



We hope you will join us this
Advent Season 2015
Activities, worship, study, and reflection
First United Methodist Church,
214 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL.

***“Advent study and daily devotions topic:
“Why this Jubilee?: Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season”***

***Sundays, November 29,
December 6, 13, & 20***

One night at a dinner party during Advent, James Howell sat next to Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Kevin Siers. As they chatted, Siers commented that his favorite Christmas carol phrase to ponder was, “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” That remark stayed with Howell, and he began thinking about how often he’d sung Christmas songs over the years without giving much thought to the words. In this book of 24 reflections, Howell invites us to revisit familiar songs of the season, even some secular ones, and contemplate certain phrases and their meaning for us. Taught by Pastor Alan in the Heritage Room/Parlor each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., joined by the Elective and Homebuilders classes. The Investors (Rm. 404) and Renew (Rm. 201) classes will follow *Why this Jubilee?: Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season* 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 and Local Red Cross ***November 29- December 20***

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 20 and left by the Narthex tree. They will be delivered after church on December 20. What a great excuse to buy a stuffed animal!

Lighting of the Advent Candles ***Sundays, November 29, December 6, 13, 20 and Christmas Eve***

The advent candles will be lit at both worship services. On the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, we will light the Candle of HOPE; the second Sunday of Advent, December 6, PEACE; the third Sunday of Advent, December 13, LOVE; the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, JOY; and Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, the CHRIST CANDLE.

Around the Table Carol Sing and Children’s Christmas Program ***6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 6, Fellowship Hall***

Join the church family for a time of singing familiar carols. The children will be presenting their Christmas program “One Starry Night.” 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 6 in Fellowship Hall.

Advent Music Vespers ***5:00 p.m., Sunday, November 29, December 6, 13, & 20***

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:

November 29 - Anita Hutton, piano

December 6 - Susan Frey, organ

December 13 - Robert Weiss and Frank Grzych, trombone

December 20 - Sidney Smith, M.D. organ

After Vespers Soup Suppers ***5:30 p.m., Sundays, November 29, December 13 & 20***

The Investors and Renew Sunday School classes and Grateful Hearts group invite you to enjoy a warm bowl of soup and/or chili after the Advent Vesper services each Sunday. 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 all three suppers will be available in the Narthex or Atrium following services beginning November 15. Please sign up and make payment at the door the night of each soup supper. **SPONSORS:** November 29 - Investors; December 13 - Grateful Hearts; December 20 - Renew Class.

Advent Decorating ***Saturday, December 12***

Come have a good time decorating the church during Advent! Everyone is invited to the church on Saturday, December 12 at 8:30 a.m. to 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 12 and then again on January 7 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 26

The 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 29

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 15 and 22. 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 FUMC Coordinator Dia Parr at 618-559-9269 (call or text).

NOTE: Sam & Suzanne Cox, owners of My Favorite Toys at the University Mall, are offering 15% OFF items purchased from their store for Spirit of Christmas names.

March to the Manger

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services, Sunday, December 13

During the services on December 13 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, November 30

See the Asburian, the Welcome Center in the Narthex, the church office or the church website (www.fumc-cdale.org) for order forms. 6" plants are \$9.00 each and 8" plants are \$18.00 each. Orders and all memorial information must be in the church office by 12:00 Noon, Monday, November 30. If making your own arrangements, please have the pot wrapped in foil and bring the plant in during office hours on December 15, 16, by noon on Thursday, December 17, but **your memorial page information must still be in to the office by Monday, November 30.** 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 20

Accompanied by a full orchestra, the *congregation* will sing familiar carols (*O Little Town of Bethlehem, A Christmas Trilogy: Joy to the World, The First Noel, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, and others) and the *choir* will present beautiful choral arrangements (*A Highland Carol, O Come All Ye Faithful, O Come to Us Emmanuel*). Traditional readings from the Christmas story will create an inspiring service of music and the word.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 & 7:00 p.m., Thursday, 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 7

UN-DECORATING will begin at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 7. Everyone's help is needed that day! Shop-Vacs will be much appreciated!