



GIVING THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
 These six girls, all members of the St. Paul's UMC Confirmation Class, gave a wonderful Children's Message on December 8th. Back row, left to right: Adyson Jenness, McKenna Benson, and Emma Frahm; Middle row, left to right: Taya Phillips and Aurora Christensen; Front row: Amelia Brown

A NOTE FROM LORRENE SULLIVAN

After working at Accura Healthcare in Aurelia (formerly known as Sunset Knoll) for the past 43 years, I am now officially retired. I really enjoyed taking care of all the residents, and I want to thank them and their family members for giving me the opportunity to do that. I will be moving the first of January. My new address will be Lorrene Sullivan, 116 NW B Avenue, Gilmore City, IA 50541. I hope to keep in touch with my St. Paul's family.

VISITATION TEAM MEETING

The St. Paul's visitation team will be meeting on Wednesday, January 8th, at 9:30 a.m. in the office.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

For the 2020 budget, we anticipated \$200,000 of giving for the General Fund. That is a decrease of \$16,000 from the 2019 budget. We also budgeted \$5,000 less in expenses. To date, 70 pledges have been made totaling \$123,540. This is down slightly from last year. If you have not made a 2020 commitment to St. Paul's, please consider doing so.

On a somewhat happier note, giving has been a little better than expected in December. It still appears we will end the year with a deficit, but hopefully not to the degree first expected. Please, let's all continue to generously fulfill our church's ministry. Thank you for your concern and support.

OUR SHARED MINISTRY

LITURGISTS FOR JANUARY

January 5 Leah Dangel
 January 12 Bonni Conley
 January 19 Joyce Goodrich
 January 26 Rod Parker

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FOR JANUARY

January 5 Bruce Dangel
 January 12 Glenda Parrish
 January 19 Donna Lucas
 January 26 Liza Parker

GREETERS FOR JANUARY

January 5 Jeff and Patty Brown
 Chuck and Julie Tolzin
 January 12 Kim and Karen Aduddell
 Craig and Monica Schmidt
 January 19 Jerri Hunt and Tony Hunt
 Don and Jeanne Blackstone
 January 26 Dan and Barb Kratz
 Chuck and Julie Tolzin

USHERS FOR JANUARY

January 5 Bob Simonsen
 Jeff and Patty Brown
 Chuck and Julie Tolzin
 January 12 Craig Schmidt
 Jeff and Patty Brown
 Kim and Karen Aduddell
 January 19 Bob Simonsen
 Jerri Hunt and Tony Hunt
 Don and Jeanne Blackstone
 January 26 Monica Schmidt
 Dan and Barb Kratz
 Chuck and Julie Tolzin

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Date	Worship Attendance	General Fund	Next Generation
November 24	172	3,468.00	244.00
December 1	146	4,102.00	689.00
December 8	143	8,769.00	1,169.00
December 15	202	4,604.00	154.00

OUR MINISTRY SUPPORTED

Budgeted needs 50 weeks into the year: \$225,550
 Received to support budgeted needs: \$199,480

CONTACT US

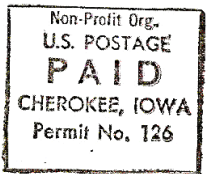
Church Phone (712) 225-3955
 Pastor Cris's phone (515) 423-6421
 The Rev. Cris Decious cris.decious@iaumc.net
 Meribeth Adams meribethadams@outlook.com



