

News

from  Court Street United Methodist Church

The **Chinnes**

The



NUMBERING OUR DAYS!

Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom

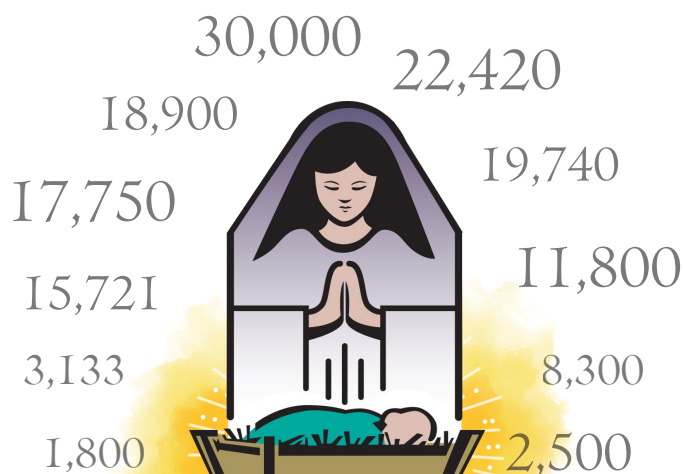
Psalm 90:12

Lord, give us grace daily to consider how few the days are and how little time we have to live in this world. It is a collaborative work, with the Holy Spirit, **to number our days**, so our calculation toward being ready when our soul is required of us. We must learn to live under a constant uneasiness of the shortness and uncertainty of life and the approach of death and eternity. Therefore, we must number our days in order to compare our work with them and prayerfully attend to it with diligence, as those who have no time to waste. In order for us to learn this arithmetic, we must be open to the Spirit and glean a good understanding. And then we can number our days toward God's will and incline our hearts in true wisdom and godliness.

Merry Christmas! Praise God for a Happy New Year! As the new church year begins, let us all give thanks for our part in the ministry of Jesus Christ! It is His Church, His Mission, and His Salvation! Truly, God found us, imperfect as we are, and brought us together! God's Word continues to become flesh and dwells among us. Amen!

We are not a perfect church. Line us up, and we're all sinners saved by the grace of God. I pray we will continue to challenge each other because Jesus Christ is Lord! We want to be like Jesus! This past year has been a year of transition and transformation, as they all should be. Let us not forget it is ministry with Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, that really counts!

*Grace,
Pastor Cal*



The Chimes

Lay Leadership

**Lay Delegate
to Annual Conference**

Diane Risley
David Risley

**Alternate Lay Delegate
to Annual Conference**

Jeanine Wang

Administrative Council Chair

Joan Tunnell

Staff/Parish Relations Chair

Sue Cram

Finance Chair

Mike Davis

Stewardship Chair

Jeanine Wang

Treasurer

Gene Ferry

Endowment Chair

Mike Davis

Trustee Chair

Tim Gorman

Lay Leader

Georgalee George

Nurture & Outreach

Georgalee George

Worship Chair

Joan Tunnell

Local Missions Chair

Helen Gibbons

Christian Education Chair

Diane Lutmer

Arts Committee Chair

Richard Wang

United Women in Faith

Sue Cram

United Methodist Men

DuWayne Stanis

Jeremiah Ministry Reps

Kay Galloway
Krysta Tilges

JFON Liaison

Kay Galloway



Angel Tree, a Ministry of Prison Fellowship, is a program designed for children whose parent is in prison. This year, we have 50 children. Many of these children live in our church neighborhood. We buy gifts for the children and give them on behalf of the parent who is in prison. Family members of the children will be contacted to determine needs. Each child will receive 2 gifts: one toy and one clothing item. You can help us by:

1. Volunteering to distribute angels following any worship service
2. Buying gifts for the children (\$15-\$25 each Retail) **Do not buy any gifts until you receive your angel(s)!**
3. Making a cash donation or a check payable to Court Street United Methodist Church with Angel Tree Ministry on the memo line and mailing it to Barb or Gene Ferry at 1321 Camp Avenue, Rockford, IL 61103
4. Shopping for gifts
5. Organizing and delivering gifts between Dec. 17th and Dec. 22nd
6. Praying for the prisoners and their families
7. Assisting with the administration of this program

To receive your angel, please look for Barb or Gene Ferry or an Angel Tree representative following the service in the Narthex starting Nov. 12th. The angels will be on a small green Christmas tree. For questions, contact Barb or Gene Ferry at (815) 965-6518.

