



The Lighthouse

December 2019

"Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you."

Luke 2:11

a note from your pastor...

Advent and Worship

It's the most wonderful time of year, isn't it? And while some scoff at carols being sung on the radio before December 1, Christians throughout history have embraced this season of spiritual preparation using Advent readings—short Bible passages read during the lighting of the Advent wreath.

This sacred time invites us to slow down from all the holiday preparations and parties, take a deep breath, and remember the reason for the season: the eternal Jesus Christ taking on human flesh.

What Are the Four Sundays of Advent?

If you've ever struggled to keep the four Sundays of Advent straight, you're not alone. For hundreds of years, faithful Christians have observed the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day as a special time to prepare their hearts, but these practices have changed over time and place.

The first mention of Advent is found in ancient writings dating back to the sixth century, with some anecdotal mentions as early as AD 380 at the Spanish Council of Saragossa! So not only is it an old Christian practice, but it's also a very personal one, as churches have adapted the practice to suit their local parishes.

So while there's no authoritative guide to Advent, we can find some commonalities in the ways churches have practiced the observance of Advent throughout history.

Generally, the themes that correspond to each week fall into these categories:

- **Week 1: Hope (or Promise)**
- **Week 2: Peace (or Preparation, Waiting or Prophecy)**
- **Week 3: Joy (or Peace)**
- **Week 4: Love (or Adoration)**

While the differences in weekly Advent themes may be confusing, *we can unite in our desire to quiet our hearts during a hectic holiday season and worship Jesus.* And the *good news* is that you can definitely mix and match these weekly themes with various Advent readings that will best serve your congregation or your family. There is no right or wrong way to observe Advent *as long as you're coming to God with a sincere and open heart.*

Twinkling lights and candles everywhere remind us that Jesus is the light of the world that came to dispel the darkness.

That theme of light is what originally gave birth to the Advent wreath hundreds of years ago in Lutheran Germany, and it's become a beloved tradition in many churches and homes.

The Advent Wreath is typically an evergreen wreath containing five candles, each lit on successive Sundays during the Advent readings. Some variations of the Advent wreath include different colors to correspond to different themes, while others keep the candles a simple white.

(continue on page 2)



(a note from your pastor, continued....)

As it's practiced in church services, the Advent wreath is usually lit at the beginning of the weekly service with its accompanying Advent reading from the Bible. However, many families choose to create an Advent wreath and set it on the dinner table or mantel, lighting the candles and using that family time to remind themselves and their children that the Christmas season is first and foremost about Jesus. Other families set the Advent wreath on their mantel. Again, the beauty of this tradition is that you can make it your own, as it suits you and your family.

Advent readings themselves also vary among church denominations and traditions, depending on their weekly themes. Some churches, especially in Catholic traditions, read exclusively from the book of Isaiah, while other churches choose passages that correspond to the weekly theme, from either the Old Testament, New Testament, or the Psalms.

All this to invite you into worship and meaning of the season, as we prepare to, once again, receive the Christ Child into our hearts. Our hearts. Our hearts, where we may become renewed, changed, forgiven, re-charged, re-focused ... loved. So that we may love ... God first, and then others, all others.

Advent and Christmas Eve worship theme: *Christmas In the Movies.* When six of us met early in November, we arrived at this theme: movies! Our worship template has come together from a variety of sources. Many of us like movies – this Advent we will look at some of the deeper meanings of Christmas in these movies.

1st Sunday of Advent, December 1 – *Miracle on 34th Street* – Hope

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 8 – *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* – Peace

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 15 – *Elf* – Joy

4th Sunday of Advent, December 22 – *It's a Wonderful Life* – Love

Christmas Eve – *A Christmas Carol* – Light, Love, Family, Peace

On these Fridays, **December 6, December 13, December 20:** our plan is to show the highlighted movie for that coming Sunday – hot chocolate and popcorn will be provided! On *December 20*, this showing will follow *The Longest Night Service*.

December 15 – this Sunday we will also be celebrating with a Birthday Party for Jesus *and* honoring Dick and Sondra Mackin for their long and wonderful service to First Church as our choir director and First Lady of the Choir.

