



# First Things @ First

November 21, 2011  
Vol. XV No. 24

“Living that all may know Jesus”

660.747.8158 ~ FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WARRENSBURG ~ [www.umcburg.org](http://www.umcburg.org)

## ADVENT CALENDAR

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> during the 10:45am Worship Service**

This traditional kick-off event for the Advent season is filled with great music and moving symbolism. This service is a great way to get yourself into the holiday mood.

*A regular Advent worship service will still be offered at 9:30am.*

### UNITED METHODIST MEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER FUND RAISER

**5:00pm–6:30pm on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Tickets ( \$8.00 Adults/ \$3.00 Kids ages 2—10) are available in the office.

The proceeds will be for UMM mission projects.

### CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am**

An inspirational Christmas program filled with the sound of children, youthful music and a puppet presentation.

*A regular Advent worship service will still be offered at 9:30am.*

### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the 10:45am Worship Service**

A beautiful service of song and scripture that's guaranteed to move you.

*A regular Advent worship service will still be offered at 9:30am.*

### FRUIT BASKET SUNDAY

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

Meet in the Family Life Center to help assemble and deliver fruit baskets for shut-ins and senior citizens.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm & 11:00pm**

Bring the whole family for the 4:00pm service which will have child care available. The 11:00pm Candlelight Service will end at midnight as we ring in Christmas Day.

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:45am only.**

Come for an informal service. (No Sunday School.)

#### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30am Connection / *Connected* Band

10:45am Classical/Blended with choir  
and “Kids Own Worship.”

*A nursery is available for children through age 2.*

#### SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH BUS

Call the office by noon on Friday to arrange a bus stop at your home. The FUMC bus is handicap accessible.

## FIRST THINGS @FIRST ~ NOVEMBER 21, 2011

### College-Age Ministry | Evelyn Howard, Staff Assistant | [evelyn@umcburg.org](mailto:evelyn@umcburg.org)

We are starting the "Waiting for Jesus" Advent series December 1<sup>st</sup> in the Underground. Join us Thursday nights at 9:30pm (doors open at 9:00pm).

All applications and money for the January college-aged mission trip to Joplin MUST be given to Evelyn by December 12<sup>th</sup> if you are planning on going.

### Children's Ministries | Melanie Montambeault, Director | [melanie@umcburg.org](mailto:melanie@umcburg.org)

#### Just a few reminders to all parents ...

If school is out on Wednesday for snow days or planned days off, there will not be *FriendsDay* or choir activities.

Every third Sunday of the month the children will be taking an active role in the church worship service. Littlest Angels, Gabriel's Gang and the Children's Bell Choir will take turns in performing every third Sunday for the congregation.

Children's Welcome team is every other month on the second Sunday of the month (12/11, 2/12, 4/8). I will be calling on families to help with morning snacks, greeting, and bulletins.

Thank you for all your help and for blessing our church with your family's presence!



### Preschool Doodlings | Colleen Reed, Preschool Director | [preschool@umcburg.org](mailto:preschool@umcburg.org)

The preschoolers learned all about Thanksgiving this week. We found that there were many things to be thankful for. We all loved making our FUMC traditional turkey handprint placemats. :)

After the Thanksgiving break we will begin our preparations for Christmas. We will be making Christmas countdowns, writing and mailing Santa Letters, and making gifts for our loved ones. In the midst of our busyness we will make sure that the real Christmas Story is our true focus as we hope everyone will. :)

### United Methodist Women | Donna Sample, President

UMW invites everyone to their 9:30am Unit Meeting on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting will include highlights of the year, a memorial ceremony, and installation of officers. The program will be a DVD of Rev. Aaron Brown's presentation at Annual Conference. Aaron is the senior pastor of Saint Paul's UMC in Joplin, Missouri. Bring your old eye glasses for donation to Haiti.

### Hidden Treasures Puppet Team | Larry & Sandi Bryan, Leaders

Michael the archangel, Gabriel and all the other angels will be at UMC on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am. Why did God send a baby? Why not a famous person, or a military man or someone we all knew? All your questions will be answered during this worship service. Hear and see all the young people of our church and the puppet angels during the Children's Christmas Program. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors for this special day!



#### CHECK-IN WITH THE OFFICE

For security, safety, and in case of emergency, all persons entering the church building for unscheduled activity needs to check-in and check-out with the office, so that we know where you are located in the building. Thanks for your help.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

**Shane Bottom** has accepted the position of Night/Sunday Custodian for our church. He will be working from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Monday through Thursday and on Sunday mornings. Please say hello and introduce yourself when you see him around the building.

## FIRST THINGS @FIRST ~ NOVEMBER 21, 2011

### INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER:** *Help us be more accurate in purchasing the amount of food needed. Please call the office or email [receptionist@umcburg.org](mailto:receptionist@umcburg.org) to make your reservation, cancel your reservation, or ask to be added to the standing list by noon on MONDAY. Walk-ins will be served starting at 5:45pm.* The November 30<sup>th</sup> menu will be a soup bar, dessert, and beverages served 5:00pm till 6:00pm in the Family Life Center. The cost is \$6/adult, \$3/student and children age three and older, \$16 max./family. Guests are invited to dine-in with us. There will be no regular Wednesday Night Dinner on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Instead, plan to attend the UMM 5:00—6:30pm Christmas Dinner Fund Raiser.

