

DECEMBER 2024

THE CROW'S NEST

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

Rebecca's Reflections

150th Anniversary

Local Leader Training

Confirmation

Scholarship Opportunities

Outreach Opportunity

Website Updates

Poinsettias

Fellowship

Special Sunday Offerings

New Missions Project

Ministry Reports

REBECCA'S REFLECTIONS

*"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."*

Jeremiah 33:14

With a rush of activity, Advent has arrived, and Christmas preparations are well on the way in our homes and here at Springdale UMC. The word, Advent, is based on the Latin phrase, *advenio*, to come or to arrive. Each Advent season, the four weeks prior to Christmas Eve, we prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of the Christ Child. During worship, we light candles, one for each Sunday, starting with Hope and then Peace, Joy, and Love. Finally, on Christmas Eve, we light the Christ Candle, *"The true light, which enlightens everyone."* (John 1:9)

Some families may choose to have an Advent wreath in their home for devotions. There are lots of resources on the web for readings to use as a family each week. One example is: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>

Have a blessed and holy Advent - Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Rebecca

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation has begun!! We have a great group of 10 students from Springdale, West Branch, and St. Mark's UMC> The group is meeting from 3-6 p.m. on the First Sunday of each month at WBUMC and the third Sunday at St. Mark's. The class will be at SUMC in January. Confirmation Sunday will be Palm Sunday, April 13th at each church. Please pray for this group and all that they will learn together this year.

Our confirmands are: Laney Grace, Dylan Whitlatch, and Konner Whitlatch. Rylee Grace is also participating in the group to learn more about faith.

SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN DECEMBER 1ST

With over 100 scholarships to award for the 2025-2026 academic year, the Foundation is excited for the upcoming scholarship season! Applicants can visit their [website](#) from December 1 - March 1 to apply. Just click the APPLY NOW link when you are ready and you will be taken to our partner site, Kaleidoscope, to complete the application.

The Federal Student Aid site will begin accepting FAFSA forms on December 1st. We encourage students to [create their FSA IDs](#) now so you are ready as soon as the application window opens.

Please visit [Kaleidoscope's Help Center](#) for application questions, or email cassie.parks@iumf.org.

SONG OF THE MONTH
UNSPEAKABLE JOY, CHRIS TOMLIN

DECEMBER WORSHIP "ADVENT"

December 1

First Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday
Diane playing

Advent Candle Lighting.
Manda Brown Family

Scripture
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Luke 12:25-36

Sermon Title
"Be Alert"

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent
Diane playing

Advent Candle Lighting.
Rhonda Barnhart family

Scripture
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Title
"Refining Fire"

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent
Birthday Sunday
Christmas Program
White Gifts
Fellowship
Diane playing

Advent Candle Lighting.
Steven Grace Family

Scripture
Philippians 4:4-9
Luke 3: 7-18

Sermon Title
"Bear Joyful Fruit"

Training for Local Church Leaders

Saturday, February 1st 9:00am-12:00pm

(Snow Date: February 8th)

**Mount Pleasant First United Methodist Church
309 N Main St, Mount Pleasant, IA**

9:00-10:30am

General Leadership

Ad. Council/Board

Alternative Structure

Led by Rev. Brian Oliver and Rev. Jaye Johnson

10:30am-12:00pm

Breakout Groups:

Trustees

Led by Rev. Jeff Bixby, Conference Board of Trustees

Finance Committee –

Led by Rev. Ron Carlson, Conference Treasurer

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) –

Led by Rev. Brian Oliver, DS

Missions –

Led by Rev. Alarie Willits, Midwest Missions



Springdale UMC will be serving dinner December 11 to the youth and volunteers during Wednesday Night Discipleship at West Branch UMC. We are looking for 3-4 individuals to help prepare, serve, and clean up after dinner. We also need a few individuals to provide dessert. If you are available, please contact Paula, 319-400-1449.

DECEMBER WORSHIP “ADVENT”

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Diane playing

Advent Candle Lighting.

Paula Rogers Family

Scripture

Luke 1:46b-55

Luke 1:39-45

Sermon Title

“Leaping for Joy”

December 24

Christmas Eve Service

11 p.m.

Communion

Candle Lighting.

Jo Leighty Family

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:8-14

Luke 2:15-20

John 1:1-14

Sermon Title

“Treasure”

December 29

First Sunday after

Christmas

Diane playing

Christmas Carol Sing

Scripture

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Sermon Title

“Do Everything”

EXCITING UPDATES TO OUR WEBSITE

We're thrilled to announce upgrades to our church website! These improvements make it easier than ever to stay connected with our ministries, events, and resources. Check out the new features, including streamlined navigation, updated content, and easier access to worship schedules, committee minutes, and announcements. Visit www.springdale.church to explore the changes and stay engaged with our church community. Additionally, please "subscribe" in order to receive notifications to your email of when new content is published.

Let us know what you think - we'd love to hear your feedback!



POINSETTIAS

Help us beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season! We invite you to bring poinsettias to the church by December 15 in memory or honor of a loved one. These flowers will be displayed during our Christmas services as a meaningful tribute. Thank you for adding to the spirit of the season!

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is the heart of our church community. It's through meaningful connections with one another that we grow in faith, share in life's joys and challenges, and support each other as the body of Christ. These moments of togetherness strengthen our spirits and deepen our relationship with God.

We will enjoy fellowship after church on the third Sunday of every month.



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Springdale UMC will be serving dinner December 11 to the youth and volunteers during Wednesday Night Discipleship at West Branch UMC. We are looking for 3-4 individuals to help prepare, serve, and clean up after dinner. We also need a few individuals to provide dessert. If you are available, please contact Paula, 319-400-1449.



SUMC STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of October 30, 2024

2024 Budget: \$45,506.00
2024 Expenses: \$34,565.62
2024 Giving/Income: \$21,921.83
Difference: (12,643.79)

We ask that you continue to prayerfully consider how you can continue being a strong steward through Springdale UMC with your time, talents and treasures. As our membership vows state, we are to serve with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

For more details about the financial situation, please contact a member of the ad-board or treasurer Jessica Grace.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is the heart of our church community. It's through meaningful connections with one another that we grow in faith, share in life's joys and challenges, and support each other as the body of Christ. These moments of togetherness strengthen our spirits and deepen our relationship with God.

We will enjoy fellowship after church on the third Sunday of every month.



UNDERSTANDING THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS

The United Methodist Church designates six Special Sundays each year, offering an opportunity for congregations to extend their reach beyond the local church and impact communities worldwide. These offerings support vital ministries that embody our faith in action.

Here's a brief look at the six Special Sundays:

1. **Human Relations Day:** This offering supports community developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service, and youth offender rehabilitation, promoting social justice and empowerment.
2. **UMCOR Sunday** (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing): This offering enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to respond swiftly to disasters, providing assistance to those in urgent need.
3. **Native American Ministries Sunday:** Supports Native American congregations and scholarships for Native American seminarians, empowering indigenous communities and their ministries.
4. **Peace with Justice Sunday:** Funds programs that work toward reconciliation, peace, and justice in communities and globally, addressing systemic issues and advocating for change.
5. **World Communion Sunday:** Supports scholarships for ethnic minority students in the United States and international students, nurturing the next generation of leaders.
6. **United Methodist Student Day:** Provides financial aid to United Methodist students pursuing higher education, ensuring that the next generation can grow in faith and knowledge.

By giving to these offerings, we join together as a global church to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission of hope, healing, and transformation.

This year, SUMC will be collecting special offerings for the following Special Sundays:

Human Relations Day - January 19
UMCOR Sunday - March 30
World Communion Sunday - October 5
United Methodist Student Day - November 23

We will also participate in Midwest Mission's Ingathering November 1, 2025.

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Hudson Wolfe
- 2 - Addison Nash
Annabelle Nash
- 3 - Dylan Whitlatch
- 4 - Brandi Tisinger
- 5 - Ronnie Nelson
- 7 - Jaxson Kaalberg
Jessica Nelson
- 8 - Lexi Clemens
Katelyn Nelson
- 11 - Amy Budreau
- 12 - Jordan Vetter
- 13 - Rachel Richards
- 17 - Aidan Grace
- 18 - Nicki Brick
- 19 - Ashley Paul
- 20 - Allan Baker
Melissa Grandt
- 26 - Quinn Kober
- 29 - Aiden Richards
- 30 - Lara Barnhart
Oliver Whitlatch



ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 - Tim and Michelle Miller (10 years)
- 30 - Dan and Peggy McElderry (45 years)



WEST BRANCH FOOD PANTRY

Beginning in January, COME (committee on outreach, mission, and evangelism) will be collecting personal hygiene products to be donated to the West Branch Food Pantry. Each month we will contact the pantry to determine their biggest need which will then be shared with the congregation.

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dear Friends:

We are thrilled to announce that Springdale United Methodist Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year! As we reflect on this incredible milestone, we would love to hear from those who have been a part of our church family over the years. Your memories and stories are a vital part of our church's history, and we invite you to share your experiences with us.

Whether you have been a long-time member, attended special events, or were part of the church at some point in the past, we would be honored to hear about your time at Springdale UMC. These memories will help us create a beautiful tribute to the legacy of faith, fellowship, and community that our church has cultivated since its founding.

Here are some ways you can share:

- Write a short story or memory about your time at the church.
- Share photos or memorabilia that hold special significance to you.
- Describe the impact that Springdale UMC has had on your spiritual journey or community involvement.
-

Please send your contributions by **December 22nd** to izzystreasure@gmail.com or by mail to:

Manda Frauenholz- Brown
307 N 6th St
West Branch, IA 52358

We also welcome you to join us for a special anniversary celebration on **January 19, 2025 at 10am**, where we will gather as a church family to honor the past, celebrate the present, and look toward the future.