Christmas Eve Worship:

2:00 p.m. worship – with a focus *for and with* children; *Children of all ages are welcome.* We will celebrate with Communion. This service is unfolding ... stay tuned!

8:00 p.m. worship – worship in the sanctuary with our Chancel Choir, HandBells, piano and organ. We will celebrate with Communion and Candlelight.

Each of these services are family friendly and everyone is welcome.

(continue on page 3)

(a note from your pastor, continued....)

The Longest Night Service

Friday December 20, 6:30 p.m.

This evening, near the longest night of the year, symbolizes how many of us may feel during this season. We may feel somewhat off step from experiences this year, or memories of past years.

This worship is an opportunity to slow down a bit, worship in the evening beauty of the sanctuary with traditional hymn singing, readings, lighting of candles, the opportunity for an anointing and prayer, communion, refreshments after worship. This is a service specially designed for anyone – an opportunity to invite neighbors, friends, family. Childcare will be available for young children.



Advent and Christmas are deeply meaningful times in our lives, in the worship part of our lives too. One of my prayers is that we, at First Church, will discover the Christ Child in a new way this season, in whatever way each of us need him the most.

With my prayers and love, *pastor Mary*



Hospital Visits

As a reminder, if you or one of your family members is hospitalized and wish to be prayed for and to receive visitation, please notify the church office (219-932-5915) Pastor Mary (219-741-9117), and/or instruct the hospital specifically to call the church office. Otherwise—we do not know that you are in the hospital! Being hospitalized can be a challenging time.

If you wish your hospitalization to be known only by Pastor Mary, your confidentiality will be secure as well.

What Does the Christmas Story Tell Us About Joseph



A Greek proverb states that, "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." We don't always have to see the end result of what we do to know that our efforts are impactful. This was perhaps true of Joseph. As Jesus' earthly father, we can only infer that there were many life lessons that he either modelled for or taught to Jesus.

When reading the scriptures, one could get the impression that Joseph was an insignificant figure in the life of Jesus. After all, the scriptures only make mention of him in 14 verses in the entire Bible. In fact, in the 13 New Testament books written by Paul, Joseph is not mentioned once. Joseph only makes an appearance in the books of Matthew and Luke. In the Bible, we see a Jesus who was a loving man; compassionate, caring, forgiving. What do we see in Joseph? The Bible tells us that he was a righteous man. He was a man betrothed to a young woman- a woman who had been promised to him through an agreement made between both families.

In Biblical times, Jewish marriage customs regarding a couple's engagement were far different and much more stringent than those we are familiar with. Marriages were arranged by the parents of the bride and groom, often without even consulting the couple to be wed. A contract was prepared in which the groom's parents paid a substantial bride price. Such a contract was immediately deemed binding, with the couple considered married even though the actual ceremony and consummation of the marriage would not occur for as long as a year afterwards.

Imagine then, Joseph's state of mind when Mary shares with him the news of her pregnancy – a "holy" conception. A "holy" conception? A "holy" conception! Sounds suspect. You bet it does which probably left Joseph feeling betrayed, hurt and maybe even dishonored.

Before being visited by an angel, Joseph comes up with his own plan. He plans to "put Mary away" quietly. He doesn't want to dishonor or bring disgrace to her. After all, he knew what the punishment was for a woman who had been unfaithful to her husband. Mary would have been stoned to death. Instead, Joseph, being a righteous man, chose to preserve her dignity. By not going through with the marriage, the community would then look upon him as one who impregnated his wife, only to desert her.

God had not yet sent the angel to reveal his plan. Yet we witness in those few scriptures an amazing revelation of Joseph's moral qualities. What are some of the character traits we see in this account? Love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy. These are the unsaids that the Bible merely alludes to. These are the unsaids, that we can only believe, Jesus saw in Joseph – his earthly father. Character traits that were instrumental in preparing Jesus for ministry.

What can we learn from Joseph's example? What do we bring to the table in God's holy plan? Do we take the time to model for others the love, compassion and grace we see in Joseph?

~Pat Mosley, Co-lay Leader



Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission Team

Hello, once again, First Church Family. Well, it is hard to believe that we are now in December, the last month of the year, and Christmas is just around the corner! For this month we will be doing special Advent opportunities, our giving will go for:

1. *The Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children*

This special offering makes a huge difference in children's lives and helps children both locally and globally.

20% of the offering goes to each of these areas:

- Indiana Conference Outdoor Ministries for first-time campers and children in need
- To the three Indiana United Methodist-related children and youth homes
- To local outreach projects
- To United Methodist Advance Projects (national and global)
- To the Bishop's fund for emergency children's projects

2. *Clean Water, Wells for Burkina Faso, in West Africa*

In our November newsletter, was printed a thank you for the wells that our 2018 Advent giving made possible – with pictures of these wells, including latitude and longitude coordinates. The Vision Tour which Pastor Mary was to lead earlier this year was cancelled due to terrorist attacks on foreigners, especially Westerners. Though it is still unsafe for Pastor Mary to lead a Mission Trip to Burkina Faso, it is still possible to raise money for clean water; Burkinabe led teams will dig these wells.

For the past 4 years we have been collecting money for wells for Burkina Faso. These wells provide clean water to the Burkinabe people, making a huge difference in their lives. This clean water is life-giving, both spiritually and physically. Pastor Mary did travel to Burkina Faso to witness, first hand, the need for and the impact accessible clean water has for these villages. The total goal for the number of wells dug is 1000. This mission has reached approximately 60% of this goal.

If you cannot financially give, please pray for those affected, and for those who are helping the affected. There is always something that we can do and prayer is so powerful. Prayer with 'legs' then, is following through with action.

Our goal this Advent season is to raise money for one well, \$2200.00

The Mission team would like to thank everyone for all of the giving that you have done this year: So, "*Thank you all for your giving.*" The giving of your time, talents, and treasures. Thank you for giving to Second Mile Giving and to the Mission corner this year. Thank you to everyone who delivered the items that needed to be delivered from the Mission corner to where or who the items needed to be delivered too. Thank you all for the prayers and praying for all of those people. It has all made a huge difference. It is so awesome and such an awesome feeling when we can help people. It is awesome when we do God's will and do what God has called us to do. Amen!! Thanks be to God and thank you Jesus!!

~One of your co-chairs of the Mission team, Richard Miller



Christmas Traditions

A roving reporter interviewed a few folks around the church, and asked them to share some of their favorite Christmas traditions. I hope you enjoy reading these!



My daughter in law and I always go to the Agape Ringers Handbell Concert and then to dinner with a group from the church. This “rings in” the holiday season for us.

It would not be Christmas Eve without a candlelight service. It binds me to the others who share the desire to worship that night. The candlelight raises memories of services past, memories of loved ones living only in my heart, and reassures me that God’s love for us never ends. It is a time for hope, joy, gratitude and peace.

~~ **Kathy Smith**

My favorite tradition is worship with my church family because my real family is scattered and nothing is the same long enough to be a tradition.



~~ **Pauline Luthi**



Christmas Eve is one my most favorite and sacred holidays. On Christmas Eve over 50 years ago, my Grandmother would host Christmas Eve in her home. Her home was always filled with family and friends, sometimes hosting up to 30 to 40 people. Some of the food items as a Polish-Catholic tradition would be not eating meat on Christmas Eve; therefore, she would make homemade Pierogi’s, homemade mushroom soup, fresh fish caught and fried by my great uncle, sides would include homemade potato balls and coleslaw. Dessert would always consist of a cake or homemade cookies.

Prior to eating everyone would get a piece of Oplatki (Christmas wafer) (sometimes blessed by the priest) broken by the head of the family and distributed to each of the family members. While doing so each member of the family is kissed and wished a Merry Christmas, good health, and other family members then do the same to everyone as well.

After dinner, we would clean-up for my grandmother who graciously prepared this meal. Then on to opening presents. The children would play a game like “guess what ornament I am thinking of?” A simple game that we would play for hours. Once we had completed the clean-up and games, women would talk, men would play cards, and the kids would usually socialize with their cousins. Sometimes we would go to midnight mass or as everyone got older, we went to mass prior to gathering on Christmas Eve.

Today my grandmother is no longer with us and family has spread out all over, but my mom has tried to keep up with some of the traditions that her mother-in-law started over 50 years ago. I am most grateful to my Mom and Dad for doing this and while this tradition has become smaller, I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful family and to be sharing this day with them.

