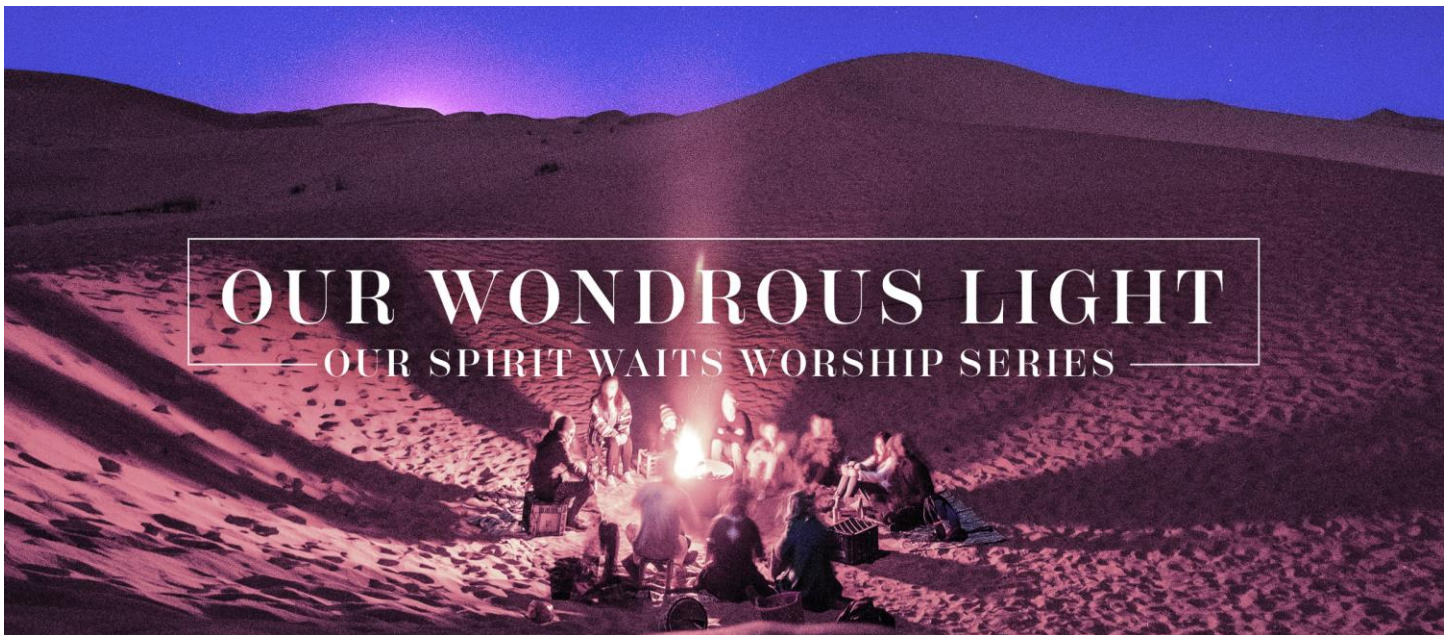


**Worship ~ We Welcome & Affirm Everyone**  
**December 24th, 2023**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**



**Mission statement**

To **connect** people with God, to **build** a welcoming and inclusive community that **serves** our neighbors through actions of justice and love, and to **develop** disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Our Vision**

To be a Church that demonstrates justice, love, and inclusion for all.  
All means all.

**We are a Reconciling Congregation**

First United Methodist Church, at the top of 10<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Des Moines, strives to love others as Christ loves us and, in doing so, to be the Body of Christ in word and deed.

As the Body of Christ, we welcome and affirm all of God's children, knowing that each is created in the image of God. We welcome and affirm people of all gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, races, ethnicities, family configurations, and physical and mental capabilities to join us in full participation as we come together to worship God and then go out to share God's love in the world around us.