Like us on

facebook

Follow us on

twitter

See pictures on

www.courtstreetumc.org



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, December 11th
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
SPRC at 5:45 p.m. in the Library

Staff and committee written reports for the charge conference book need to be submitted no later than Monday, December 4th. Submissions made after Monday, December 4th will only be included in the final report at the discretion of the office staff.

In addition to the charge book, conference has a set of online reports to be completed. SPRC and Trustees in particular have reports to complete at registration.umcnic.org. These reports need to be submitted online by Monday, December 4th or one week before our conference date.



Waffles & Worship

Last Sunday of the Month Dining Room at 8 AM

A contemporary-styled service filled with food and fellowship.

Next Service:
Sunday, December 31st



Chatterbox Supper Group

Franchesco's Ristorante
7128 Spring Creek Road
Rockford, IL

Thursday, December 14th @ 6:00 p.m.

All ladies are invited.

Contact Cindy Fisher at (815) 519-3653 by noon of the Wednesday before the dinner.

Health & Wellness: Tetragrammaton: YHWH

Last month, I wrote about proper breathing and how it is beneficial for us. I came across this poem a while back and thought about how beautiful it was, and this being the Christmas month, I thought it was appropriate to share it with you now.

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name He gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Over time we've arbitrarily added an "a" and an "e" in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we prefer vowels.

But scholars and Rabi's have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.

YH (inhale): WH (exhale).

So a baby's first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God.

A deep sigh calls His name.....or a groan or grasp that is too heavy for mere words.

Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God.

Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filing their lungs.

So when I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name?

Being alive means I speak His name constantly.

So, is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest?

In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs. In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst. In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.

When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.

When I think about it, breathing is Him praise. Even in the hardest moments!

This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God choose to give himself a name that we can't help but to speak every moment we're alive.

All of us, always, everywhere. Walking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips.

Unknown Author

May we think of the meaning of this poem more often.....Merry Christmas!

Teresa Field, Parish Nurse

Court Street received this note of thanks from the Family Peace Center. Thank you to everyone who supported October's special white basket appeal for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Family Peace Center

Thank you for your gracious donation of the Target and Walmart gift cards to the Family Peace Center. Your generosity is critical in sustaining the services we provide to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. With the community's support we know we can stop the cycle of violence, assist survivors and their children, and build hope.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. McNamara	Jennifer Cacciapaglia	Sierra Kellen
Mayor City of Rockford	Exec. Director - Mayor's Office of Domestic & Community Violence Prevention	Operations Mgr. Family Peace Ctr.



- Dorcas Circle is not meeting in December.
- The Book Club is not meeting in December.
- Ad Council is not meeting in December. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024.
- The office will be closed from 11:45 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. on December 6th so that office personnel may participate in the Mid-week Advent Service and the UWF's Luncheon and Carol Sing.



Care Package for Malachi DeLeon

Court Street is supporting our native son and active duty soldier Malachi DeLeon by sending him a care package. If you would like to help fill the box, please donate any or all of the following items by Sunday, December 10th.

- Beef Jerkey
- Hormel Compleats
- Microwavable Meals
- Hard Candy
- Gum
- Chapstick
- Letters of Love to Malachi



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

ADVENT STUDY (WEEKLY):

SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD - SUNDAY, DEC. 24TH

SHOPPING TRIP (FOR TEENAGE YOUTH)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

11 AM @ TARGET (E. STATE)

WRAP IT UP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

DINING ROOM AFTER SERVICE

HOLIDAY PROGRAM (WORSHIP SERVICE)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

HOLIDAY PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

DINING ROOM AFTER SERVICE

The Chimes

Let
Heaven
and
Nature
Sing



6¢

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH DECEMBER LUNCHEON & CAROL SING

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6
12.30 p.m.
Dining Room

No RSVP required.
All are welcome to attend after
the midweek Advent Service.
Free-will donations appreciated.

