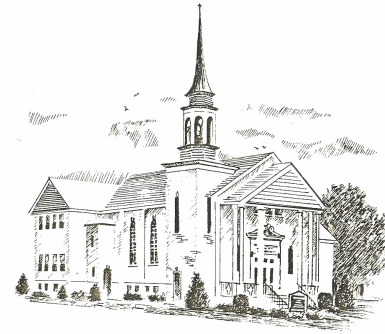


# THE MESSENGER



Willard Street United Methodist Church  
175 North Willard Street  
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Phone: (641) 682-5421  
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Charles E. Luers, Pastor  
January 2012



## January Lectionary -

- Jan 1**      **Epiphany Sunday**  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40  
**New Year's Day**  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8 (UMH 743)  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46
- Jan 8**      Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29 (UMH 761)  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11
- Jan 15**     1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51
- Jan 22**     Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787)  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20
- Jan 29**     Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111 (UMH 832)  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

Dear Friends,

One of the great saints of the church that I was privileged to know years ago was J.C. McPheeters. J.C. was a United Methodist minister, president emeritus of the seminary I attended, who as a child dealt with a lot of serious childhood health issues that left him nearly incapacitated. As he grew older through proper diet and physical therapy the health issues began to dissipate and of all things learned to water ski when he was in his late seventies and a few years later even learned to water ski on only one ski. He was an avid promoter of keeping physically fit. He would instruct those around him with these poignant words "If you are wise, you will exercise." In order to keep healthy, he urged his listeners, don't take for granted your health. Be diligent in involving yourself in activities which will build up the body, mind and spirit.

As we enter into the new year J.C.'s words can be instructive to us as well as we look to our own personal physical and spiritual well-being and that of the local church. I know that if I do not get some physical exercise I will soon begin to feel sluggish. In the same way, if I do not keep up with my spiritual disciplines my spiritual life becomes sluggish.

Willard Street Church offers a variety of opportunities to grow in our relationship with God and the body of Christ. If you are not involved in Sunday School (*Sunday School is for persons of all ages!!!*) there is class just for you. There are also learning experiences for children and youth as well. Parents in their baptismal vows are called upon to provide a model for spiritual growth and to encourage and be intentional in providing opportunities for their children to grow in the faith through experiences in worship and small groups. Bring your kids to church and join in a learning experience where you and your whole family can grow together in your relationship with the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, our living Lord and Savior.

My prayer is that as we enter into this new year of 2012 we may all seek earnestly to grow in our relationship with God. Let us be like the Apostle Paul "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (I) press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13b-14).

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!

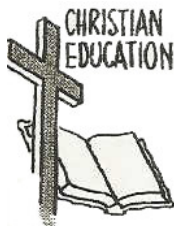
*Pastor Luers*

Willard Street United Methodist Church  
175 North Willard Street  
Ottumwa, IA 52501  
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*As we begin the season of Epiphany, may we rejoice in Jesus, the Light for "the people who sat in darkness."  
Let us keep this light of Christ shining in our hearts for all to see. Blessings to you in 2012!!*



**THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN  
DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A  
GREAT LIGHT !**

**!!2012!!**

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR  
VOLUNTEERS OF 2011  
GOD BLESS YOU THIS NEW YEAR**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

**Preschool and Elementary**

The Elementary Classes have studied the good news of Jesus' birth. We are now going to meet the Wisemen, the fishermen, and learn of Epiphany.

This Session we will hear Jesus' stories and learn from His many teachings. The children will have the opportunity to participate in some very exciting activities this session. Please encourage your children to be a part of this program.

**Middle school & High school**

**Will continue with their regular studies.**

**^^^ YOUTH NEWS ^^^**

The youth will begin anew... NEW YEAR, NEW LIFE.  
We have great studies, stories, and songs! JOIN US!!  
Counting down to YOUTH STRIKE FOR CHRIST!!!

**Adult Sunday school**

**\*\*\*\*\* Covenant Class \*\*\*\*\***

The Covenant Class will continue with special studies.

**\*\*ADULT BIBLE / AGAPE CLASS\*\***

This class will continue with their winter session Bible study.

**\*\* MERRY HOMEMAKERS \*\***

This class will begin a new study this month.

**WEDNESDAY NITE LITES BEGINS AGAIN!!!**

**YOUTH GROUP:**

MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

5:30 PM MAC 'N YAC-- 6:00 -7:30 PM: TREASURE TIME

<<<<<<>>>>>>

**CLUB IC:**

**Meets 1<sup>st</sup>. & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wednesday for**

**Pre- 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**\*\*1<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday of the Month: 5:30 Family Meal**

6:00 PM-7:00 PM - Lessons, crafts, games

**\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month: 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

(snacks )

**\*\*Join us for some great learning fun.**

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*May the Season of Epiphany  
bring the light of Peace, Joy, Hope and Love to all.*

**THANK YOU!!  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

My sincere thanks to my friends at Willard St UMC. Your prayers, calls, and concerns were very much appreciated. Thank you for the beautiful cards and for the altar flowers brought by John and Sandra Kendall. Thank you to Pastor Luers for your hospital visit and your kind concern. Yvonne Gray

Thank you very much; Donna Gardner, Jean Galpin, Bobbie Turpin, and Terry Gipson for helping me get the newsletter ready to mail. Your help is very much appreciated by me. Anyone wishing to help next month please call the office. God Bless, Mary Mitchell

*Thank you to Leila Carlo for bringing the altar flowers to me last Sunday. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated and the flowers were beautiful. Edna Proctor*

It was good to be back at the church of our youth to celebrate my mother's life and Harold's 90th birthday. Many of your memories involve WSUMC and its wonderful members. I want you to know how much I am enjoying the beautifully handcrafted shawl you shared with me. It is a special reminder mom's passing and Dad's hospitalization. Sincerely, Lana Marsh



**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY  
JANUARY 15, 2012**

Your offering on Human Relations Day, the Sunday before the birthday observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Please give generously. Your gift makes a world of difference. Thank you!