*The land on which the First United Methodist Church building sits, the land which we occupy when we worship, was once the home of the oBaakiiwaki-hina-ki (Sauk), the Meskawaki-asa-hina (Fox), and the Baxoje Maya (Ioway).  
We honor them.*

7:00 PM

December 24th, 2023

Des Moines, IA

---

*As you are able, please stand wherever there is an \*.*  
*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red) TFWS = The Faith We Sing (black)*  
*Congregational Responses in **bold***

## **Traditional Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

<b>Prelude Music (6:40 PM)</b>	Christmas Time Is Here <i>David Breese, Trumpet; Ben Allaway, Piano</i>	Vince Guaraldi
	Ave Maria <i>Emily Paul, Flute; Ben Allaway, Piano</i>	Franz Schubert
	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing <i>The Handbell Choir</i>	Mendelssohn <i>Arr. S. Eithen</i>
	O Holy Night <i>Sonya Benzmilller &amp; Ben Allaway, Duet; Debbie Sychra, Piano</i>	Adolphe Adam
	Of the Father's Love Begotten <i>Debbie Sychra, Organ</i>	13 <sup>th</sup> Century Plainsong <i>Arr. Wilbur Held</i>

### **WELCOME**

Donna Gruis

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Donna Gruis

Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!  
***We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.***

We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

***We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our shocking hope.***

We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends.

***We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.***

We have waited and watched, longing for joy that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos, and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.  
**We greet the Wondrous Light, the source of our fierce joy.**

We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior.

**We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate who has come to save us and transform us. Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.*

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

**All: 1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant**

**O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem**

**Come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

**Ref. O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,**

**O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

Choir 2.

**All 3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exhaltation!**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.**

**Glory to God in the highest. Ref.**

**All 6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning!**

**Jesus to thee be all glory giv'n.**

**Word of the Father now in flesh appearing. Ref.**

**\*First Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38, *The message of the angel* Christine Anders  
Page 69, *New Testament (back portion of pew Bible)*

**Lighting of the first Advent candle**

Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

UMH 238, vv.1&2

**\*Second Lesson**

Luke 1:39-45, *Good news for two women* Tom Gruis  
Page 69, *New Testament (back portion of pew Bible)*

**Second Advent candle: To reflect our solidarity with those who are not at peace this year, especially in Bethlehem where the lights remain unlit this Christmas season, we are leaving the Second Advent candle unlit.**

Carol Joy to the World UMH 246, vv. 1-4

**\*Third Lesson** Luke 1:46-55, *Mary's hymn of praise* Tom Gruis  
*Pages 69-70, New Testament (back portion of pew Bible)*

### **Lighting of the third Advent candle**

Carol Glorify the Lord with Me Jean Berger  
*The Chancel Choir*

*Text: Glorify the Lord with me! Let us together extol His name! I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise will be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord, the lowly shall hear me and be glad! From The Psalms.*

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230, vv.1&3

**\*Fourth Lesson** Matthew 1:18-20, *Joseph's Dream* Christine Anders  
*Page 1, New Testament (back portion of pew Bible)*

### **Lighting of the fourth Advent candle**

Carol Shepherds, what is this Lovely Fragrance French Carol  
*The Chancel Choir* Arr. Joseph Flummerfelt

**\*Fifth Lesson** Luke 2:1-20, *The birth of Jesus* Christine Anders  
*Page 71, New Testament (back portion of pew Bible)*

### **Lighting of the fifth Advent candle (Christ candle)**

#### **MINISTRY OF SHARING**



You can use our QR Code for donations.

How do you scan a QR Code?

1. Open the Camera app on your smart phone.
2. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view.
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

#### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

Donna Gruis

## Offertory Music

The Little Drummer Boy  
House Wide Open Band

Katherine K. Davis

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Donna Gruis

Giving God, as we recount the story of your gift of a Savior on that night long ago, we remember there were some who said, "There's no room", and others who responded, "Come, we'll make room." As we bring our gifts to your altar, which group will be the best fit for each of us? Help us give with a heart of abundance and not one of scarcity! On this holiest of nights, let us dwell with those whose chorus is, "Come, we'll make room..." remembering your abundant love for us. In the name of our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen. (Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2023.*

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
**All with The Chancel Choir**

UMH 240

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Edgar F. Solís

*Dimming the lights*

Lighting of the Candles (For Congregation)

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

*We start in darkness... One candle is lit, one voice begins, and it spreads through the sanctuary...*

**1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
holy infant, so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace...**

**2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the savior is born...**

**3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth...**

**4. Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star lend thy light  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluias to our king.  
Christ the savior is born...**

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Edgar F. Solís

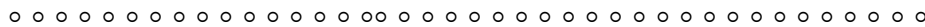
Beloved, the wait for the Messiah is almost over and has only just begun. Go from this space carrying the love that transforms us in your hearts, that your lives may give birth to hope, peace, joy, and love wherever you go. Amen.

