www.courtstreetumc.org

December 2021

from Court Street United Methodist Church

Right Relationship



¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Jeremiah 33:14-16 NRSV

In these verses, the prophet is talking about the leadership of the future — that's the meaning of "righteous Branch." This branch will emerge out of the family tree of King David, the greatest of Israel's kings, the one who was — despite his flaws — "a man after [God's] own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14). This new leader is, of course, Jesus Christ, born into the house and family of David (Luke 2:4). He is the one who teaches us righteousness, a word which is best defined as "**right relationship**." Jesus wants us to show justice and righteousness in our relationships with each other and in our relationship with God.

The next four weeks of the Advent season will give us an excellent opportunity to turn to God. The word Advent means "coming," and it is the time each year in which we prepare ourselves for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. In this season, we are invited to look forward in hope, not anxiety. To put our faith in Jesus, not in ourselves. To believe that God really has come in human form to heal us, help us, provide for us, and save us. The message of Advent is that Christ is coming. Jesus is nothing less than the Prince of Peace, the One who is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). He is the One who shows us the abundance of God's steadfast love for us, and the desire of God to save us from anything that can hurt or destroy us.

The First Sunday of Advent is regarded in the Western Church as the beginning of the liturgical year. But Advent is first of all about the end of time. Because the term itself means "coming" or "arrival," and because it precedes Christmas, many have misunderstood Advent to be exclusively a time to get ready to celebrate the coming of a child at Bethlehem. In fact, the primary focus of Advent is on what is popularly called "the second coming." Advent is therefore a celebration of the promise that Christ will bring an end to all that is contrary to the ways of God: the inauguration and anticipation of what is yet to come in fullness¹.

Although the world will continue to make us anxious, Jesus comes to offer us perfect peace.

Grace, Pastor Cal

The mission of Court Street UMC is to be a welcoming, nurturing, serving community of Christ.

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News

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

> <u>Treasurer</u> Gene Ferry

Endowment Chair Mike Davis

<u>Trustee Chair</u> DuWayne Stanis

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 Methodist Women Sue Cram

United Methodist Men DuWayne Stanis

Joan Tunnell

JFON Liaison Kay Galloway



Thursday, December 10th 6:00 p.m.

All ladies are invited.

To learn the meeting location and reserve your spot in the group, contact Marie Lewis at (815) 885-3916 by noon of the Wednesday before the dinner.



Deborah Circle Wednesday, December 15th 9:30 a.m. @ Stockholm Inn



Saturday, December 11th 8:30 a.m. @ Stockholm Inn

All men are welcome!

The music ensembles are back at Court Street!! In October Jubellation played for the service and did a great job. Cudos for all their hard work. By the time you read this, the chancel choir will have sung on November 21st "A Celtic Thanksgiving," some-

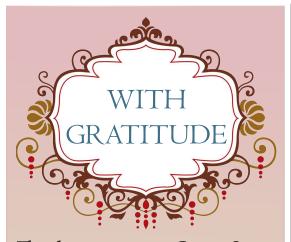


thing we did a couple years back. The youth choir has gone through a change. They are now called youth music. It better describes what music is for our young people. They will be singing and playing choir chimes for the early service on Christmas Eve. We had a great first rehearsal on Sunday, November 7th! In December we will welcome Hannah Flynn from Rockford University. Christmas Eve will be a special time, as we welcome Nanette Felix to play the harp and the chancel choir to sing and the bells to play, as well as a number of Carols to sing for the congregation. I feel very blessed to be your music director. We have a great staff here at Court Street, and I am proud to be a part of it!

God Bless, Jack



December 2021



Thank you to our Court Street family for all the gracious thoughts and prayers you have bestowed upon us in the past few months. We are grateful for the sympathy, empathy, and love you have shown us as we face our present life. Glenn quickly became an active member of Court Street soon after we were married 50 years ago. It is evident how many lives he touched!

Gail and Greg Palmer



Here are some ideas for holiday shopping.