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



January 2020 UMW Buzz



No January Unit Meeting

**Executive Board Meeting - Monday, January 13th
 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall**

Sunday, January 26th—UMW Recognition Sunday

January Circle Meetings

Program p. 41– Raise Your Light: Taking the Unexpected Path

Joy Circle—Wednesday, January 15th - 9:30 a.m. in the dining hall

Hostesses: Sherry Held and Jeanne Blackstone Program: Sherry Held

No January Meeting for Charity Circle or Grace Circle

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Gena and Jared Leonard and all of their family. Gena's father, Joseph "Joe" Kohn, passed away at a Sioux City hospital on November 25th, at the age of 74. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on December 2nd, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, with Father Mark Stoll officiating.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Rhonda Hampton and all of her family. The Reverend Doctor Raymond G. Hampton, 78, passed away peacefully on November 29th, at Mary Greeley Hospital in Ames. Ray was the pastor at St. Paul's from 2002 to 2007. A funeral service for Ray Hampton was held on December 6th, at Grace United Methodist Church in Story City, Iowa.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Doug and Darly Gochenour and all of their family. Doug's father, Lloyd Gochenour, 95, passed away on November 29th, at Humboldt County Memorial Hospital. A funeral service for Lloyd Gochenour was held on December 3rd, at the Faith United Methodist Church in Humboldt, Iowa.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Doug and Sandi Stowater and all of their family. Doug's father, Rodney Keith Stowater, 74, passed away December 7th, at the Cherokee Regional Medical Center. A funeral service for Rod Stowater was held on December 11th, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cherokee, with Pastor Jonathan Riggert officiating.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joyce Peterson and all of her family. Jerome D. Peterson, 92, passed away December 14th, at his winter home in Mesa, Arizona. A funeral service for Jerry Peterson will be held on Saturday, December 28th, at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, with Pastor Cris Decious officiating.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Matt and Melanie Sumner on the baptism of their daughter. Wrenly Ashlynn Sumner was born in Oklahoma City on September 10th. Wrenly's very proud grandparents are Jim and Peggy Corrington of Cherokee and Doug and Carol Sumner of Stillwater, Oklahoma. Mary Lampman is Wrenly's great-grandmother.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Al and Barb Henn on becoming great-grandparents! Brooks Alan Wendt was born at the Spencer Hospital on December 3rd. His very proud parents are Nathan and Jackie Wendt of Spencer. Bob and LaRae Wendt of Marcus are Brooks's grandparents.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Jason and Miranda Cook on the baptism of their son. Tyler Matthew Cook was born at CRMC on August 8th. He was welcomed home by his brother Jack. Tyler's proud grandparents are John and Jan Cook of Cherokee and Dennis and Faith Johnson of Ida Grove.



THE DOME

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
January 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Isaiah 35:3-4

**3. Strengthen the weak hands,
And make firm the feeble knees.**

**4. Say to those who are fearful-hearted,
"Be strong, do not fear!"**

**Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
With the recompense of God;
He will come and save you."**

Part of the New Year brings us to our commitment to doing what God has asked us to do. Here in Isaiah 35, we are told that we have the ability to strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. We, with our encouragement, are able to speak to those who are filled with fear. What are we to say? God will come and save us. God will be our help.

I love to paint with oil paints. One painting I had finished was of a teapot and cup with roses in it. The background was velvet-draped material with fringe. It turned out very nicely, and my wife really loved it. The thing about oil paints is that they dry extremely slowly. So, I thought the best place at the time to dry this painting was in the garage for a week or two. It was summer, and the garage was usually a quiet place with little disturbance where it could dry with minimal problems since we didn't park our car in there.

Later that day, my son told me he had used my electric saw to cut some wood in the garage not knowing I had a wet painting in there. He was afraid to tell me he had covered the wet painting with sawdust. Sure enough, I went to the garage and retrieved the sawdust-covered painting. It was ruined. So, I took some turpentine on a paper towel and proceeded to remove the paint from the canvas. Surprisingly, some of the painting had dried and some had not. I repainted the parts that were gone from the turpentine and left the dried parts.

I bet you think that I am going to say that the painting turned out better than when I had first done it. You would be wrong! It didn't turn out as nicely as the original painting. But, it was nice enough. What I had captured the first time, didn't turn out the second time I tried to repaint the same thing. In the end, though, I came out with a nice painting.