**Postlude**

Carol of the Manger  
*Debbie Sychra, Organ*

Kirkpatrick  
*Arr. Dale Wood*

CCLI License #4046832



**Participants in Worship**

Preacher	Rev. Edgar F. Solís
Worship Leader	Christine Anders, Dr. Tom & Donna Gruis
Ushers	Ned Johnson and Craig Strayer (Head Ushers) Ron Roulet
Organist/Pianist	Debbie Sychra
Special Music/Soloist	The Chancel Choir, Sonya Benzmiller
Greeters	Arnie Brown and Millie Wade
Director of Music	Ben Allaway
Song Leader	Ben Allaway
House Wide Open Band:	Ben Allaway, keyboards; Josh Gorman, guitar; Emily Paul, flute; David Breese, trumpet; Chase McLaren, percussionist

**The Chancel Choir:**

Soprano: Nancy Thompson, Kara Johnson, Kay Pudil, Julie Poulsen, Cookie Major  
 Alto: Eloise Cranke, Wanda Wendt, Collette Klier, Kelli Bacon, Jacque Coulson, Sonya Benzmiller  
 Tenor: Connor MacAninch, Jerry Michael  
 Bass: Claire Canfield, Isaac Lodwick, Jim Tener  
 Director: Ben Allaway  
 Accompanist: Debbie Sychra

**The White Chapel Bell Choir:**

Debbie Sychra, Ben Allaway, Cookie Major, Jacque Coulsen, Isaac Lodwick, Kay Pudil, Amy Brucker, Julie Poulsen, Kelli Bacon, Wanda Wendt. Ben Allaway, director

**First Church Staff**

Rev. Edgar F. Solís – Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastor@dmfirstchurch.org">pastor@dmfirstchurch.org</a>
Ben Allaway-Music Director and Composer in Residence	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@dmfirstchurch.org">musicdirector@dmfirstchurch.org</a>
Michelle Mathews – Finance Manager	<a href="mailto:finance@dmfirstchurch.org">finance@dmfirstchurch.org</a>
Colleen Brady– Office Manager	<a href="mailto:officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org">officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org</a>
Marty McFly-Creative Director- IT	<a href="mailto:booking@dsmdancepartydjs.com">booking@dsmdancepartydjs.com</a>
Amanda Claussen–CCYC Director	<a href="mailto:director@creativecenterforyoungchildren.org">director@creativecenterforyoungchildren.org</a>
Timothy Poppert – Custodian	<a href="mailto:t.poppert@dmfirstchurch.org">t.poppert@dmfirstchurch.org</a>

**First United Methodist Church, 1001 Pleasant Street Des Moines, IA 50309**

PH: 515-244-6209 | FAX: 515-282-6106

Guest Wi-Fi password: Welcome!



**Cross Notes & Bulletin announcements due Wednesday & LIGHT Articles due on the 20th every month to Office.**

E-mail: [info@dmfirstchurch.org](mailto:info@dmfirstchurch.org) Web site: [www.dmfirstchurch.org](http://www.dmfirstchurch.org)

**Facebook:** DSM First Church **Instagram:** @1stChurchDSM **Twitter:** @des\_first

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NEWCOMERS, WE WELCOME YOU!**

If you are here for the first time, we have a small gift bag for you at the parking lot door. Meet new friends after worship at the "Coffee Time" in Kenyon Hall. Everyone welcome!

**PACESETTERS ADULT CLASS** invites you to join us Sunday Mornings on the lower level in room #4 for coffee and treats at 9:00. The program begins at 9:15. The group is led by Ned Johnson, with discussion of issues presented, and occasional guest speakers.

**MUSIC UNDER the DOME REMINDER:** Ben hopes you received the Music Under the Dome mailing. If you did not, or you're not sure where yours is, you may pick up another at Coffee Hour. If you haven't sent in your membership contribution, we urge you to prayerfully consider giving generously to the Music Under the Dome, our global music series here at First Church.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

On Sunday, Jan 7 at 9-10 am you are invited to a new Bible study on THE GOSPEL OF MARK: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE GOOD NEWS by Amy-Jill Levine. Mark is the first recorded life story of Jesus. Julie Poulsen is ordering books for \$12. Let her know if you want one. If you cannot afford a book, speak to Julie. Bring your Bible to class!