~~ **Brenda Petty**

(Christmas Traditions, continued....)

Here are a few of Jane Harper-Alport's favorite traditions ...



Caroling with church friends (class or choir) for members who are homebound, hospitalized, or in a health care facility. This has become a most-cherished tradition for me. The joy is two-way; the gratitude of those to whom we carol (many of them sing along with us!) is one of the greatest joys of the season. I always feel that I receive far more than I give.

Worship on Christmas Eve evening; singing with choir if I'm at my home church. Even if we're out of town, I attend Christmas Eve service with friends or family in the city we're visiting; it's a love-this-can't-miss-it tradition. My very favorite is memories of 11 p.m. services over the years at which bells rang as we were singing "Joy to the World" at the stroke of midnight.



A real Christmas tree! Larry and I pick it out together (my dear Jewish husband has become an expert at choosing just the right tree); he is the engineer to get it into the stand; we put on the lights together; I decorate the tree. Ornaments all tell stories; as I place them on the tree, I think of when and where each ornament came from and pray for the person who gave them to me/us. Almost every night during Advent, before heading to bed and after all the lights are out, I sit in the dark living room with the lighted tree and relive memories of Christmas seasons past (sometimes Larry shares these moments with me . . .). When I finally turn off the tree lights, I silently sing "O Tannebaum" and say a prayer for the tree who gave its life to grace our home as I thank God for the gift of his son who gave his life for ours.

Decorating with a cloud of witnesses. Christmastime was my mother's favorite holiday season, and it has always been mine, too. The beginning of my collection of Christmas treasures were small ornaments and decorations that she gave or passed on to me. That trove has grown over the years with gifts from family and friends, many of whom live far away or are now departed. Each year, as I "unpack Christmas" and decorate the house, I sense the spirits of those beloved family members with me, and it lifts my heart with joy and thankfulness for the blessing of relationships and the love that never leaves us.



Holiday Open House. Larry and I have welcomed friends and family to our home for appetizers, sweets, punch, and coffee on a Saturday evening in mid-December every year of our married life. Sadly, we won't be able to this year because of my work situation (no time off to prepare) and ongoing home repairs, but we plan to continue this tradition in the coming years. This becomes our shared holiday, a combination of Hanukkah and Christmas (which I know are unrelated other than their nearness on the calendar) in a very special way because our gathering is always a wonderful mix of Christians (of multiple denominations) and Jews—and even a Hindu. If our open house falls during Hanukkah, we ask everyone to gather where they can view the divider between our living and dining area, where we light the menorah as Larry explains the meaning of that holiday for the benefit of friends who may not know its origins. I have cherished memories of the years when the rabbi at Temple Beth-El (Michael Stevens or Len Zukrow) has been with us and has led the menorah lighting. Opening our home to celebrate with beloved friends at the holidays is our collective gift to them and is the special Larry-and-Jane-created shared holiday of our interfaith marriage. And we "pass it on," as we ask those who celebrate with us that evening to forego any kind of host/hostess gift and instead bring nonperishable food items, which we donate to the food pantry at Hammond First United Methodist Church and the food bank supported by the congregation at Temple Beth-El.



(Christmas Traditions, continued...)

Jane Harper-Alport's favorite traditions ... continued



Mince-Apple pie. Every year, I bake holiday pies around Thanksgiving and Christmas, one of which is always a mince pie with an extra generous portion of diced apples added along with the brandy and rum. Whatever else is served at wherever we may be dining on any particular Christmas, we warm and eat this pie with friends or family at the end of the holiday dinner—topped with fresh whipped cream, of course.

A blessed Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good Night!

~~ One More Sharing



My favorite traditions center around people, food and worship – all are important! Worship during Advent is very meaningful, two of my favorite services are *The Longest Night* and *Christmas Eve* worship. The Longest Night allows me to slow down, and worship in a quieter setting. The music, the readings, Communion ... and fellowship, is significant in my Advent journey. In my whole life, Christmas Eve has been magical, mystical and holy. I believe this feeling comes from within – and has grown my whole life. Following Christmas Eve worship I enjoy sharing the evening with my children ... telling stories, laughing and eating traditional foods.

