (989) 687-5353

E-mail: [sanumc@tds.net](mailto:sanumc@tds.net)

Website: [Sanfordumc.com](http://Sanfordumc.com)

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**October 2018 Food Pantry**

People Served	25
Children under	18
Households	9
Gift Certificates given:	20
Items In:	1,096
Items Out:	1,038



Items Donated:

Sanford UMC	\$+ 48
Our Lady of Grace Catholic	142
St. Paul Lutheran Church	\$+ 24
Community of Christ	\$
Old Oak Trails Booster Club	61

Current Needs: Hamburger/Tuna Helper & SpaghettiOs  
 Pantry utilization continues steady and we are grateful for your donations. For those who prefer to let us do the shopping, checks can be made out to the Sanford Food Pantry. Our checking account is part of the MCEFPN account, so your donation is tax-deductible. Your donations and support throughout the year are greatly appreciated. Thank you for keeping our volunteers and the client they serve in your prayers.

Kathy Nogaski  
 989-245-2610

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

Our Outreach committee is hosting a Parents Night Out on Sat Dec 15, 2018 from 4-7 pm. Do you need a date night? Do you need to go Christmas shopping without the kids? You can reserve a spot for your kids, potty trained up to age 12, to come and spend these three hours with adults who will care for them well. We will go sledding if the weather holds, we will do crafts, decorate Christmas cookies, watch a movie and have dinner together all for free! Please RSVP with your name, phone number and age of children to our office at 989-687-5353 or email [secretary@sanfordumc.org](mailto:secretary@sanfordumc.org) before Dec 10. We have a limited number of spaces available for this free event.



Parents Night Out

**NEWS**

Your Outreach Committee

**SOUND BOOTH**

We are in need of people to operate our sound booth on Sunday mornings. Please call the church office, 989-687-5353.

# Serving the Lord

	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeters	Coffee Hour
Dec. 2	Carol Hale	Chris & Jean Thompson John Coppinger	Dorothy Francis	UMW
Dec. 9	Ruth Sutton	Jim & Sally Brozzo Curt & Beth Moe	Sherry Numbers	Visitation
Dec. 16	Cheryl Johnson	Dave & Dustin Sutton Sue Dexter	Jeanne Sturm	Worship
Dec. 23	W.C. Paetz	Mitch & Ronda Bowen Adam Sian	Jan Biggs	Choir
Dec. 30	Sue Dexter	Gary & Brenda Boots Dennis Krenzke, Kelsey Merillat	Ed & Pauline Richardson	Youth Education

## CALENDAR DATES

Bible Talk Back every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.  
Cub Scouts are on Sunday afternoon, 4 p.m. and Girls Scouts are on Monday evening, 6 p.m.  
Choir is every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. throughout Dec.



## TRUSTEES FOR DECEMBER

Bob Raymond (Bud Swanson)

## COMMUNION STEWARDS DECEMBER

Carol Hale, Peggy Skinner, Mike & Judy Gorthy

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 4 Dennis & Darlene Krenzke 47 years  
Dec. 12 Jim & Elaine Patterson 54 years  
Dec. 20 Marcus & Lisa Schriener 6 years

## DECEMBER CALENDAR DATES

Thur. Dec. 6 2:00 p.m. Lay Leader Meeting  
Sun. Dec. 9 4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling  
Wed. Dec. 12 6:30 p.m. Worship Meeting  
Sat. Dec. 15 4-7 p.m. Parents Night Out  
Tues. Dec. 18 1:00 p.m. UMW  
Mon. Dec. 24 4:00 p.m. Family Friendly Christmas Eve  
Mon. Dec. 24 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion



Dec. 1 Beth Moe  
Dec. 1 Paul Sharpe  
Dec. 2 Brenda Boots  
Dec. 2 Betty Farner  
Dec. 2 Norm Raymond  
Dec. 4 Janet Sayranian  
Dec. 6 Brenda Matthews  
Dec. 8 Audrey Sian  
Dec. 8 James Sturm  
Dec. 8 Jeanne Sturm  
Dec. 12 Jan Biggs  
Dec. 12 Jay Morgan  
Dec. 12 Ben McNett  
Dec. 18 Cheryl Johnson  
Dec. 22 Larry Moe  
Dec. 24 Garry Coveart  
Dec. 29 Angie Merillat  
Dec. 30 Luella Glesner

## YOUTH LEADER

Sunday, December 16 after church a listening meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall about hiring a Youth Leader. We hope all will attend this very important meeting.



## FAMILY AND FRIENDS EVENT

Sunday December 9, 4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and split into groups to go caroling and meet back at the Fellowship Hall for hot chocolate and cookies.

**Worship Christ The Lord**  
**10:30 A.M. Sunday**  
**Marvelous Mondays**  
**7:00 P.M.**