24¢



HERE ARE SOME SCRIP IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

RESTAURANT

- Applebee's
- Arby's
- Back Yard Grill & Bar
- Beef-a-Roo
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Cracker Barrel
- Culver's
- Denny's
- Olive Garden/ Longhorn Steakhouse
- The Olympic Tavern
- Outback Steakhouse
- Panera Bread
- Papa John's
- Red Lobster
- Red Robin
- Subway
- T.G.I. Friday's

RETAIL

- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble
- Bath & Body Works
- Best Buy
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Foot Locker
- GameStop
- JC Penney
- Kohl's
- Lane Bryant
- L.L.Bean
- Macy's
- Marshalls/ T.J. Maxx
- Michael's
- Old Navy/ Gap/ Banana Republic
- PetSmart
- Shoe Carnival
- Talbots
- Ulta Beauty

GROCERY/GENERAL

- GFS Marketplace
- Meijer
- Pinnon
- Target
- Valli Produce
- Walmart / Sam's Club
- Woodman's

ENTERTAINMENT

- AMC Theatres
- iTunes

COFFEE

- Dunkin'
- Starbucks

THESE AND MANY MORE ARE AVAILABLE.
PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHRISTMAS SCRIP CARD
ORDERS BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH.

25
CENTS



Hanging of the Greens Saturday, December 2nd 10 AM

UMC 5¢

Mitten Tree



Help festoon the Narthex
Mitten Tree with dona-
tions of mittens, gloves,
scarves, and hats for the
kids at Haskell.

Collecting until
Christmas

Christmas Eve Service Schedule



Family Service

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Sanctuary @ 10 a.m.

Candlelight Service Carols and Lessons

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Sanctuary @ 9:30 p.m.

Midweek Advent Service Schedule



Week 1

Wednesday,
December 6, 2023
Sanctuary @ 12 p.m.

Week 2

Wednesday,
December 13, 2023
Sanctuary @ 12 p.m.

Week 3

Wednesday,
December 20, 2023
Sanctuary @ 12 p.m.



12^c

Ding Dong Merrily on High

ECHO Ringers Concert “Ring We Now of Christmas”

Grace UMC
3555 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL

Sunday, December 3, 2023
3:00 p.m.

Free will offerings appreciated.

Merry Christmas!



Church Closed
Monday,
December 25th



Court Street United Methodist Church
 The Chimes December 2023
 215 North Court Street
 Rockford, IL 61103-6897

Return Service Requested

Phone: (815) 962-6061 Fax: (815) 962-9754
 www.courtstreetumc.org

Thank you for volunteering!

Ushers: The DuWayne Stanis Team

Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Livestream Techs: Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson

December 3, 2023

10:00 AM Sound Tech: Ryan Welk
 Acolyte: Lili Breson
 Liturgist: Dorothy Powell

December 10, 2023

10:00 AM Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell
 Acolyte: Ella Anderson
 Liturgist: Lorelle Wandell

December 17, 2023

10:00 AM Sound Tech: Tim Welk
 Acolyte: Kaylee Bulliner
 Liturgist: Volunteer Welcome.

December 24, 2023 (Family)

10:00 AM Sound Tech: Ryan Welk

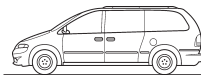
December 24, 2023 (Candlelight)

09:30 PM Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell
 Liturgist: Cindy Anderson

December 31, 2023

10:00 AM Sound Tech: Tim Welk
 Acolyte: Lili Breson
 Liturgist: Volunteer Welcome.

If you wish to receive The Chimes electronically or to be removed from this mailing, please call the church office at (815) 962-6061 or e-mail Communications@courtstreetumc.org.



Need a Ride to Church?

Riders, please call drivers for a ride by 6 p.m. on the Saturday before the Sunday you wish to attend.

12/03/23	Tim Gorman	815-636-0514
12/10/23	Jeff Mann	815-742-5444
12/17/23	Curly Thompson	815-988-2735
12/24/23	Tim Gorman	815-636-0514
12/31/23	Jeff Mann	815-742-5444
01/07/24	Curly Thompson	815-988-2735

Please thank these men for making this ministry work!

Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Calvin Culpepper	Pastor	ext. 220	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Ryanne Ludington	Director of Christian Education		ludingtonryanne@gmail.com
James L. Crow	Director of Arts Ministries	ext. 209	jlcrow@live.com
Krysta Tilges	Director of Video Ministries		ktilges@gmail.com
Jack Armstrong	Director of Music	ext. 221	gogo234@att.net
Andrew Mertenich	Organist		andrew.mertenich@gmail.com
Teresa Field	Parish Nurse		Teresabsf5@yahoo.com
Verlette Gorman	Church Administrator	ext. 202	ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
Tiffany Wilken	Publications Secretary	ext. 200	Communications@courtstreetumc.org
Bert Cromwell	Nursery		
Bill Kint	Maintenance Engineer		Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org

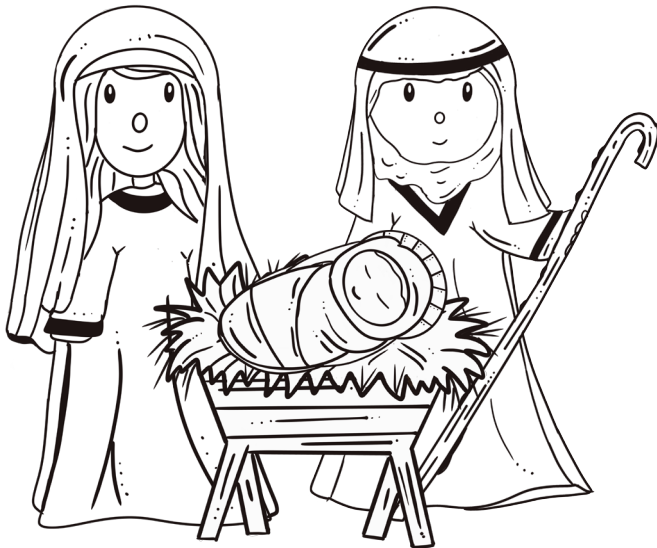
Wedding Anniversaries

Name	Date	Year	Married
Lundberg, Rozanna and Quentin	5	2008	15
Ferry, Eugene and Barbara	27	1970	53

Luke 2:8-12

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

NIV













Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
Rodgers, Morgan	1	Gilmore, Gerald	13
Tkadletz, JoAnne	1	Nelson, Kimberly	13
Davis, Patricia	2	Gerber, Leta	15
Mann, Jeff	2	Meyers, Linda	16
Enderly, Brenda	3	Pearson, Linda	16
Earnest, Cassandra	5	Gibbons, James	21
Olsen, TJ	5	Dingus, Tim	22
Hagele, Carolyn	7	Gelico, Logan	22
Lundberg, Rozanna	7	Stanis, Nancy	22
DeRango, Julia	8	Rittmeyer, Glen	24
Crawford, Douglas	9	Crawford, Marcie	25
Korn, Verneal	9	Froeber, Mariah	27
McCauley, Lois	10	Morgan, Jacquelyn	27
Froeber, Callie	11	Deleon III, Filomeno	29
Ludington, Rynne	12	Hagele, Elliott	29
Scott, Keli	12	Mott, Melissa	30
Wilson, Heather	12		

Our prayers and sympathy go to the families of

Teri Sue Vincent who died on November 3, 2023
 Joyce M. Hunsaker (Mailand) who died on November 11, 2023

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  10:00 AM Hanging of the Greens
3  08:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities 03:00 PM ECHO Ringers Concert (Grace UMC)	4 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	5 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal	6   08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:30 AM UWF Leadership Team 12:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service 12:30 PM UWF Luncheon & Carols 04:00 PM Staff Meeting	7 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:00 AM Stewardship Team 01:00 PM The Journeymen	8	9 08:30 AM United Methodist Men Breakfast (Stockholm Inn) 11:00 AM Holiday Shopping for Youth Group
10 08:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities	11  8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 5:45 PM SPRC (Church Conference) 6:30 PM Charge Conference	12 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 5:30 PM Trustees 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal	13  08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 12:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service 03:45 PM Worship Committee	14 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 01:00 PM The Journeymen 06:00 PM Chatterbox Supper Group (Franchesco's)	15  CHIMES DEADLINE	16
17 08:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities	18 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	19 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal	20  08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 12:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service 04:00 PM Staff Meeting 05:30 PM No IL Wood Turners	21 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 01:00 PM The Journeymen	22	23
24  08:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Family Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities 09:30 PM Candlelight Service	25  CHURCH CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY	26 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal	27 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	28 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 01:00 PM The Journeymen	29	30
31 08:00 AM Waffles & Worship 08:45 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities						