

waukee

United Methodist



THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Christmas Eve Worship Hosted at Walnut Hills UMC!

We're waiting. That's what the Church teaches us in this season of Advent. We're waiting and preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth come Christmas, but we're also waiting and preparing for Jesus to come again and put the world to rights. We're waiting to fully experience God's peace, wholeness, completeness, health, well-being, joy, beauty, justice, friendship, and salvation. We're waiting. That's what Advent is all about. "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him" (Lamentations 3:25).

After we wait four weeks, with our regular weekly Advent worship services in-person at South Middle School and premiering online Sundays at 9:30 AM, we will then celebrate Christmas, the good news that God tore open the heavens to be with us as one of us in Jesus.

Big news! We will gather Christmas Eve, December 24th for a special worship celebration at 5 PM at Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, located at 12321 Hickman Road in Urbandale, just west of the Interstate 35/80 interchange. They are graciously allowing our congregation to meet in their building since our interim location, South Middle School, will be closed and unavailable the 24th. We will enjoy Christmas carols, candles, the story of Jesus' birth, a special time for children, Holy Communion, and more!

Our online Christmas Eve worship will premiere on YouTube, Facebook, and waukeechurch.life at 5 PM. It will be available anytime on-demand afterwards too.

All of this kicks off the 12 day Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth. We have good news to share and celebrate! Please invite everyone you know, especially unchurched family, friends, neighbors, and associates to join us in this celebration of the birth of Christ. This is one of the best moments of the entire year to invite others.

Because South Middle School will be unavailable for us on December 26, we will meet at a different location that day as well. We're pleased to announce that we will gather Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 AM for in-person worship at the Waukee Community Center. It will be a fun day, singing many Christmas carols, hearing the continuing of the Christmas story about what happened next for baby Jesus, and enjoying some wonderful fellowship with Christmas goodies.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Christmas Eve at 5 PM will be at Walnut Hills UMC
- December 26th worship at 9:30 AM at the Waukee Community Center
- The sale of the building is final
- Our youth and children ministries are going strong





THE END OF AN ERA

On November 15 we closed on the sale of the 650 Ashworth Drive building. We no longer own the facility we've called home for the last 43 years.

The Wednesday before we closed, our custodian, Randy Lauer, did some work in preparation for the sale of the building. Afterwards he wrote an email about it. I asked him if I could share it. I found it to be a poignant reminder of our time in the building.

"Tonight, for the umpteenth and final time over the last ten years (as of January), I vacuumed the basement at 650 Ashworth Drive.

"Pushing a Riccar vacuum that sounded like a sick 747, I looked in all the nooks and crannies as I went from room to room. I didn't find a million dollars, but I did find some overlooked items to take to the parsonage and other stuff to toss. I even found a crumb of dried green Play-Doh to scrape up with the vacuum's wand, a task which was like old home week to me, yet did not bring a tear to my eye.

The final crumbs that testified to our presence there have been vacuumed up.

"I piled everything from the Joyful Noise rug to the green floor fan in the entryway, to take to the parsonage on a dry day, and hauled three bags of trash to the dumpster.

"There is still more to do besides hauling, such as taking down the church sign out front, which I presume we want to keep, for the time being anyway. But the end of practicing Methodism as a collective along Ashworth Drive is near."

Then the following day, Randy reflected on that last sentence, "But the end of practicing Methodism as a collective along Ashworth Drive is near."

"After sending this email last night, it occurred to me that the above sentiment is wrong. Collective Methodism along Ashworth is over already. I was confusing the building with worship—a classic theological error."

Randy's writing really touched me and gave me a wonderful image. At the end of 43 years in that location, the last thing was our custodian vacuuming an empty building.

It was a special place, indeed. Within its walls we worshiped together, lifting up beautiful music to the Lord. We read God's Word and received the sacraments of baptism and holy communion. We confirmed faith. We prayed. We married and buried. We enjoyed small groups and fellowship and potlucks. We experienced refuge and comfort and so much more. There are so many memories.

For a moment, it seems sad, a poignant reminder, evoking the beauty and meaning of all that happened there. Now the building is empty. Stark. The final crumbs that testified to our presence there have been vacuumed up.

Perhaps it's not so much sadness as gratitude for all that God has done and continues to do. That building is empty now because we have moved on. It's not over. God is still working in us, through us, even in spite of us. We're moving forward, reaching out, following the Holy Spirit's guidance, in new places, in new ways, reaching new people. May all the good, may all the beauty, may all the meaning that occurred within the walls of 650 Ashworth Drive, happen again in the name of Jesus.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

DECEMBER CALENDAR

1	Wed	6:00 PM	Confirmation
		6:00 PM	Kids of God (KoG)
		6:45 PM	Youth & Children's Meal
		7:15 PM	Youth Group
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
2	Thu	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Women's Group
		7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal
5	Sun	9:00 AM	Youth Bake Sale
		9:30 AM	Sunday Worship
			Second Sunday of Advent
			Communion Sunday
		10:30 AM	Sunday School
		6:00 PM	ChurchBall
7	Tue	6:00 PM	SPRT
8	Wed	9:00 AM	UMW Meeting
		11:15 AM	Staff Meeting
		6:00 PM	Kids of God Birthday Party for Jesus
		6:00 PM	Confirmation
		6:45 PM	Children's Meal
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
9	Thu	7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal
11	Sat	8:00 AM	Harried Moms' Coffee Club
12	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Worship
			Third Sunday of Advent
		10:30 AM	Sunday School
		6:00 PM	ChurchBall
13	Mon	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl
15	Wed	6:00 PM	Youth Group Birthday Party for Jesus
		6:45 PM	Youth Meal
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
16	Thu	6:30 PM	Administrative Council
		7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal
19	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Worshp
			Fourth Sunday of Advent
		10:30 AM	Sunday School
		6:00 PM	ChurchBall

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DECEMBER 26TH

South Middle School, our usual meeting spot is closed on December 24th and 26th, so we have found alternative locations to gather for those dates.

- **December 24th:** We will meet at Walnut Hills United Methodist Church at 5:00 PM. Walnut Hills UMC is located at 12321 Hickman Road in Urbandale. This is just west of where 80/35 crosses Hickman.
- **December 26th:** We will meet at 9:30 AM at the Waukee Community Center, where our youth and children have been meeting. The community center is located at 675 Walnut Street in Waukee. It is right next to our former building.
- Both services will also be posted online, just like our usual Sunday worships.

We hope you will join us online or in person for these services!

20	Mon	5:30 PM	Finance
		7:00 PM	Trustees
22	Wed	11:15 AM	Staff Meeting
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
23	Thu	7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal
24	Fri	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
25	Sat		Christmas Day
26	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Worship
		10:30 AM	Sunday School
27	Mon	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl
28	Thu	7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal
29	Fri		New Year's Eve

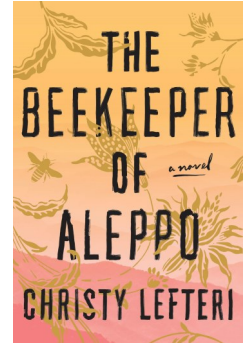
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Ben Tope	1
Allison Flack	3
Breydan Mann	3
Nathan Wannad	4
Randy Lauer	5
Jill Davis	5
Keith Halverson	6
Zachary Tope	8
Isabel Sparks	8
Allan Graham	10
Easton Flack	10
Lynette Mason	11
Zane Schmitz	11
Dennis Soughan	13
Jeff Colwell	13
Trudy Black	14
Tim Tope	14
Stanley Venard	17
Shawn Blakeman	17
Ellen Pieper	18
Kellee Chilton	18
Byron Gutshall	19
Brianna Blackford	19
Aabiskar Sharma	19
Bryan Johnson	20
Avery Showalter	21
Julie Kaufman	22
Kayla Gutshall	22
Cindy Delaney	23
Bruce Caquelin	23
Steve & Beth Baumeister	29
Mary Dunsmoor	29
Philip Stevens	30
Jerrad & Jenna Kemp	31
Kevin Butler	31

BOOK TALK

The next Book Talk selection is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christi Leteri. An Amazon reviewer calls it an unforgettable novel that puts human faces on the Syrian war with the immigration story of a beekeeper, his wife, and the triumph of the spirit when the world becomes unrecognizable.

It sounds like a good winter's read, so get the book and join the discussion at 2:00 PM on Monday, February 21 at Ann and Greg Ruble's home.



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

November introduced our first ever Family Sunday School event. Parents and grandparents were invited to join their child(ren) during Sunday School to create an Advent Wreath to take home. The event was a tremendous success. Look for more events for children and families to enjoy together in the future. Special thanks to Diane and Lillie Coffey for all of their help with this event. You can find pictures of the event on the next page.

The most up-to-date information for all things children and youth is available online at waukeeyouth.blogspot.com

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Our UMW will hold their next meeting at the parsonage on December 8th, beginning at 9:00 AM. All women who are members or regular attendees of WUMC are invited to participate.

This meeting will be hosted by our UMW officers. Mary Dunsmoor will provide devotions prior to an ornament exchange.

Blessings for a safe Christmas season,

UMW

MIDWEEK YOUTH AND CHILDREN UPDATE

Students participating in our midweek ministries have been busy focusing on growing strong in their faith and service. Youth Group students learned about the impact and depth of hunger within our community through a guest speaker from Children Family Urban Movement in Des Moines.

Our Kids of God and Youth Group participants then helped prepare meals for our church's turn to provide the Trinity UMC Supper Club Meal in Des Moines. The Supper Club serves an average of 125 meals (including about 80 for children) five nights per week, year round, to food insecure families in Des Moines. Special thanks to Church & Family Urban Movement and Lauren Kratz for their partnership in our November mission.

The theme of service and giving for Jesus will continue through December. Youth Group students chose to partner with Waukee Area Christian Services' Blessing Tree to provide Christmas gifts for four area children. Students will be fundraising, shopping, and organizing the gifts. You can support them at the bake sale before and after worship on December 5th! Both Kids of God and Youth Group will also celebrate Jesus' birthday in style to close out the 2021 year.



*Family Sunday
School Advent
Wreaths*



Kids of God showing off an activity



*6-12 Sunday
School with
leaders Bob and
Martha Ward*

You can find the most up-to-date information on our youth and children's programs at waukeeyouth.blogspot.com



Youth Group with AJ from CFUM

WE ARE BUILDING!

Until our new Worship Center is complete on LA Grant Parkway in Waukee, we invite you to worship with us in person on **Sundays at 9:30 AM** at our temporary location at **South Middle School**.

You can also find our worship service at **waukeechurch.life**, **Facebook**, or **YouTube**.

WORSHIP SERIES: NINE MONTHS

In December we enter the season of Advent and Christmas. Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions—past, present, and future. So God's actions in bringing the Messiah, Jesus, is addressed to us who wait for the second coming of Jesus and the fulfillment of all the Old Testament promises about the kingdom of God, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, when death will be swallowed up, when every tear will be wiped away. (The Worship Sourcebook)

Our worship series, Nine Months, focuses on how long we wait for a pregnancy to culminate in a birth. We're reading the first two chapters of Luke in its entirety to hear what God does in the pregnancies and births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Fleming Rutledge says, "The calling of the Church is to place itself where God is already at work."



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