



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**DEC 2024  
NEWSLETTER**



December is here. It is a very busy month for all of us. Family gatherings to plan, Christmas presents to buy, church activities. It is the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year!” As my mind worked on what to share in this December newsletter, a clear message came to me. Partly from God and partly from just me. There are three things to take care of this December.

First things first: Take care of **Y**our own health. You are no good to anyone if you are stressed out, worn out, and run down. So, take the time necessary to nurture yourself - body and soul. Take down-time seriously. Do something you love. Something just for you. It may sound selfish. And, in a way, it is. But, in reality, if you care for yourself, you will have more energy and strength to care for others as well. Curl up on the couch with a cup of coco. Binge-watch a favorite show. Do a little reading, crafting, traveling, whatever “ing” that restores your soul. First, care for yourself.

Next, care for **O**thers. The Lord has blessed each of us with friends, family, neighbors, and people who are dear to us. Find time, make time, plan time, spend time with others. After renewing yourself, renew others. Grab lunch with a friend. Go shopping in pairs. Take food to someone who is under the weather. Do something. Not for yourself, but for someone else. Something wonderful happens when you focus on someone else. Your depression is lifted. Your isolation is relinquished. You turn outward and engage the world. It feels good to get up and move. It fills your day with purpose. Give someone a ride to the store or the doctor. Spend time with those

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**Christmas  
Eve**

**Carols &  
Candles**

**Tuesday**  
**December 24, 2024**  
**7<sup>PM</sup>**



you love. Call someone on the phone you have not seen in a while. Connect. Take care of yourself, take care of others.

And lastly, care for the things of God. December is a great time of year to focus on God and His great gift to us. He gave us life. He gave us each other. And He gave us His Son. We need to share that message often in December.

You may have noticed that I listed these three things in reverse order. I did it because we usually neglect to put things in proper perspective. Yes, **J**esus should be first. We need to think of **O**thers second. And lastly, think of **Y**ourself. So, start making a list. List gifts to purchase, people to love, and ways to connect with Jesus in December. Or list that in the reverse order. It is my prayer that each of you have a great December. Please plan to come to Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm. And invite, invite, invite family and friends, and people you know to join you as you connect with the scriptures and hymns and church family you love so dearly. Focus on Jesus. Remember the **J**OY of Christmas - **J**esus, **O**thers, and then **Y**ou!

**Merry Christmas to all!**

Grace and Peace <><

*Pastor Sam*



*Silent Night Holy Night*

## Prayer Requests

Nancy W - healing broken elbow  
Jeff C - treatment plan and improved health  
Julie - improved breathing  
Sheri - medical condition  
Kevin - Harder's son recovering from heart surgery  
Cheryl - improved health  
Polly - lymphoma  
Paul - recovery from leg surgery  
Pam S - undergoing tests, facing possible surgery  
Diane P - good health  
Debra - bone cancer  
Terry - health & strength  
Connie's friends Bill and Diane - improved health  
Beverly's friends Paul & Carolyn - improved health  
Barry T - healing  
Karen R - health, strength & happiness  
Alex - 96-yr-old friend - health & strength  
Joy - Neil W's sister in hospice  
Kathy - Jeff C's mom - healing & strength  
Tom & Beverly H - pain relief, improved strength  
Jon D - cancer treatment  
Celeste - cancer treatment  
Sheryl E - cancer treatment  
Charlie C - stroke recovery  
Lea Ann Heims - heart health  
Spitzmesser's son-in-law Wes - cancer treatment  
Garry & Tina - asking for prayers  
Richard M - improved health & strength  
Hanna - Bonnie's great-grandniece - tumor on spine  
Janet U - prayers to stay cancer-free & heart health  
Wendy - health & strength  
Wade - health & strength  
Jayne W - health, comfort & strength  
Kate M - friend of Diane P  
Marilyn H - comfort and strength  
Pat G - health & healing  
Joe P - cancer  
John P - cancer  
Mark - colon cancer  
Willie - cancer  
Elsie - health & strength  
Beverly B - improved health  
Addie - toddler friend from Texas with leukemia  
John - co-worker with cancer  
Dory M - kidney health & wrist strength  
George M - arthritis

Judy D - liver cancer  
Roger T - Donna C's cousin in KY - prayers to stay cancer-free  
Scott - leukemia  
Dana's dad Jim B - health & strength  
Keith - Anne D's companion with cancer  
David - Anne D's son with cancer  
Barbara - Anne D's sister with cancer  
Tawnya - ongoing COPD  
Renetta - ongoing medical conditions  
Brian T - ongoing medical condition  
Chris K - ongoing medical condition  
Cheryl K - ongoing medical condition  
Beth - B & T's daughter - ongoing medical condition  
Prayers for those battling addiction

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF CHANGES/ADDITIONS.  
You're welcome to call or email the church office with updates. Please call or text Pastor Sam 812-380-1589 with urgent prayer chain requests. *Thanks!*