**“FOOD OF THE MONTH”:** The November “Food of the Month” collection for the Food Center is canned fruit. Leave your canned fruit donations in the Food Center cabinet located in the FLC hallway.

**UMM CHRISTMAS DINNER FUND RAISER:** The United Methodist Men need volunteers to provide desserts and to work at their December 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner Fund Raiser. Sign-up sheets are in the Atrium. The meal will be served 5:00pm-6:30pm in the Family Life Center. Advance tickets may be purchased in the office prior to December 7<sup>th</sup>. Adult tickets are \$8.00. Tickets for children ages 2-10 are \$3.00. The proceeds will support the UMM mission projects.

**AFTERNOON RECEPTIONISTS NEEDED:** Could you answer the phone and help out in the office on one or more Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays a month? Volunteers to fill in as afternoon receptionists and substitute receptionists are much needed! To be added to the volunteer list or for more information, contact Anita Ellis in the office.

**POLISH BRASS AND SILVER:** A volunteer is needed to keep the church brass and silver polished. Please contact Anita in the office for details.

**DIRECTORY VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are needed to coordinate the submission of photographs and assimilation of our new church directory. To volunteer or for more information, contact Anita Ellis in the office.

### *In Our Prayers*

**In Our Prayers:** Maxixe UMC (our sister church in Mozambique) & its pastor Geraldo Nataniel Matsinhe, shut-ins, care givers. **Ill/Recovering:** Sandy Culp, Doris Dickinson, Nathan Haycraft, Judy Hicks, Hannah Johnson, Carla Malτας, Clair Swan. **Military:** Brad Adams, Christopher Lozo, John Rodgers.

**Pastoral Care:** If you have a death in the family, are sick or hospitalized, please let the church office know so we can arrange for spiritual care. *If you or a loved one is admitted to a local hospital, please call us, as the hospitals do not notify us.*

### FINAL DIRECTORY PHOTOGRAPH SESSIONS

The final Olan Mills photograph sessions are Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving November 25<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup>. To schedule or reschedule an appointment, call 1-800-866-2263.

### THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS

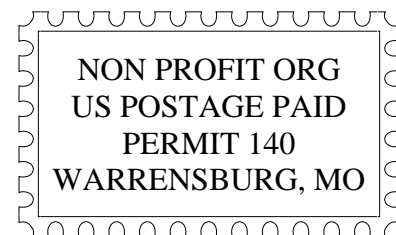
*The office will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 24<sup>th</sup> and November 25<sup>th</sup>.*

### Attendance & Offerings

November 13<sup>th</sup> attendance at the two services was 305.  
Operating Fund Contributions were \$8,370.10.  
Capital Improvement Fund Contributions were \$1,734.00.  
November 20<sup>th</sup> attendance at the two services was 292.  
Operating Fund Contributions were \$5,477.00.  
Capital Improvement Fund Contributions were \$740.00.



**First Things @ First**  
**141 E. Gay Street**  
**Warrensburg, MO 64093**  
**Office: (660) 747-8158**  
**www.umcburg.org**



Return Service Requested

**KIDS-CAN-DO MISSION:**

The December 18<sup>th</sup> Kids-Can-Do collection of coins, cash and checks made payable to "FUMC" will be for *Angel Tree*.

**Pastor's Corner... | Rev. Louie Lowe, Senior Pastor | [llowe@umcburg.org](mailto:llowe@umcburg.org)**

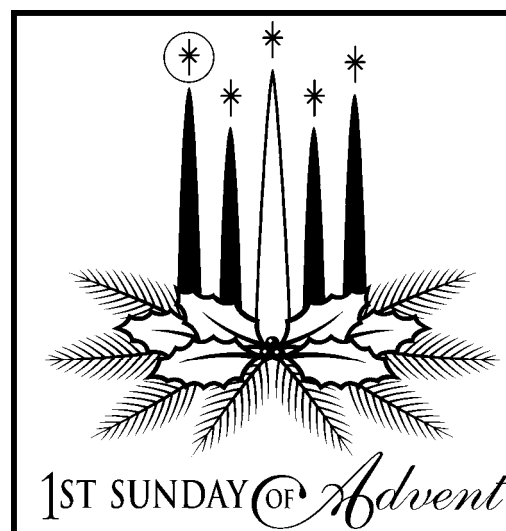
The first Christmas was an event that changed the world forever. It was a day that not only saw the birth of Jesus, but also a day that saw the birth of JOY! HOPE! PEACE! LOVE! The world has never been the same since. Praise God for that!

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> you can share in this seasonal celebration of Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love, by being present for our "**Hanging of the Greens Celebration**" during the 10:45am Worship Service.

Let's all gather together at God's House and kick off Advent in a way that brings glory to Jesus, the "True Reason for the Season!"

See you in Church,

*Louie*



**First Things @ First** is published every other Wednesday by the First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg. Newsletter submissions are due Monday at noon for the upcoming Wednesday's newsletter. Submissions may be communicated to **Marge Ballew**, Publications Editor (660-747-8158; [receptionist@umcburg.org](mailto:receptionist@umcburg.org)). Calendar updates, prayer requests and address changes may be communicated to **Anita Ellis**, Administrative Coordinator (660-747-8158; [office@umcburg.org](mailto:office@umcburg.org)).