



# THE POSTER

Volume 15, Issue 12

December, 2018

*The Poster* is published monthly  
by Fort Des Moines United  
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Information for *The Poster*  
should be in the church office by  
the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Office Hours: 8:30am-12:00pm  
Monday-Friday

**Sunday Worship: 9:45am**

**Sunday School: 11:00am**

**Weekday Bible Study @  
11:00am on Tuesdays in the  
Library.**

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## What is Advent?

Advent is a period of time beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending with Christmas Eve.

Some people begin thinking about Christmas long before Advent arrives. Others are halfway through December and still saying, "I just can't seem to get in the mood for Christmas; maybe when it snows or..." They are waiting for something to happen to get them into the mood.

In spiritual sense, that is what Advent is all about. It is a time for us to prepare ourselves to celebrate that great event, the first coming of Christ, a time to get ready to celebrate in a way that will be spiritually renewing to ourselves. In Galatians 4:4 we read that God had prepared the world for the coming of Christ. In the same way, Advent is not just a time of waiting expectantly but a time of preparing for the Christmas celebration.

Advent comes at a time when we have our shortest days with long nights of darkness, but we look forward to a gradual lengthening of the day with its accompanying light. Likewise, Advent speaks of the darkness of sin, of our failures and unresolved conflicts, which prompted God's sending Jesus into the world, but it also speaks of the hope because God did come in the form of Jesus, the Light of the world. The Gospel of John says, "In him was life, and the life was the light of everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

First, therefore, Advent is a time of soul-searching—of repentance and contrition—but also a time of thanksgiving and joy; thanksgiving for what God has done for us and joyful anticipation of that great day on which we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Secondly, Advent is a time for worship, a time to understand our part in God's larger plan for the world. Advent season is a natural opportunity to worship together in your home. During the Advent ask yourself: How can I share God's love with others? What kind of decorations can I use that will show how we feel? What kind of cards can I send that will tell the story of Jesus' birth?

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Pastor Emmanuel Dass

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Monday, December 24, at 7:00pm. You will hear the familiar Christmas scriptures, sing the beloved carols, and be lifted by choral music and message. On Christmas Eve all the rushing and busyness of the season is over and there is a holy hush all about us as we come to the church for worship. In the beauty and quietness of the night, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord once again. You will join millions of Christians around the world as we meet for this traditional candlelight service. Come and bring your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It will draw you closer to God and to your family.

## The 53rd Annual Nut Sale is in Full Swing!

As of this writing we have 14 lbs. of black walnuts, 1 lb. of pecan halves, 21 lbs. of chocolate amaretto almonds, 12 lbs. of sesame stix, 1 lb. of chocolate peanuts, and 4 lbs. of dark chocolate cherries left. We have paid the bill for the nuts so now everything is profit for us!

Contact Suzanne Wilcox (277-5217), the church office (285-6545) or go online ([www.fdmumc.org](http://www.fdmumc.org)) for a printable order form. Keep spreading the word about our nut sale!!!

## November Finance Report

General Account Income	\$	7,104.47
General Account Expenses	\$	7,671.02
Designated Funds Income	\$	2,873.50
Trustees Income	\$	1,125.00

### Year-to-Date

Total Income	\$	110,358.76
Total Expenses	\$	118,678.98

(\$5778 was used from savings for the AC unit)

## Prayer Corner

Ft. Des Moines UMC, it's programs and leaders; Bhutanese Nepali Truth Church in Iowa, it's programs and leaders; those who are home bound and their care-takers;

And we especially name Jerry Swigert, Larry Seid, Benny Hotopp, and those we name in our hearts.

## The Parables of Jesus

The Parables of Jesus are the most memorable and persuasive messages. To know these incomparable stories is to know the teaching of Jesus and the heart of the Teacher. Come and join Pastor Dass in exploring the implications of Jesus' stories for our lives and relationships on Tuesdays, at 11:00 a.m., in the church library.

## Thanks to Everyone Who Helped!!!

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study group decorated the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Our thanks to go Donna Freed, Joyann Benoit, Sharon Wilcox, Linda Lasher, Cheryl Smith, Pam Sokolowski, and Carlin Peer. Special thanks to Chris Wulf for bringing the decorations down from the upstairs storeroom and setting up the trees.

## Two-Minute Testimony

Pastor Dass is seeking volunteers to share the joy and excitement of knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. If you wish to share your testimony during the worship, please speak with Pastor Dass.

## Legend of Poinsettias

Maria, a small orphan, had no gift for the Christmas Eve altar. With no other choice, she placed a carefully selected dry weed on the altar reverently and lovingly. Just she placed the weed on the altar, the dry leaves became a rich green and the top bloomed to a flaming red. In this legend, the poinsettia was born and became known as "the flower of Christmas Eve."

## Have You Ordered A Poinsettias?

Poinsettia plants are \$8.50 each this year and checks can be made out to Ft. Des Moines UMC. It is helpful to have the check attached to an order form. Forms will be available through Dec. 9. Watch for them on Sundays or on our website: [www.fdmumc.org](http://www.fdmumc.org). Plants may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

## What Are You Thankful For?

Here are some of the responses that were found on our Thanksgiving Tree...

Family IIII IIII II  
Friends IIII I  
Job  
All the people that fill our pews each week  
A roof over our heads and food  
Good health IIII  
Daughter  
My life  
My Creator  
All the blessing bestowed to me  
Love II  
Faith  
All the good people at our church III  
Pastor Dass II  
Church ministries  
The Lord in my life  
Freedom to worship  
Service personnel and freedom  
Jesus Christ  
Football  
My wife  
People that care for me  
Sun Shine  
Women's Group  
All people who help around the church  
Thanks to everyone who put a leaf on the tree!