# End of Year Giving

Please keep in mind that all **year end tithes and offerings** must be turned in or postmarked by **December 27, 2011** to receive credit on this year's financial statement. Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of Willard St UMC in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Willard Street United Methodist Women

The Willard St UMC Women would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and tell you what we do to make the season a little brighter for other people.

We give to the following:

The Lord's Cupboard	\$200.00
The Crisis Center & Women's Shelter	\$100.00
Mumms Mobile United Methodist Missionaries	\$200.00
Red Cross	\$200.00
Salvation Army	\$300.00
Community Outreach & Men's Shelter	\$150.00
Hospice	\$100.00
	<b>\$1250.00</b>

We gave to the Helping Hands of our own church \$500.00 this year.

Davie Ann Hutton, Pres. and Yvonne Fleener, Treas.

Alane Webber



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all articles for the monthly newsletter to the church office no later than **January 16<sup>th</sup>**, otherwise articles may be added to next month's newsletter.

THANK YOU! Mary



## 2012 Church Offering Envelopes

The new 2012 Church Offering Envelopes will be mailed this next week.

New numbers have been assigned so please use the new offering envelopes beginning, Sunday, January 1st so that your giving to the mission and ministry of Willard St UMC may be recorded accurately. Thank you again for your financial support in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## Flower Calendar and Cookie Calendar



The Flower Signup Calendar (Altar flowers are \$21.00) and Cookie Signup Calendar are available in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your help in making our church a welcoming church.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

January 3 - 9:30 am  
Executive Committee



Women's Fellowship

Circle lesson: Prayer or Self Denial  
BK. Pg 45

January 5 -

1:00 pm - **Mary**, with Gaynele Sandeen & Mary Donnelly at church  
1:00 pm - **Sarah**, with Sandra Kendal & Naomi Heckart at church

January 9 -

6:30 pm - **Patience**

January 24 -

6:00 pm - **Faith**, at Hotel Ottumwa

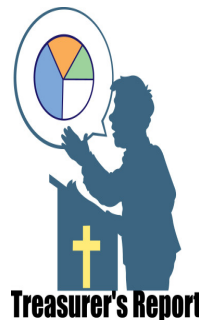
UMW General Meeting

**NO** UMW General Meeting in January or February

## All Treasurers

Please have your books turned into the office to be audited by **January 12th.**

Thank you!  
Mary



Treasurer's Report



## MERRY HOMEMAKERS

Friday, January 13th  
6:00 pm

Support Group  
Saturday, January 14th  
9:30 am



UM Men's Breakfast  
January 21<sup>st</sup>  
8:00 am



Greeting Card Recyclers & Knitters & Crocheters

Thank you for supporting the knitters & crocheters and the Greeting Card Recyclers.

Please visit our groups at 1 pm  
Jan 9th and Jan 23rd  
Knitters & Crocheters  
Jan 16th - Greeting Card Recyclers



Our sympathy is extended to the families of:

Wayne Curtis, a member of Willard St UMC.  
James Day, son of Margaret Day, and a member of Willard St UMC.  
Dennis Arnold, husband of Roberta Arnold, and a member of Willard St UMC.

The church office will be closed December 26th through December 29th; and January 2nd to observe New Year's Day Holiday.










Mark your calendar



# January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <b>Epiphany Sunday</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> 9:30 - Worship Service 10:30 - Coffee &amp; Cookies 10:45 - Sunday School</p>	<p>2 <b>"Church Office Closed"</b></p>	<p>3 9:30 - UMW Executive Meeting</p>	<p>4 5:30 - Family Dinner <b>5:30 - Club JC</b> 6:00 - Youth Group 7:30 - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5 1:00 - Mary 1:00 - Sarah </p>	<p>6 <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> <b>"Church Office Closed"</b></p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> 9:30 - Worship Service 10:30 - Coffee &amp; Cookies 10:45 - Sunday School</p>	<p>9 1:00 - Knitters &amp; Crocheters 6:30 - Patience Circle</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Noon - Bible Study 5:30 - Youth Mac &amp; Yac! 6:00 - Youth Group 7:30 - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12 <b>All Treasurers</b> Please have your books turned into the office today to be audited</p>	<p>13 <b>"Church Office Closed"</b> 6:00 - Merry Homemakers</p>	<p>14 9:30 - Support Group</p>
<p>15 <b>Human Relations Day (offering)</b> 9:30 - Worship Service 10:30 - Coffee &amp; Cookies 10:45 - Sunday School</p>	<p>16 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 1:00 - Greeting Card Recyclers <b>6:30 - Trustees Meeting</b></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Noon - Bible Study 6:00 - Youth Group 6:00 - Club JC 7:30 - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25 </p>	<p>20 <b>"Church Office Closed"</b></p>	<p>21 8:00 - UM Men's Breakfast </p>
<p>22 <b>Ecumenical Sunday</b> 9:30 - Worship Service 10:30 - Coffee &amp; Cookies 10:45 - Sunday School</p>	<p>23 1:00 - Knitters &amp; Crocheters</p>	<p>24 6:30 - Faith Circle</p>	<p>25 Noon - Bible Study 5:30 - Youth Mac &amp; Yac! 6:00 - Youth Group 7:30 - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 <b>"Church Office Closed"</b></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30 - Worship Service 10:30 - Coffee &amp; Cookies 10:45 - Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p></p>	<p>Due Jan 12 </p>	<p></p>	<p></p>