Thank you for being an important part of the Springdale UMC family. Your stories and memories will help make this celebration even more meaningful.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Manda Frauenholz-Brown
150th Celebration Committee
Springdale United Methodist Church
319-325-6486
izzystreasure@gmail.com

MINISTRY REPORTS

Springdale UMC Leadership Board meeting—11/27/2024

Attendance: Amanda, Rebecca, Paula, Steven, Jessica

1. Opening Devotion and Prayer
2. Trustees
 - a. Ice Jams/Gutters
 - i. No update
 - b. Carpet Cleaning
 - i. Jessica will speak with Rhonda Myrvik about who just did her carpets.
 - c. Winter needs
 - i. Paula will take an inventory of ice melt
 - ii. Steven will speak with Josh and Bruce about plowing and shoveling
3. SPRC
 - a. Upcoming Dates
 - i. March 2 - Rebecca will be gone
4. Stewardship
 - a. Treasurer's Report (Through 10/31/24)
 - i. Amanda moved to approve the treasurer's report. Paula seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. CD update
 - i. Jessica has done great work in getting CDs at US Bank closed and transferred into new CDs.
 - c. Stewardship campaign
 - i. Pledges to date - \$20,200.00. This is inline with where we have been the last couple of years.
5. Other
 - a. PowerChurch/Empower update
 - i. Jessica has switched us to Empower (web based)
 - ii. Paula will update our database with the new information Jessica has put into PowerChurch and will add users so everyone can start using this software.
 - iii. Jessica will check out the financial piece and report back as to functionality.
 - b. Banners
 - i. Christmas banners have been hung
 - c. Children's Program (Rebecca)
 - i. Dress rehearsal December 8 after church
 - ii. Diane will be here to play
 - d. Confirmation Report (Rebecca)
 - i. January 12 at West Branch
 - ii. First Sunday at West Branch, Third Sunday at St. Marks
 - e. Laity Circuit Meeting update
 - i. No report
 - f. 150th Anniversary
 - i. Letters are stuffed and ready to mail.
 - ii. Amanda will be sending the letter to be included in the newlsetter. Change the December 1 deadline to December 22.
 - g. Technology
 - i. Josh is having some issues with the camera talking to the OBS but continues to work on getting live streaming up and going.
6. Goal setting
 - a. Mission: To make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world
 - b. Vision: "Springdale UMC is a welcoming church family that worships passionately, nurtures each other holistically, and engages in ministries beyond our walls"
 - c. Board: 1-year/3-year
 - d. Church 1-year/3-year
7. Next Meeting:
 - a. January 28 - 5 p.m. Potluck and yearly planning meeting.
8. Closing Prayer

2025 Missional Priorities:

1. Increase our online presence such that we touch more people's lives, near or far.
2. Offer more small group opportunities to bolster community and a sense of belonging, while continue to promote spiritual growth. (Amplify will help)
3. Expand stewardship efforts—do more year-round, find more missions to support/aid (both local and abroad) (small notes at various events....)
4. Expand leadership development efforts; How can we get more people involved in leadership, committees, mission involvement, etc.
5. Food pantry connection/mission—do more through the year besides just white gifts at Christmas (monthly); check with circuit on other programs we can connect with

Committee on Outreach, Mission, and Evangelism (COME) November 24, 2024

Attendance: Paula Rogers, Rev. Rebecca Carver, Julie Mather, Jo Leighty, Rhoda Barnhart, Diane Heick

--Ingathering: We had donations for three full student kits with more supplies but not full kits. Paula will get packaged and mailed.

--Christmas poinsettias: Paula will get announcement in newsletter and bulletin for those who would like to bring in memory of someone. We will suggest bringing Sunday December 15th. Diane and Rhoda will get sign-up sheet to pass around and print sheet to put in bulletin for 12/22 & 12/24 services.

--Christmas program: Sunday December 15th during service, bring nonperishable items for West Branch Food Pantry. Fellowship will follow, Diane will bring drink, Julie will make coffee, ask for everyone to bring cookies/snacks.

--West Branch Food Pantry: Starting in January 2025 we will announce a need for the food bank and accept donations thru the month and take to the food bank at the end of the month.

--Wednesday Night Discipleship: SUMC will be fixing the meal 12/11/24, we also need donations of cookies, bars, etc. We will meet at WBUMC at 4:30 and finish around 7:00. Paula and Rev. Rebecca plan to be there the whole time, Diane can help 4:30-6:00. Paula will get an announcement in bulletin and newsletter.

--Christmas Eve Service: We will dedicate new banners purchased with Jim Farmer memorial money.

--Special Sundays 2025: Human Relations Day 1/19/25
UMCOR 3/30/25
World Communion 10/5/25
Ingathering 11/1/25
UMC Student Day 11/23/25

--Lenten Study: Starts Thursday 3/6/25 9:00 AM at Rhoda's. Will suggest Amy try to find a study that is available online for those who can't come during the day.

--May 25th, 2025 we will honor the high school graduates during the service and have a fellowship following.

--Fellowship Sunday: We will plan for every third Sunday in 2025 except 4/20 which is Easter and we will have have the Sunrise service and breakfast instead. January 19th is our 150th celebration and will be a potluck.

Next meeting 12/22/24, in 2025 we will meet the 4th Sunday of every month.