## Cookies for the Fire Department

Members of the Women's Christian Fellowship will prepare homemade cookies to be taken to the Fire Department by Pastor Dass as a way of saying "Thank You" for your service to our community.

## Cause for Celebration!

### December Birthdays

2 Pam Schisel  
6 Dean Garland  
9 Dan Jones  
10 Connie Otte  
11 Jackie Sutter  
11 Cindy Eatwell  
11 Sandi Eatwell  
14 Donald Miller  
18 Charlene Seid  
20 Kristi Norris  
24 Steve Garland

### January Birthdays

3 Joyann Benoit  
6 Hayli Jones  
8 Dennis Garland  
8 Marilynn Cronin  
10 Elton Wolfe  
12 Hailey Kokke  
13 Macy Carlson  
14 Sandra Kokke  
16 Ginger Dales  
18 Melissa Clevenger  
22 Mike Jones  
25 James Lierow III  
27 Rod Kent  
30 Anna Nalevanko

### December Wedding Anniversaries

### December Baptismal Anniversaries

14 David Drew  
16 JJ Simmons  
16 Matthew Simmons  
18 Jeff Lierow  
19 Steve Garland  
20 Alexis Newton  
21 Joshua King

### January Wedding Anniversaries

1 Lu & Payong Yang  
14 Trevor & Jennifer Crise

### January Baptismal Anniversaries

1 Ginger Dales  
1 Roxanna Dales  
9 Michelle Houseman  
9 Alec Slater  
11 Lois Horn  
30 James Lierow III

## Let Us Know!

- If you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your email address, phone number or are using cell phones instead of land lines, LET US KNOW!
- If you would like to be included in the prayer chain, LET US KNOW!
- If you are hospitalized, LET US KNOW! (Privacy laws do not allow hospitals to contact clergy when a parishioner is hospitalized.)

Contact the church office at 515-285-6545 or [ftdsmumc@gmail.com](mailto:ftdsmumc@gmail.com) or contact Pastor Dass directly at [emmanueldass@hotmail.com](mailto:emmanueldass@hotmail.com) or 1-515-447-7953.

# 2018

# DECEMBER

SUNDAY

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	01 9:30 ELL 3:00 BNTC 7:30 NA
02 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Finance & Sun. Sch. 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	03 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	04 9:30 ELL 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 ELL 7:00 AA	05 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	06 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	07 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	08 9:30 ELL 3:00 BNTC 7:30 NA
09 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Sun. Sch., JOPPA & Cof. 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	10 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	11 9:30 ELL 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 ELL 7:00 AA	12 9:30 ELL 10:00 WCF 6:00 ELL	13 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	14 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	15 9:30 ELL 10:00 SHARE Iowa 3:00 BNTC 7:30 NA
16 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Trustees & Potluck 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	17 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	18 9:30 ELL 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 ELL 7:00 AA	19 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	20 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	21 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	22 5:00 BNTC Christmas Party 9:30 ELL 7:30 NA
23 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Council & Sun. Sch. 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	24 Office Closed 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 7:00 AA	26 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	27 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	28 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	29 9:30 ELL 3:00 BNTC 4:00 Community Meal 7:30 NA
30 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Sunday School & Coffee 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	31 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	01	02	03	04	05

# 2019

# JANUARY

SUNDAY

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01 7:00 AA	02 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	03 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	04 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	05 9:30 ELL 3:00 BNTC 7:30 NA
06 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Finance & Sun. Sch. 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	07 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	08 9:30 ELL 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 ELL 7:00 AA	09 9:30 ELL 10:00 WCF 6:00 ELL	10 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	11 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	12 9:30 ELL 3:00 BNTC 7:30 NA
13 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Sun. Sch., JOPPA 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	14 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	15 9:30 ELL 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 ELL 7:00 AA	16 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	17 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	18 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	19 9:30 ELL 10:00 SHARE Iowa 3:00 BNTC 7:30 NA
20 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Trustees & Potluck 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	21 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	22 9:30 ELL 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 ELL 7:00 AA	23 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	24 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	25 9:30 ELL 5:00 BNTC 8:00 AA	26 9:30 ELL 7:30 NA
27 9:45 UMC Worship 11:00 Council & Sun. Sch. 1:00 BNTC Worship 8:00 AA	28 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	29 9:30 ELL 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 ELL 7:00 AA	30 9:30 ELL 6:00 ELL	31 9:30 ELL 4:00 ELL 7:00 NA	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09

Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church  
6205 SW 9th St  
Des Moines IA 50315-5516

We give thanks for you!!!

**Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church is a community of faith  
in worship and action, open to all in the spirit and love of God.**

#### **December 2018/January 2019**

##### **Events:**

Dec. 16: Christmas Potluck  
following the worship service  
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00pm  
Dec. 24: Office closed  
Dec. 25: Office closed  
Dec. 29: Community Meal @ 4:00pm  
Jan. 1: Office Closed

##### **Special Offerings:**

Food Pantry Sunday will be on Dec. 16.  
Gifts of cash, shelf-stable food items, personal  
hygiene items, diapers (all sizes), wipes, formula, cash,  
and brown paper bags will be received.

#### **Candy Cane Legend**

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the government of England would not allow Christians to celebrate Christmas. A candy maker took a piece of candy and shaped it like a shepherd's staff to be a secret symbol of Jesus. The three small stripes were for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the large red stripe was the life of Jesus that he gave up for us. The candy cane was a double gift, a sweet treat and a symbol of Christmas.