## Door Village United Women in Faith

*Christmas*



*Bake Sale*

**Saturday,  
Dec 14, 2024  
10 am - 3 pm  
or until we sell out  
(No early sales!)**

• HOLIDAY COOKIES & BAKED GOODS •

**Kabelin's Ace Hardware-West,  
Andrew Avenue & Hwy 2, La Porte**

*All proceeds will go to area families in need this Christmas*

**BAKERS NEEDED! Donated baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Friday, Dec 13 from 12 to 6 pm or at Kabelin's at 9 am the day of the sale. Proceeds will support purchasing clothing and household items for our families in need.**

**Door Village United Women in Faith will be helping 5 families this Christmas. Please consider making an extra monetary donation to UWF that will go towards buying gas and grocery cards for these families.**





Sundays

Worship & Children's Church 10 am  
Communion Service First Sunday

Mondays

Bible Study at Oak Woods 10 am

Tuesdays

Bible Study at Church 6 pm

Wednesdays

Kids Club at DVUMC 3:45-5:15 pm  
(No Kids Club Dec 25 or Jan 1)  
Choir Practice 6:30 pm

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Wednesday, Dec 4

Senior Breakfast 8 am at Christos'

Thursday, Dec 5

Oak Woods Worship 9:30 am

Saturday, Dec 14

Men's Breakfast 8 am in Fellowship Hall  
UWF Christmas Bake Sale  
10am-3 pm (while supplies last)  
at Kabelin's West Store

Wednesday, Dec 18

UWF Potluck 12 noon

Tuesday, Dec 24

Christmas Eve Candles & Carols Service 7 pm

Wednesday, Dec 25

Office Closed

**OFFICE HOURS** Mon thru Thurs  
7 am – 12 noon  
219.362.3812  
doorvillageumc@gmail.com

Senior  
Breakfast



**Dec 4, 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
of each month  
8 am

Christo's  
1462 W State Rd 2  
La Porte



**MEN'S BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP**

will meet on  
December 14 at 8 am  
in Fellowship Hall



**UWF**

**Christmas Carry-In Lunch**

**Wednesday, Dec. 18**

**12 noon in the parlor**

*All women are always welcome!*

*Lana will share a Christmas reading.*

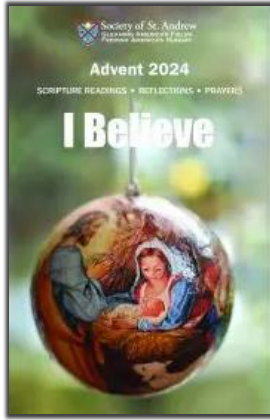
Bring a Christmas ornament or decoration  
(\$10-\$15 value) if you would like to join in the  
gift exchange or you may donate to Dunebrook.

*Merry Christmas*



The Church Office will be closed Dec 25.

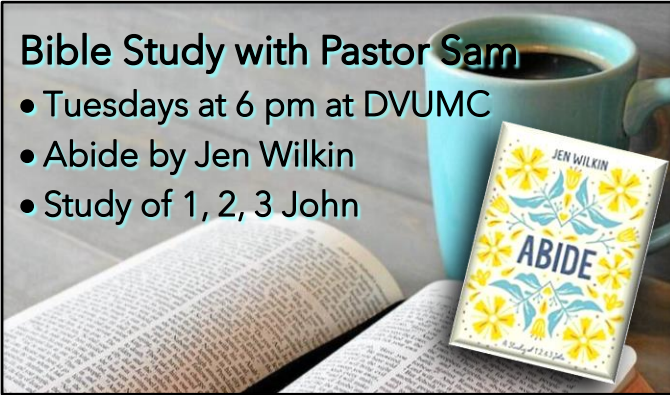




Advent begins Dec. 1. Pick up your free copy of the "I Believe" Advent devotional from the greeter's table. These are from Society of St. Andrew and an offering envelope is tucked in the booklet in case you wish to donate to their work through EndHunger.org.

### Bible Study with Pastor Sam

- Tuesdays at 6 pm at DVUMC
- Abide by Jen Wilkin
- Study of 1, 2, 3 John



Choir Practice  
Wednesdays  
at 6:30 pm



Come sing!



Lana is our Adult Education Coordinator. She shares a way to keep your faith at the forefront of your mind daily. Lana does this through the You Version Bible app on her phone. She placed this on the first page of her apps, right next to her calendar. Each morning, she clicks on the "verse of the day". This gives a 2-3 minute video of the Bible verse for the day read by an ordinary person - even an athlete during the Summer Olympics. You Version also has a children's app including many Bible stories with activities listed for children to also engage in their faith.



You're invited to Adult Sunday School in the Parlor 9-9:30 with Pastor Sam & the Devotion Team sharing Scripture & Prayer

Our Healthier Eating group at DVUMC is reading the book "Spirit-Filled & Sugar-Free." All are welcome. Wednesdays at 11 am at church. Please contact Lana Fenstermaker for more info.



Monday Bible Study at Oak Woods Manor  
1211 Longwood Dr  
(Hwy 39 South) La Porte

Mondays at 10 am  
Public Welcome



DVUMC COLLECTS  
PENNIES/COINS & TABS  
for mission projects

You may bring these to church and place them in the designated containers.