The traditional foods in my family include: eggnog, with fresh whipped cream; homemade cinnamon rolls, cranberry sherbet, sorghum cookies, a bit of brandy to accompany the eggnog, and rolled, cut out & decorated sugar cookies. Other favorite cookies include pecan sandies and chocolate candy. Sometimes we fit in a pie or two!

I enjoy being with my family and friends. We enjoy eating, telling stories, playing cards, watching movies, and taking walks outside, all the better if there is snow!

May each of you and yours have a blessed and splendid Christmas, pastor Mary



They Asked



Someone asked me about Emmaus. Said they saw it in the bulletin and wondered what it was. I told them that I went on the retreat and *it changed my life*. Afterwards, I was sorry that I didn't go when I was younger, but we know God's timing is better than ours. There are pamphlets to explain it in the office and at the Welcome Center. They may explain it better than I can, but they don't have the details.

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual retreat not a Walk. That's just the name from Jesus' walk on the Road to Emmaus. Not everyone enjoyed their walk to Emmaus and I was reluctant to go, at first. You have to have someone sponsor you and take you to the site where it is being held. The sponsor is supposed to take you out to dinner Thursday afternoon, or see to it that you have had a meal, and then to the site where you stay until Sunday afternoon.

You are not allowed to have a phone or a watch. This is to help you leave the world behind and just relax and enjoy the three-day weekend. They will cater to your needs and you will experience a special kind of love and care, too!

Your registration form has all your information in case of emergency and your family knows to contact your sponsor.

On Thursday evening you meet everyone and the Lay director and the Spiritual Director of the Walk will explain the weekend to you! Next, you have what is called New Found Friends, to help everyone get acquainted, and have some fun! Before you go to bed, you are asked to not talk until breakfast the next day. This is to help you relax and forget about the world.

You will be assigned to a group and will stay at that table with the same people all weekend so you get to know each other and bond with some great future friends. Each day you will listen to five talks which are followed by discussion and the planning of how your group will share what the talks meant to you. This may sound intimidating but it is usually *a lot of fun* and bonds your group!

On Sunday afternoon, each person has communion with their sponsor and the sponsor will probably take you out to dinner, or see to it that you are cared for, before you go home. Your sponsor will be very excited to hear about your experience!

Many people in our church have gone on the Walk and most months we meet with other churches to eat, greet and praise God. Other religions have similar spiritual retreats and Emmaus accepts any religious affiliation, but the national sponsor is The Upper Room.

If you would like to know more, feel free to ask Pat Mosley or myself!

God bless!

~ Pauline Luthi, Co-Lay Leader



(They Asked, continued.....)

Hi, this is Pastor Mary, dovetailing Pauline's very well written and interesting article. I also attended a very similar 3-day retreat 22 years ago; my 3-day retreat is called The Great Banquet. The Walk to Emmaus, The Great Banquet, Tres Dias, Cursillo – all of these weekends have their origin from Spain, 1944. That first weekend was lay led, and these weekends continue to be lay led, with spiritual guidance (often from pastors).

My weekend changed my life, too. One way I explain my Great Banquet weekend is that it helped bring 'my inside out,' I began to find my 'voice' as one who seeks to know and to follow Jesus.

In my spiritual journey there are three experiences which I can name as having distinctive and deeply lasting influences: my Great Banquet weekend is one experience. My other experiences are (2) Disciple Bible Study and (3) Lay Academy (Lay Leadership classes) offered through our North District. (Lay Academy is a United Methodist program, offered in most districts in our nation. Hammond First hosted Lay Academy Classes Lenten season 2019.)

Nurturing our spiritual journeys is incredibly important. I recommend a 3-day retreat for most people – it is a deeply meaningful experience – designed to help us know Christ better, and to grow in our discipleship. *Each of these 3-day retreats is open to everyone* – the two I am most familiar with are The Walk to Emmaus and The Great Banquet.

Are you interested? Pauline, Pat and I are great resources.

As well – Disciple Bible Study (United Methodist resource, there are four different Disciple Bible Studies) and Lay Academy are available for us, too – right here at Hammond First.

And, The Walk to Emmaus and The Great Banquet have weekend retreats for students of high school age; these weekends are called, Chrysalis and The Awakening, respectively.

