



# We hope you will join us this ADVENT SEASON 2017

*Activities, worship, study, and reflection*

*First United Methodist Church,  
214 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL.*

***Advent study and daily devotions topic:***

***Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10, & 17***

***Awaiting the Already (An Advent Journey through the Gospel) by Magrey R. deVega***

The Christmas story we know so well is really a compilation of accounts found in each of the Gospels. *Awaiting the Already* takes us on a tour through the Gospel narratives, showing us what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel, and helps us to recognize that each Gospel writer invites us to encounter a fresh experience of the birth of Christ. Each chapter offers questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the week. Study books will be available soon. Taught by Pastor Alan in the Heritage Room each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., joined by the Electives Class. The Investors (Rm. 404) and Renew (Rm. 308) classes will follow *Awaiting the Already* in their usual classrooms. Please join us and attend all four sessions or any Sunday when you are able.

***Beary Christmas Tree, Stuffed Animals for Pediatric Patients***

***November 29 - December 17***

Everyone is again invited to bring a small teddy bear (or other animal) to decorate the tree in the Narthex. The bears will be donated for use not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. They can be brought to the church any time from November 29 through noon on December 17 and left by the Narthex tree. They will be delivered after church on December 17. What a great excuse to buy a stuffed animal!

***Lighting of the Advent Candles***

***Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10, 17 and Christmas Eve***

The advent candles will be lit at both worship services. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, we will light the Candle of HOPE; the second Sunday of Advent, December 10, PEACE; the third Sunday of Advent, December 17, LOVE; the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, JOY; and also on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, the CHRIST CANDLE.

***Around the Table Carol Sing and Children's Christmas Program***

***6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 3, Fellowship Hall***

Join the church family for a time of singing familiar carols. The children will be presenting their Christmas program "Dude, You Hear What I Hear?" Bring a few cookies to share. Coffee and hot chocolate will be provided. The children will have a final rehearsal of their program during Sunday School (9:30 a.m.) and Children's Church (10:45 a.m.) on Sunday, December 3 in Fellowship Hall.

***Advent Music Vespers***

***5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 3, 10, & 17***

Special Music will once again be an important part of the Christmas season at FUMC. Each Sunday evening in Advent at 5:00 p.m. a 30-minute program of "Music Vespers" will be presented in the Sanctuary. This year's presentations include:

**December 3** - Susan Frey, organ

**December 10** - Anita Hutton, piano

**December 17** - Anita Hutton, piano; Robert Weiss, trombone

***After Vespers Soup Suppers***

***5:30 p.m., Sundays, December 10 & 17***

The Grateful Hearts group, Investors and Renew Sunday School classes invite you to enjoy a warm bowl of soup and/or chili following our Advent Music Vespers on two Sundays in December. The suppers feature soup and chili, bread, selected beverages, and a dessert (including sugar free) for a cost of \$5 for those over 10 years of age and \$3 for those ages 5 - 10. There is no cost for children under 5. SEPARATE sign-up sheets for both suppers will be available in the Narthex or Atrium following services beginning November 19. Please sign up! Payment is made at the door upon arrival. SPONSORS: **December 10 - Investors Class; December 17 - Grateful Hearts and Renew Class.**

***Advent Decorating***

***Saturday, December 9***

Come have a good time decorating the church during Advent! Everyone is invited to come to the church on Saturday, December 9 at 8:30 a.m. and join the Priscilla Circle for the traditional Hanging of the Greens. Come with your holiday spirit, music, or maybe a plate of cookies to share - shop-vacs are especially welcome on December 9 and then again on January 4 at 1:00 p.m. when we do the UN-decorating!

**Thanksgiving Dinner at the Newman Center**

**12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 23**

The 46th Annual Thanksgiving Day Meal, at the Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 W. Washington Street in Carbondale. Free & all are welcome!

**Spirit of Christmas**

**Spirit of Christmas Gifts are due at the church Sunday, November 26**

Spirit of Christmas is an anonymous gift program. The gifts you will be giving may be the only ones the person will receive. We ask that you include only new, nicely wrapped items. It is not necessary to purchase every item requested. This year, there is an 18% increase in the number of people requesting assistance. You are encouraged to choose *more than one* (1) name and purchase less for each person so that everyone receives something for Christmas. You will have an opportunity to select gift requests that you fulfill, along with additional instructions, before and after church service(s) November 12 and 19. Financial contributions are also always welcomed. (Make checks out to Interfaith Council Spirit of Christmas). If you would like more information on this project contact Spirit of Christmas Coordinators Doug & Amy Baker, 457-0630.

**March to the Manger**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services, Sunday, December 10**

During the services on December 10 we celebrate the season of giving by bringing gifts for missions at home and abroad. Adults bring monetary gifts wrapped in small packages which are left at a living manger scene. Be watching your mail for this year's letter and list of missions. Children should bring unwrapped gifts for Cobden Hispanic Ministries and place them at the manger during either service. (A list of children's gift items is available. See your Asburian or Necia for details.)

**Poinsettias**

**Memorial Information & Order Deadline Noon, Monday, December 4**

See the Asburian, the Welcome Center in the Narthex, the church office or the church website ([www.fumc-cdale.org](http://www.fumc-cdale.org)) for order forms. 6" plants are \$10.00 each and 8" plants are \$23.00 each. Orders and all memorial information must be in the church office by 12:00 Noon, Monday, December 4. If making your own arrangements, please have the pot wrapped in foil and bring the plant in during office hours on December 12, 13, by noon on Thursday, December 14, but **your memorial page information must still be in to the office by Monday, December 4.** Poinsettias can be picked up after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, December 24.

**A Service of Lessons and Carols**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m., Sunday, December 17**

Accompanied by a full orchestra, the Choir will lead a music-filled worship service with varied anthems, traditional readings and congregational carols. This inspiring presentation is always one of the highlights of the season.

**Christmas Sunday Services**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m., Sunday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

**5:00 & 7:00 p.m., Sunday, December 24**

A long-standing tradition at FUMC, we will have special candlelight services at both 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Come and be lifted by the familiar carols, moved by the special music, and inspired by the message of Christ's birth. The 7:00 p.m. service will include special music with the Sanctuary Choir.

**Un-decorating the Church**

**1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 5**

**UN-DECORATING** will begin at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 4. Everyone's help is needed that day! Shop-Vacs will be much appreciated!