Read the Introduction AND Chapters 1-4 of Mark and Session 1 of the Book before Jan 7 class. You do not need to be familiar with the Bible to attend. Bring your questions. Everyone is welcome. Contact Julie at 319 461 3146 or [juliaefpoulsen@gmail.com](mailto:juliaefpoulsen@gmail.com)

### **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

The joy and hope of Christmas renews our spirit and opens our hearts once again to the awesome power of God working through everyday people. When we cannot be there, our gifts support the vital work of the church, together making a difference. This year's Christmas offering will be shared between Families Forward and the UNRWA. Gifts can be made on-line or by check payable to First Church and designated for the Christmas offering.

For many years First Church has supported both the Bidwell Riverside Center and Hawthorn Hill. In July 2023 the two merged into Families Forward, an organization where the original four programs - Bidwell Pantry, Child Development Center, New Directions Shelter, and the Home Connection - work together to provide compassionate, life-changing assistance to families on their path to self-sufficiency. Our donation will help support the combined mission of Families Forward.

UNRWA is the acronym for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East. UNRWA was established in 1950 to carry out relief and works programs for Palestine refugees after the 1948 War. Today, the Agency's services encompass education, healthcare, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance, and emergency assistance, including in situations of armed conflict. They serve 5.9 million registered Palestine refugees in 58 refugee camps around the Near East. Our donation will help the Agency continue to support Palestine Refugees.

### **“The Innocents, Ourselves, and the Call of God Today.”**

The Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace invites you to a Feast of the Holy Innocents service on Thursday, December 28th, at 6:30 PM, at Valley UMC, 4201 Ashworth, WDM. The service has its roots in the Christmas story, told in Matthew of the slaughter of the innocents in Herod's time. It will emphasize deeply that all children need peace with justice. We will raise our prayers to stop violence against innocent children caused by wars and conflicts around the world. Our speaker will be Fr. David Polich with music by Steve and Donna Dressler. The service will be live streamed. You will find the link to the livestream on our Facebook page.

#### **Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace**

### **SPIRITUAL SEEKERS**

You are invited to join us as Pastor Edgar leads this group in our church. Each Tuesday, Pastor Edgar, and the new church attendees and those interested in having conversations on faith meet to discuss a new topic. All of this is in a very friendly and laid-back setting. More than a class, it is an open conversation!

**We will be taking a break for all the Christmas activities and will resume mid-January. Date and Location to be announced.**

### **LOOM IS HERE FROM MIDWEST MISSION!**

Lesley Gesaman and Kay Pudil picked up the loom from Midwest Mission in Jefferson. The loom is now in the library for making mats for the homeless. We will be finding a permanent spot on an 8-foot-long table to set the loom on for weaving. Midwest Mission also gave us a huge bag of plastic sacks to get us started and that bag is also in the library until we can find a better place to store bags.

Our plan is to use December for the Outreach team to practice weaving and learn more about the loom. We will also have the congregation start collecting plastic grocery bags (it takes around 500 bags to make one mat). There is a collection box beneath the current events sign-up table for this. Then in January, our plan is to introduce the loom to the congregation and start giving lessons on how to weave. (See the image of a completed mat below.)





The hope is to have a few small groups meet regularly to cut the bags into loops and to weave. Our hope is to have the loom available on Sunday mornings, so that people can weave a little bit before and after church.

\*The bags need to be plastic shopping bags like Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart, Target, Dollar Tree, almost any plastic shopping bag will work. Preferably clean.

**Invitation to the Epiphany Service of Commitment and Healing with Bishop Kennetha**  
**Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.**

**Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church**

**1002 1st Avenue N, Fort Dodge, IA**

**Reception to follow.**

Friends, the culmination of our Unrelenting Grace at this study will be an Epiphany Service of Commitment and Healing where we will come together for worship and to recognize the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

The service will be held at First United Methodist Church in Fort Dodge on January 7th at 3 p.m.

As the Prophet Isaiah says in Isaiah:60 "Arise! Shine! Your light has come. The glory of the Lord has shown upon you. Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the Lord will shine upon you. Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance."