- AMC Theatres
- Applebee's
- Amazon.com
- Back Yard Grill & Bar
- Barnes & Noble
- Bath & Body Works
- Cracker Barrel
- Dunkin'
- GameStop

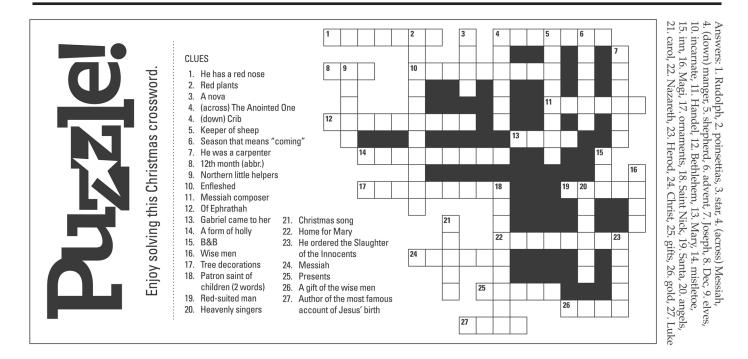
• iTunes

• Hallmark

- IoAnn Fabrics
- Kohl's
- L.L.Bean
- Macy's
- Meijer
- Mobil
- Outback Steakhouse
- Pinnon

- Red Lobster
- Schnucks
- Shell
- Starbucks
- Talbots
- Target
- Ulta Beauty
- Valli Produce
- Walmart / Sam's Club
- Woodman's

These and many more are available! Order early to guarantee availability.



The Chimes

Health & Wellness: From our Parish Nurse

How has reflecting on this past year changed you? How does one's faith and lifestyle affect us and others? A definition of lifestyle is, "A way of life or style of living that reflects the attitudes and values of a person or group." No matter what your age or where you are in your life today, it is never too late to improve your lifestyle, to make the most of your health and wellbeing. This also applies to our faith journey. Being stronger both physically and mentally allows for greater resistance to illness and faster healing. We truly need each other and God in our lives.

Trusting in God is also a way of practicing optimism. Prayer is a gift for all of us to exercise that allows us to communicate directly with God. A sincere, frequent, and frank talk with God provides opportunities for introspection.

Praying for help encourages us to examine what we truly need and what we are requesting from God. It is a personal act that can be performed alone or with others and can provide a great source of stress relief.

All relationships require good communication in order to be maintained and grown. It is no different when talking with God. Prayer should be a regular daily part of our life. What's nice about prayer is that it can happen anytime and anywhere. The more we choose this gift given to us and are thankful for prayer, the more we can see the benefits. Often, prayers are given at the beginning and end of each day. Prayers upon rising can help set the tone of the day, by being thankful for another day to grow and help others. Prayers at the end of the day acknowledge God's guidance through the day as we reflect on the day's lessons. It gives us the time to ask for strength through life's challenging circumstances we do not understand.

God grows us as we use prayer. Prayers can help us avoid repeating past mistakes and gain confidence in

the ability to make sound future choices. Praying with and for others can be an exercise in having empathy. We may be surprised that in remembering others and dedicating prayers to others, we can have a positive effect on our own mood and feelings of well being.

> There are many verses in the Bible that we can memorize to help us and to remind us of God's love for us. The Bible teaches us how to live our lives through grace. Reading the Bible and learning how God reaches out to us is another way of staying healthy. The verses listed are just a few to help encourage us, and ones you may want to share with someone. Here is an exercise, and I hope these verses will spark the de-

sire to read the Bible and to memorize your favorites.

- Psalm 9:9-10
- Psalm 16:8
- Deuteronomy 31:8
- Isaiah 40: 28-31
- Luke 12: 25-26
- John 16:33

Jeremiah 29:11 is one of my favorites, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," and Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."

Let the gift of reading the Bible or listening by CD enable us to trust God and grow closer to Him by exercising the power of prayer. Let our grace story and "lifestyle" continue to forge our family of faith at Court Street this December and beyond. God Bless us all......and Merry Christmas!

LOCAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE CHIMES REPORT NOVEMBER 15, 2021 THIRD QUARTER REPORT

Members: Helen GIBBONS-Chairperson, Joanne DILL, Barbara FERRY, Kay GALLOWAY, Annette GILLETTE, Margaret RHOADS, Susan ZIMMERMAN

LOCAL MISSIONS IS STILL HOPEFUL that the impact this COVID experience has had on our world, country, and local community, MAY come to an end this year.

Local Missions Committee is ending this third quarter of 2021 GRATEFUL. We are grateful because of Faithful Regular Donors to Local Missions and because we are now able to worship together in our beautiful sanctuary. Your caring and extreme generosity is beyond words, and WE THANK YOU AGAIN. Please CONTINUE to STAY SAFE AND WELL AND MAIL IN your donations to the LOVE OFFERING ACCOUNT. The church office will CREDIT your account as usual.

LOVE OFFERING Balance on September 30, 2021 (\$423.00).

LOCAL MISSIONS Balance September 30, 2021 (BEFORE the deducted donations below (\$837.35) (Quarterly Donations to the community are made FROM THE LOCAL MISSIONS ACCOUNT)

Local Missions Donations to be made by November 30, 2021:

- \$ 25.00 Boys and Girls Club of Rockford
- \$ 25.00 Carpenter's Place
- \$ 25.00 CASA Winnebago County Court-Appointed Special Advocate For Children
- \$ 25.00 Goldie B. Floberg Center (children, teens and adults with special needs)
- \$ 25.00 Life Scape Community Services (Meals-On-Wheels)
- \$ 25.00 Shelter Care Ministries (The Jubilee Center Meals)
- \$ 25.00 Miss Carlys (Home-Based Charity) Carly Rice and Jacob Rush
- \$ 25.00 RAMP (Children & Adults With Disabilities)
- \$ 25.00 REMEDIES (Renewing Lives Domestic Violence)
- \$ 25.00 Rockford MELD
- \$ 25.00 Rock House Kids
- \$ 100.00 Rock River Valley Food Pantry
- \$ 50.00 Veteran's Drop-In Center
- \$ 25.00 Rockford Rescue Mission (Pitney Place For Women)
- \$ 100.00 Rockford Urban Ministries
- \$ 100.00 CSUMC Thanksgiving Dinner (40th Anniversary) Rockford Residents
- \$ 100.00 CSUMC Angel Tree Christmas Ministry (Incarcerated Parents for Children)
- \$ 750.00 Total LOCAL MISSIONS Donations November 15, 2021

(Helen Gibbons-Chairperson)

The Chimes

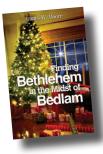
A ngel Tree Ministry is a program designed for children whose parent is in prison. This year we have 60 children. Many of these children live in our church neighborhood. We buy gifts for the children and give them on behalf of the parent who is in prison. Family members of the children will be contacted to determine needs. Each child will receive 2 gifts, one a toy and one a 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 memo line and mailing to Barb or Gene Ferry at 1321 Camp Avenue, Rockford, IL, 61103
- 4. Shopping for gifts
- 5. Organizing and delivering gifts between December 19th and December 23rd
- 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. 14th. The angels will be on a small green Christmas tree. For questions, contact Barb or Gene Ferry at (815) 965-6518.



Advent Special Study



James W. Moore

Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam

Abingdon Press

5 Chapters – 4 Study Sessions*

(1.) Bethlehem or Bedlam	Sunday, Dec. 05th
(2.) Christ Came to Set Us Free	Sunday, Dec. 12th
(3.) Love Came Down in Bethlehem	Sunday, Dec. 19th
(4.) The Precious Memories of	Sunday, Dec. 26 th
Christmas & $(5.)$ Mind the Light	

* Chapters 4 & 5 will be combined into 1 session.

11:15 AM - Location TBD



December 2021

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER				
SUN	1st Sunday in Advent			
28	Sanctuary @ 10:00 a.m.			
	DECEMBER			
WED	Midweek Advent Service			
01	Chapel @ 12:00 p.m.			
SUN	2nd Sunday in Advent			
05	Sanctuary @ 10:00 a.m.			
WED	Midweek Advent Service			
08	Chapel @ 12:00 p.m.			
SUN 12	3rd Sunday in Advent -Sanctuary @ 10:00 a.m.			
WED	Midweek Advent Service			
15	Chapel @ 12:00 p.m.			
SUN 19	4th Sunday in Advent -Sanctuary @ 10:00 a.m.			
TUE	Blues Christmas Service			
21	Chapel @ 6:00 p.m.			

Midweek Advent Service Chapel @ 12:00 p.m.

WBI

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES





Family Worship Friday Sanctuary @ 4 p.m. **Candlelight Service** Friday Sanctuary @ 9:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE CLOSSURES



CHURCH CLOSED Monday, December 27th

Christmas Day Observance

CHURCH CLOSED Monday, January 3rd

New Year's Day Observance

 $^{\scriptscriptstyle 31}$ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call

him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:31-33, NIV



^{کرر S}رامی Court Street United Methodist Church The Chimes December 2021 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!

December 5, 2021

10:00 AM Ushers: The DuWavne Stanis Team Sound Tech: Tim Welk Video Tech: Steve Ripley Acolyte: Kaylee Bulliner Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

December 12, 2021

10:00 AM Ushers: The DuWayne Stanis Team Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell Video Tech: Steve Ripley Acolyte: Natalie Urness Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

December 19, 2021

10:00 AM Ushers: The DuWayne Stanis Team Sound Tech: Ryan Welk Video Tech: Steve Ripley Acolyte: Ella Anderson Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

December 24, 2021

09:30 PM Ushers: The DuWayne Stanis Team Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell Video Tech: Steve Ripley

December 26, 2021

10:00 AM Ushers: The DuWayne Stanis Team Sound Tech: Tim Welk Video Tech: Steve Ripley 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.

Riders must wear a mask, be fully vaccinated, and able to show their vaccine card to the driver if requested.

12/05/21	Bruce Shindel	815-397-1479
12/12/21	Tim Gorman	815-636-0514
12/19/21	Dan Boon	815-713-0411
12/26/21	Jeff Mann	815-742-5444
01/02/21	Bruce Shindel	815-397-1479

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 Mertzenich	Organist		andrew.mertzenich@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		
Mike Smith	Maintenance Engineer	ext. 295	Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org

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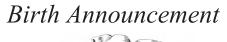
Wedding Anniversaries

Name	Date	Year	Married
Lundberg, Rozanna and Quentin	5	2008	13
Ferry, Eugene and Barbara	27	1970	51

Birthdays

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







Congratulations to Kaleb and Shondra (Wandell) Gottfred on the birth of their son, Kaiden William Gottfred, on Tuesday, November 9th.

Court Street United Methodist Church

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:30 AM UMW Leadership Team 12:00 PM Midweek Advent Service	2 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:00 AM Stewardship Team 12:00 PM Nurture Committee & Friends 1:00 PM The Journeymen	3 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	4 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
5 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Special Study	6 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters	8 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 12:00 PM Midweek Advent Service 4:00 PM Worship Committee 4:00 PM Staff Meeting	9 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 1:00 PM The Journeymen 6:00 PM Chatterbox Supper Group	10 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	11 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment 8:30 AM United Methodist Men Breakfast
12 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Special Study	13 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 5:30 PM Trustees	15 CHIMES DEADLINE 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 12:00 PM Midweek Advent Service 5:00 PM Administrative Council 5:30 PM No IL Wood Turners	16 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 1:00 PM The Journeymen	17 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	18 8:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment 9:00 AM ECHO Ringers
19 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Special Study		8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives	22 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 12:00 PM Midweek Advent Service		24 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service 9:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 CHRISIMAS
26 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Special Study	Q)	28 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 6:15 PM Knitting Group		30 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 1:00 PM The Journeymen	31 8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	