Our lives are like that painting. There are parts of our lives that have become marred and distorted by the things that come along in life. Life is hard! But Christ comes along and wants to help us. God wants us to be encouraged when we have become filled with fear. God has sent us his son, Jesus, to save us. Jesus came and wants to create something better with our lives. Unlike the painting, Jesus gives us a better life and makes our hands and knees strong. Pray this prayer with me today: Thank you, God, for making a New Year where things are getting better in our lives with your help and your hand. Strengthen us and give us the courage to help one another in this life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

-Pastor Cris



OUR CHRISTMAS DECORATORS

This fine group of people gathered December 3rd to decorate the St. Paul's sanctuary. (Standing, left to right): Maverick Stief, Steve Martin, Roni Timmerman, Andrea Cook, Rich Cook, Tom Rutter, Bill Jentz, Judy Jentz, John Cook, Jan Cook, and Ann Wright. Seated are Louise Martin and Peggy Rasch.

THANKS FROM WILMA WENCK'S FAMILY

Thank you to our church family for all the cards sent and kind words of sympathy expressed to our family after the loss of our mother Wilma Wenck. Special thanks to Pastor Cris and Betty Point for the beautiful funeral and to Joy Circle for serving the lovely lunch.

Karen & Kim Aduddell, Patty & Jeff Brown, and Andrea & Rich Cook and families

THANK YOU FROM ERVINA SCOTT

It has been a great year to be on the Memorial Fund Committee! I'd like to thank these people for their help: Linda Rutter, Norma Fox, Jerri Hunt, Monica Schmidt, and Meribeth Adams. Also, thanks to Randy Kane and Rich Dorr for hanging the beautiful banners in the narthex.

-Ervina Scott, Memorial Committee Chairman

THANK YOU FROM STAN SITZMANN

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful people at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Your very generous gift for the Cherokee Needy Children's Auction was greatly appreciated! May God bless all of you!

-Stan Sitzmann

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Thanks to all cookie bakers and cookie consumers! On December 8th, we assembled 121 plates of a dozen and a half Christmas cookies to support the many ministries of St. Paul's. This project is so enjoyable and successful because of YOUR participation!

THANKS FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN

The love and kindness you shared brought joy to many! It helped 20 families over the Thanksgiving holiday and will help many others in the months to come. Thank you, and may God continue to bless all of you!

-Trinity Lutheran Church
Health & Human Care Committee

THANK YOU TO THE CARE & SHARE SHOP

Grandma and I want to thank the Care & Share Shop for the new, warm, blue winter coat they gave me. My favorite color is blue. I gave my old coat to my little brother, and I didn't have one. My single mom has 4 kids, so the shop cared and shared with me. Now I'm warm going to school. Thank you!

-Landon Purgett and Grandma Linda Rutter

THANK YOU FROM JEANNE JONES

I would like to thank the United Methodist Women for the delicious plate of cookies!

-Jeanne Jones

SALVATION ARMY THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who helped out in any way with this year's Salvation Army bell-ringing. Many hands helped ring the bells, collecting money and spreading the word about the Salvation Army. Without your help, the Salvation Army would be unable to assist individuals and families during times of crisis. Thanks, again, for your support!

-Mary Jo Carnine

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR CRIS

I would like to thank the teachers and the children for the wonderful Christmas program that was presented to us on December 15th. I know a lot of hard work and many details go into putting on a Christmas program, and I am so thankful we have a group of very talented children and adults who are willing to minister to our church family in this way!

-Pastor Cris

CARDS AND NOTES FOR CHERYL CAMPE

Cheryl Campe is in Omaha recovering from a double lung transplant, and we know she'd appreciate hearing from her St. Paul's family. Please send cards to this address: Cheryl Campe, 435 Summit Street, Cherokee, IA 51012.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 29TH

Our St. Paul's youth will not have Sunday School on December 29th. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on December 31st and January 1st. It will reopen Thursday, January 2, 2020. Please note that any end-of-the-year offerings to the church need to be postmarked by 12-31-19. Thanks!