Lots of opportunities! I invite you to think of one of these, or all three, for 2020.

Thank you, Pauline, for your great article!

~Pastor Mary

Scrip Cards

The holidays are fast approaching and now is the time to start thinking about holiday gift giving.

Start your gift shopping with **SCRIP Cards** for the person who has everything and is hard to shop for.



We have plenty of cards and if you don't see one that we have available, we can special order for you.

See Roseanne Watson for more details.

Your donation also helps FUMC.



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE October, 2019

New Clients.....	70
Return Clients.....	437
Total Clients Served.....	507
New Households.....	33
Return Households.....	254
Total Households Served.....	287



Total Pounds Distributed: 11,164

Thank you for your support, donations and prayers!



The Vine Food Pantry is always in need of food donations, *listed below* is their wish list:

- Cereal—16 oz. or less
- Soups - 15oz.
- Pancake mix – 32 oz. or less
- Pancake syrup – 24 oz. or less
- Peanut butter – 20 oz. or less
- Jelly 20 oz. or smaller
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna Helper
- Tuna
- Manwich
- Macaroni & cheese boxed
- Chili 15oz
- Canned baked beans 28 oz. or smaller
- All Chef Boyardee canned products

Clean Plastic and Paper Bags with Handles

**Donations can be dropped off at the Mission Corner
across from the Office**

WITH APPRECIATION AND THANKS !



Please join us Sunday, **December 15** for the 10:30 worship service as we thank Dick Mackin for 15 years as choir director at FUMC, and celebrate the Mackin's service in the choir. Dick is retiring as the Director of our Chancel Choir ... His final directorship is December 24; *he has been a faithful and devoted director.*

Please bring a card of appreciation to share and stay for cake in the parlor following the service.

"Thank you, Dick"



Dear First United Methodist Church:

Thank you for your generous gift to the **Catherine McAuley Clinic**. We extend our sincere appreciation for your wonderful support of the McAuley Clinic and those they are proud to serve every day.

From its inception, the staff knew the powerful impact the McAuley Clinic would have on our most vulnerable population, and we are humbled to have partners, **like you**, who share our compassionate concern.

Thank you for choosing to Make a Difference!

Franciscan Health Foundation—Northern Indiana



HI KIDS! See if you can memorize this Bible verse!

"Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you."

Luke 2:11

Children's Ministry

Cheryle Seljan



Santa Claus is coming to town!

Mark your calendar for December 15th. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in our church to greet all of the children and pass out special treats.

There will be a birthday party for Jesus complete with a birthday cake.



Children are singing!

All children are invited to sing Christmas songs during the 10:30 worship service on the 15th. We are happy that children from Learning League will also join us. Practice will take place during Junior Church on December 1st and 8th and prior to singing on the 15th

Thanks!



A special Thank you to Niki Avina and Sandra Smith for all of their work to make room A look outstanding! You are amazing!

Riddle



Question: Do reindeer go to school?

Answer: No, they are elf taught. (ha...ha..)



Your United Methodist Women are in Mission:

United Methodist Women

2019 Mission Giving

Pledge to UMW District This money goes to Women's Division And is used for Missions To local, national, and world Needs.	\$2,000
Each Unit pays \$13 per member x 14 \$10 is sent to Lucille Raines transitional Housing facility \$ 1 to Youth Services \$2 to Mission U. Education	\$ 182
Donation to First Church to cover Use of building & Utilities	\$ 200
Donation to First Church for Learning League Salaries	\$ 200
McCauley Clinic in Hammond	\$ 200
Manna for Hammond (St. Joseph Soup Kitchen)	\$ 300
Lucille Raines Home (half way Home for men and women)	\$ 300
Indiana Children's Home in Lebanon	\$ 200
Bashor's Children's Home	\$ 200
Congregational Care (First Church)	\$ 200
September State Street Meal	\$ 124.26
July Presbyterian Meal (St. Joseph)	\$ 136.57
December Presbyterian Meal	<u>TBA....</u>
	\$4,242.83

Genesisius Guild Accolades

Bridget Choe

At the 2019 Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Production (NIETF) Award Gala, held every fall, the Genesisius Guild was honored with three awards and an astounding 18 nominations! Long-time Guild member and current Board Treasurer, Chong Choe, won "Best Cameo Appearance in a Play" for his role as Banjo in "The Man Who Came to Dinner." He also won "Best Featured Actor in a Musical" for his more recent role, Miles Gloriosus in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

Julie Breford, a newcomer to the Genesisius Guild family, won "Best Cameo Appearance in a Musical" for her role as Karen in "Snapshots: A Musical Scrapbook."

Other nominations included Best Principle Actor and Actress, Featured Actor and Actress, Cameo, Choreography, Set Design, Sound Design, Costume Design and Viewer's Choice, to name just a few!



Congratulations Genesisius Guild!

Pastor Mary

Congratulations, Genesisius Guild, for these awards! How exciting! You work very hard and take pride in your productions.

Genesisius Guild's productions are well done – if you haven't attended a performance at all, or lately – check out *Annie*, in the Spring. I will see you there!





“Hanging of the Greens”
Sunday, December 1st
Immediately following 10:30 Worship

Christmas is a special time of year, a time of *celebration, family and birth of our Lord.* With this in mind, you are *invited* to join us as we prepare the house of the Lord to celebrate his birth.

There are jobs for every skill level, so everyone can help.

Bring a snack with you to stay energized, while you decorate

The Morning Star

If you haven't had a chance to see **Ken Wheeler** a member of The South Holland Master Chorale you will have other opportunities to witness such beautiful singing.

The South Holland Master Chorale will be performing on



Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. at
 St. Joseph Catholic Church,
 17951 Dixie Highway
 Homewood, IL 60430

and **Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m.**
 St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church,
 500 Northgate Dr., Dyer, IN 46311

Music of Corelli, Kuhnau, Mendelssohn, and new arrangements of beloved Christmas carols and hymns. Come join them for this grand tradition, and bring your voice to help us on the sing-along carols!

Early arrival is strongly recommended!

For more information, please see Ken Wheeler or visit their website at www.southhollandmasterchorale.org or e-mail them at chorale@southholland.org.

“Sounds of the Season”
will be presented on:

Saturday,
December 14, 2019
at 4:00 p.m.



Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church
149 W. Brush Hill Road,
Elmhurst, Illinois

The **AGAPE RINGERS** are a professional handbell choir and our very own **Sarah Ward** has been a long time member. Advanced Ticket Prices are **\$19—Order by November 18.** After November 18 tickets are \$25.00

All attendees require a ticket for admission. Doors open half an hour before the performance (All sales final)

Children six years and over are welcome and require a ticket

If you are interested in buying tickets, please reach Sarah or Lora Ward before that date.



Poinsettias



If you would like to order Poinsettias for Christmas Worship in memory or honor of a loved one.
Cost per plant is \$10.00

Deadline to order is December 1



Birthdays 2019

- 12/1 Ken Wheeler
- 12/2 Jacqueline Jerome
- 12/3 Georgia Brown
- 12/3 Allison DeBold
- 12/3 Judy Keckich
- 12/3 John Reed
- 12/4 Lillian Preda
- 12/5 Kendi Young
- 12/6 Michael van Wijk
- 12/8 Joe Ramirez
- 12/10 Hunter Malloy
- 12/13 Sarah Ward
- 12/15 Norman MacKay
- 12/17 Sue Mayberry
- 12/18 Vera Vestal
- 12/21 Cheri Gozdecki
- 12/21 Grace Kruse
- 12/21 Rose Kruse
- 12/21 Sue Yerkes
- 12/22 J.R.Heady
- 12/24 Amada Hernandez
- 12/27 Sophie Dean
- 12/28 Angelina Garivay
- 12/28 Lauren Mosley
- 12/29 Fran Carpenter
- 12/30 Debbie Olson
- 12/30 Charity Valdez
- 12/31 Bob Brown
- 12/31 Katy Isaacs
- 12/31 Brian Smith



We want to celebrate your birthday by including you on this list. If your special day is during this month, and your name is not listed *please let us know.*