Join us for this time of connection and commitment as we focus on the ways in which the light of Jesus Christ can be a healing balm for us and for the world.

God bless in this Advent and Christmas season.

**GriefShare UPCOMING JANUARY CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Matthew 5:4 says, "Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted."**

DSM First Church is excited to announce that we are offering another group discussion course for our Christ-Centered program called Griefshare. The purpose of Griefshare is to equip you through the church with resources that help offer ongoing, weekly, grief and loss support. This life-changing material ministers to grieving people who have experienced any form of loss.

Colette Klier is the Facilitator for the program. The content of the Griefshare course will guide the group through the process with God. This course stresses the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ as your foundation during the healing process. True

healing that comes from the pain of loss can only come from God's presence in the life of an individual experiencing it.

First United Methodist Church offers this invaluable resource to our members and non-members of our church.

We are planning to start the next course on Sunday, January 21st from 12:30PM to 2:30PM and complete the course on Sunday, April 13th. This is a 13-week program with each chapter discussed weekly in our 2nd Floor Conference Room. Sessions 1-5 offer COMFORT, Sessions 6-9 offer ANSWERS, and Sessions 10-13 offer HOPE which is at the heart of everything. COMFORT, ANSWERS, and HOPE. At each meeting;

- 1.) We will open our discussion with prayer.
- 2.) Discuss the previous week's homework exercises.
- 3.) Watch a 30–40-minute video and a small snack will be provided.
- 4.) Discuss the video's content.
- 5.) Close our discussion with prayer.



Colette Klier has facilitated this course previously and highly recommends this program to anyone who is currently dealing with loss or has had a loss that's occurred perhaps months or even years ago and is still continuing to try to work through their grief.

A past participant in the Griefshare course gave the program a 5-star rating and said "The Griefshare program has helped strengthen my Christian belief in our God Almighty and has helped me immensely."

If you are interested in signing up for the program, please contact Colette directly by calling 641-831-6996 or contact the church by calling 515-244-6209. You can email us at [officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org](mailto:officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org). You may also contact us through the DSM First Church website at <https://dmfirstchurch.org> by using our Contact Form. We want to hear from you.

Lord, let us trust in Your comfort, let us trust in Your Love. For we know that You will never leave us during our times of grief and loss. Thank you and Blessing to You All.



**FUMC**  
**Anti-racism**  
**Task Force**

**SAVE THE DATE, January 14<sup>th</sup>:**

**Table Talk, Fellowship Hall, 12:00pm- 2:45pm, more details to come in next week's bulletin & Light.**

**-From your Anti-racism Task Force**

Join Us Saturday, January 20th

**SAVE THE DATE**

Caring Committee  
Card making party  
for Saints at home

Fellowship Hall

9:00 -11:30 AM

**FIRST CHURCH WEEKLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS & EVENTS:**

**Sun, Dec.24:** 9 AM Sunday School, Pacesetters  
9:45 AM Band rehearsal, Choir Practice  
10:30 **Worship, fourth week of Advent**, Childrens Church  
7:00 PM- Christmas Eve Worship Lessons & Carols

**Mon, Dec.25: MERRY CHRISTMAS! Office closed for Holiday.**

**Tues, Dec.26:** **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE FOR NEXT WEEK**  
CCYC KITCHEN USE FELLOWSHIP HALL 11-3 PM