We send our Love  
to our Dear Village  
Church Family.  
We wish each of You  
a Blessed and  
Merry Christmas.





## Spotlight On Our Church Treasurer

This month, we look at the responsibilities of our Church Treasurer who works hand-in-hand with the Finance Committee. Our Finance Committee is responsible for maintaining the financial stability of the general fund. They begin with creating an annual operating budget for the church. They then ensure that there are responsible controls on contributions that are given to the church. This begins with the counting of the offering every week. Two volunteer non-family members count and record the offering every Sunday. (We are always looking for volunteers to do this, so please contact the office if you are interested in helping.) A designated person then processed the deposit and delivers it to the bank. Dennis Fischer, our Church Treasurer, ensures that the donations that the counters counted and that which is being deposited are the same. He uses the donations to pay the expenses of the church using the guidelines as approved by the Administrative Board. On a monthly basis, the Treasurer reports to the Finance Committee and the Administrative Board the donations, the checkbook balance, and expenses paid compared to the budget. He is also responsible for monthly account reconciliations, all government reporting for wages paid, and preparing payroll year-end reporting. At the end of each year, the Audit Committee reviews the donations and expenses against the maintained backup records to ensure all monies are accounted for. Dennis, our current Church Treasurer, does all this with impeccable accuracy, intelligent analysis, and timely reporting. We are blessed to have a Treasurer here at Door Village UMC that excels at keeping records, preparing detailed Treasurer reports, and taking good care of the finances of our church. Thank you to Dennis Fischer for his excellent service.

*George Morley, Lay Leader*

**SUNDAY MORNINGS!**  
**DURING WORSHIP**  
**AGE 4 THRU 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE**  
**Children's Church**

**DEC CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
**Dec Leader: Lindsay Kospelke**

DEC 1 - A Boy and His Lunch  
 DEC 8 - Peter and John  
 DEC 15 - Dorcas  
 DEC 22 - Paul  
 Dec 29 - Lydia

## Kids Club



### Wednesdays after school 3:30-5:15 at DVUMC

After-school program for Grades K-4  
 Playground time at the park  
 Snacks, Games, & Christian Lesson

Contact Carolyn (363-2818) or  
 Carla (363-9401) with questions.

- Dec 4** - Cookie Decorating
- Dec 11** - Caroling at Oak Woods
- Dec 18** - Christmas Craft
- Dec 25 & Jan 1** - No Kids Club - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

### Electronic Giving

Offerings can be made from a mobile device or computer through a secure site by visiting our church website, [doorvillagechurch.org](http://doorvillagechurch.org), and clicking the electronic offering button:

My Offering





Deadline for orders is Dec 15, 2024.

your name

Poinsettia in memory of

Poinsettia in honor of

If you would like to order a poinsettia, please fill out this form and give it to Carla Marhanka. Each poinsettia is \$15. All poinsettias will be read this year. They may be picked up after Christmas Eve service (Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>).

# Poinsettia Orders



## Salvation Army Food Pantry *Suggested items for December:*

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly



## College Care Packages

We will be sending college care packages to our college students this month. Donations of snack items, fun stuff, and contributions are being accepted through the first Sunday of the month.



## Altar Flowers

The altar flowers each week are graciously provided by the Flower Committee. There is no charge for you to honor someone or commemorate a special event. Please sign up on the 2024 or 2025 flower sheets on the greeter's table or call the church office to have us fill in your info. Thank you to our Flower Committee for providing this lovely ministry.

## Fellowship & Refreshments

Please plan to join us for Sunday worship and stay afterwards for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the parlor. You may also sign up on the greeter's table if you'd like to host a fellowship time after worship service any Sunday in 2024 or 2025.





**How to contact Pastor Sam:**  
 Email: pastoroorvillage@hotmail.com  
 Mobile: 812-380-1589  
 Office: 219-362-3812  
 Find him on Facebook

**DOORVILLAGE**  
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 3502 West Joliet Road  
 La Porte, IN 46350  
 www.doorvillageumc.org  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



12/02 Maggie Schuster	12/12 Jim Antrim	12/19 Mandy Hindsley
12/03 Ron Elliott	12/12 Jane Hubner	12/20 Bruce Wittgren
12/03 Tony Martin	12/13 Marlette Bernacchi	12/21 Samuel Veach
12/03 Rudy Netzer	12/13 Emma Fenstermaker	12/22 Jean Coulter
12/06 Jim Timmons	12/13 Ava Fenstermaker	12/24 Elaine Martin
12/07 Brett Marhanka	12/14 Dory Morley	12/25 Mary Forbes
12/08 Alex Coulter	12/17 Deb Pruden	12/25 Chris Profilovich
12/08 Joan McCoy	12/17 Dan Jeffers	12/27 Stephanie Kaiser
12/10 Dave Applegarth	12/18 Luke McNeely	



12/05	Gerald & Myrna Harder
12/21	Kole & Mary Beth Lowery
12/26	Robert & Joyce Koselke
12/27	Lloyd & Marilyn Vance
12/29	Mitch & Carla Marhanka
12/30	Greg & Bette Pointon

