

*We hope you will join us this Advent Season
in these activities and
times of worship, study, and reflection at
First United Methodist Church,
214 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL.*



“Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam”

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion--weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. But, that's what this study is about--how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas--how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. Taught by Pastor Alan in the Heritage Room/Parlor each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., joined by the Elective, Hospitality and Homebuilder's classes. The Investors (Rm. 404) and Renew (Rm. 201) Classes will follow "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam" in their usual classrooms. Please join us and attend all five sessions or any Sunday when you are able.

Advent: A Calendar of Devotions, 2013

Available in the Narthex

As we journey toward Christmas, we join fellow pilgrims. Perhaps they struggled; perhaps they made wrong decisions; perhaps they tried their best and still failed. We share stories of our humanness and how God speaks through the good, the bad, the heartbreaking, the frustrating and even the puzzling. May your journey through this advent season be filled with anticipation, enjoyment and hope.

Beary Christmas Tree, Stuffed Animals for Pediatric Patients and Local Red Cross

November 25 - December 22

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 through Noon on December 22 and left by the Narthex tree. They will be delivered after church on December 22. What a great excuse to buy a stuffed animal!

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 and Christmas Eve

The advent candles will be lit at both worship services. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, we will light the Candle of HOPE; the second Sunday of Advent, December 8, PEACE; the third Sunday of Advent, December 15, LOVE; the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, JOY; and Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, the CHRIST CANDLE.

Around the Table Carol Sing and Children's Christmas Program

6:00 p.m., December 1, Fellowship Hall

Join the church family for a time of singing familiar carols. The children will be presenting their Christmas program "Sing a Song of Christmas" 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 and Children's Church on Sunday, December 1.)

Advent Music Vespers

5:00 p.m., December 1, 8, 15, 22

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 1 - Susan Frey, organ

December 8 - Dr. Sidney G. Smith, M.D., organ

December 15 - Gail White, organ; Anita Hutton, piano

December 22- Robert Weiss, trombone

After Vespers Soup Suppers

@5:30 p.m., Sunday, December 8, 15 & 22

The Grateful Hearts small group and the Investors and Renew Sunday School classes 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. Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex or Atrium following services on Sundays and may also be purchased through the church office. December 8 - Grateful Hearts; December 15 - Renew Class; December 22 - Investor's Class.

Advent Decorating

Saturday, December 7, Friday December 20 & Saturday, December 21

Come have a good time decorating the church during Advent! Everyone is invited to the church on Saturday, December 7 at 8:30 a.m. to join the Priscilla Circle for the traditional Hanging of the Greens. On Friday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m. Priscilla's will be unwrapping the shipment of poinsettias. Then on Saturday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m. they will be placing the poinsettias throughout the church. Come with your holiday spirit, music, or maybe a plate of cookies to share—shop-vacs are especially welcome on December 7 and then again on January 9, at 4:00 p.m. when we do the UN-decorating!