**Wed, Dec.27:** CCYC KITCHEN USE FELLOWSHIP HALL 11-3 PM  
**LIGHT Articles Deadline for January**

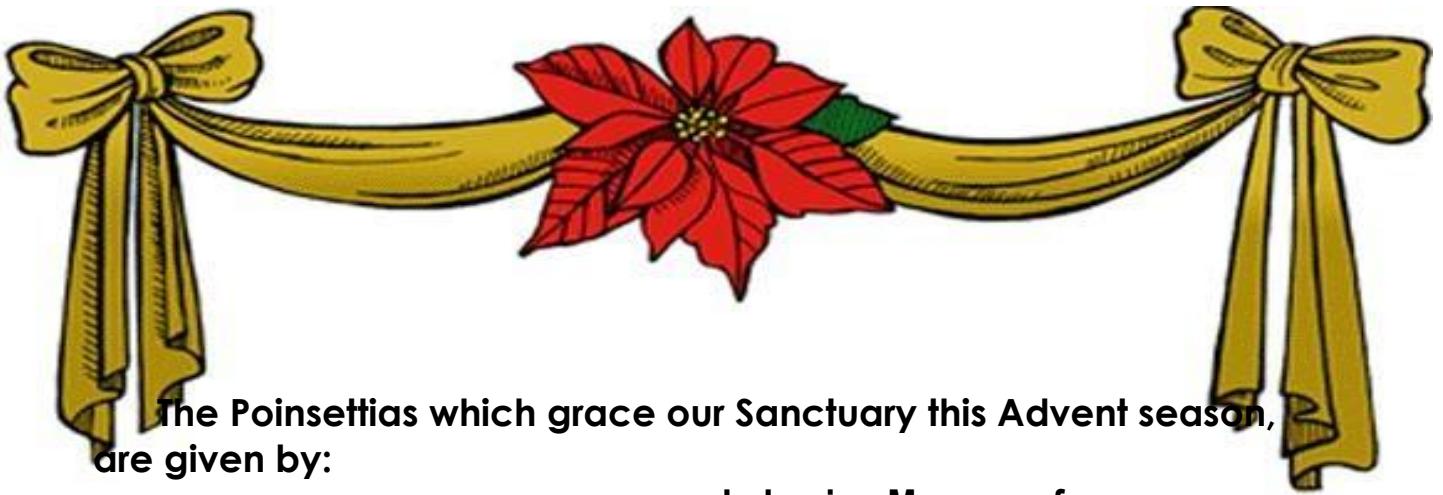
**Thurs, Dec.28:** CCYC KITCHEN USE FELLOWSHIP HALL 11-3 PM  
5:30 PM- Bell Choir Practice  
7:30 PM- Choir Practice

**Fri, Dec. 29:** CCYC KITCHEN USE FELLOWSHIP HALL 11-3 PM

**Sun, Dec.31:** 9 AM Sunday School, Pacesetters  
9:45 AM Band rehearsal, Choir Practice  
10:30 **Worship**, Childrens Church  
7:00 PM- Christmas Eve Worship w/Carols

**SAVE THE DATE: Feb. 24 LIFT EVERY VOICE IN LOVE: A Charitable Gala** to raise funds for urban core Youth Development Programming at the Grubb YMCA. Our dear friend ROOSEVELT ANDRE CREDIT, Broadway, Metropolitan Opera and Gospel artist, returns to First Church, this time bringing the fabulous BRIDGES 2 HARMONY, Iowa's Premiere Gospel Choir from Roosevelt High School, and the new BELOVED DES MOINES COMMUNITY MASS CHOIR, debuting at this program. Go to the event page on our website [dmfirstchurch.org/lifteveryvoice](http://dmfirstchurch.org/lifteveryvoice) or click on this QR code for all the details and to register for free tickets.





**The Poinsettias which grace our Sanctuary this Advent season,  
are given by:**

**In Loving Memory of....**

Nancy Carlsen  
 Nancy Carlsen  
 Eloise Cranke  
 Eloise Cranke  
 Twila Glenn  
 Laurie Hoskins  
 Laurie Hoskins  
 Rev. Julia E.F. Poulsen  
 The Sadler Family  
 Emily & Mike Schaumburg  
 Emily & Mike Schaumburg  
 Emily & Mike Schaumburg  
 Paul Strayer  
 Bob Thelen  
 Bob Thelen  
 Dave Wolz

Husband Ron  
 Grandson Evan  
 My Parents  
 My Grandparents  
 Tom Glenn  
 My dad, Nelson Hoskins  
 My Grandparents  
 Husband Dennis Fox  
 Sheryl Barnes  
 Clarence & Alice Kite (Emily's parents)  
 Pearl Cunningham (friend)  
 Jo & Glenn Schaumburg (Mike's parents)  
 Dorothy Strayer  
 My Parents  
 Gross Family Members  
 My Parents

**In Honor of....**

Emily & Mike Schaumburg

Pacesetters

**In Celebration of....**

Michael & Dal Grooms  
 Michael & Dal Grooms  
 Paul Strayer

Our Joy of this Season!  
 Our Joy of this Season!  
 The Family of Dorothy & Paul Strayer