Prayer Concerns

- Jennie Baeza
- Liz Berg
- Carolyn Bryan
- Roger Collier
- Kathy Clarke
- Maggie Foster Lerner
- Don Harris
- Joann Harris
- Jim Kizman
- Sandy Kizman
- Athene Knapik
- Jerry Kolanowski
- Cameron Little
- Bernie Newell
- Alan Piwowar
- Logan Polich
- Jane Schauer
- Ralph Schauer
- Dean Seehausen
- Henry Showers
- Pat Showers
- Robert Speck
- John Steele
- Nancy Steele
- Cheryl Walker

Our homebound and those living in a residential facility:
Adele Gawrys, Jim Moery, and
Beryl Puckering

Deadline For Newsletter Articles

If you are interested in **submitting** an article for the **January newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **December 20th** or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org.

Thank for your cooperation!



Prayer and Scripture Calendar December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Psalm 122	2 Romans 13:11-14	3 Matthew 24:36-44	4 Isaiah 2:1-5	5 Judges 4:1-7	6 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	7 Matthew 25:1-3	
Karen Dodd	Maureen Dodd Family	Shirley Farmer	Alice Foley	Adele Gawryns	Russ Godbout	Cheri Gozdecki	
8 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	9 Matthew 3:1-12	10 Isaiah 11:1-10	11 Romans 15:4-13	12 2 Peter 3:8-15a	13 Mark 1:1-8	14 Isaiah 40:1-11	
John Grace	M. Gutierrez Family	Don & Joann Harris	Janet Harrison	Bette Haskins	Josie Hawkins Family	Melinda Hawkins	
15 Matthew 11:2-11	16 Isaiah 35:1-10	17 Luke 1:46b-55	18 James 5:7-10	19 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	20 John 1:6-8, 19-28	21 Palm 126	
Bob Heady Family	Dave & Mary Hinshaw	D. Hoffman Family	Bev Hornak Family	Dave Horn	Bobby Jones	Cindy Jones	
22 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	23 Romans 1:1-7	24 Matthew 1:18-25	25 Isaiah 7:10-16	26 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	27 Romans 16:25-27	28 Luke 1:26-38	
Martha Jones	Renee Kalk	Phil & Judy Keckich	Athene Knapik	James & Sandy Koester	Kurt Kosarko	Bradley Kowalczyk	
29 Psalm 148	30 Hebrews 2:10-18	31 Isaiah 63:7-9					
John Kozlowski	Mark Kruse Family	Sherry Lane					

December 2019							January 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	
29	30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 BROWN BAG SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:00am Casa De Oracion (Chapel, 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	2 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 7:00pm Church Council (1)	3 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm G.G. Fundraiser (8) 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor	4 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm G.G. X-mas Fundraiser (8) 7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)	5 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm G.G. X-Mas Fundraiser (8)	6 Closed except for scheduled events 5:00pm Genesis Guild Christmas Fundraiser (8,9,Lg Kitchen)	7 Closed except for scheduled events 3:00pm Private Event (8,K)
8 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:00am Casa De Oracion (Chapel, 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:30pm Private Event (4,5,6 & Lg)	9 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:30pm G.G. Reheasal -Annie (8)	10 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry	11 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 10:30am Bible Study-1 3:30pm Girl Scouts (4,5,6) 6:00pm Emmaus Meeting (Library) 7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)	12 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor	13 Closed except for scheduled events	14 Closed except for scheduled events
15 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:00am Casa De Oracion (Chapel, 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Missions-A	16 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 1:00pm Trustees (4) 7:00pm Staff Parish-1	17 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 7:00pm Finance (A)	18 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 10:30am Bible Study-1 12:00pm UMW Board (Parlor) 7:00pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)	19 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 4:30pm Private Event (8,k)	20 Closed except for scheduled events	21 Closed except for scheduled events 3:00pm Private Event (8, k)
22 Neighborhood Meal Prep-K (Hyde 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:00am Casa De Oracion (Chapel, 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	23 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry, Closed	24 2:00 p.m.& 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry, closed	25 8:00am CHRISTMAS DAY (Building Closed)	26 1:00pm AA (women)-1	27 Closed except for scheduled events	28 Closed except for scheduled events
29 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:00am Casa De Oracion (Chapel, Rooms 1,4,5,6) 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	30 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry	31 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry	Jan 1, 20	2	3	4