



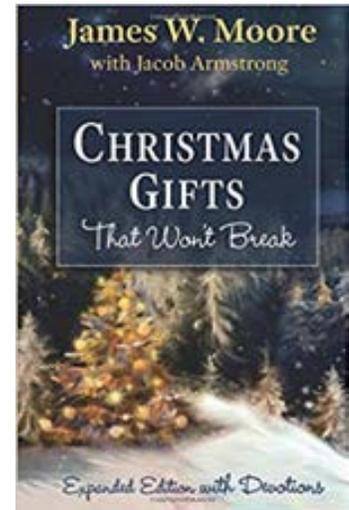
Hinsdale United Methodist Church

www.hinsdaleumc.com

The Flame

December 2018

The **church-wide Advent study** will allow the congregation to collectively reflect upon the ways we've learned to celebrate Christmas and the ways we inspire others to celebrate Christmas. The commercialization of Christmas extends the season to mid-October. Businesses promoting an almost unimaginable array of goods and services attempt to convince everyone that not only do they have the item that is just right for you or someone that you know, they have it at an unbelievable price. It is easy to conclude that Christmas is all about the "must-have" gift that has to be purchased either for yourself and/or someone else. In the book, "*Christmas Gifts That Won't Break*," **Dr. James Moore** emphasizes the themes of the four Sundays of Advent to encourage us to reconsider the gift-giving frenzy that surrounds Christmas.



Despite the enormous amounts of time, money and care that accompany the selection of the gifts that we give at Christmas, most of those gifts break and many of those gifts are forgotten. The themes of the Sundays of Advent—**hope, joy, love, and peace**—remind us of ideals that are far-reaching and lasting. Dr. Moore doesn't attempt to discourage gift-giving. Instead, he encourages thoughtful reflection about the gifts that are exchanged.

Dr. Moore describes the gift-giving craze as a typical phase that characterizes each decade. The "must-have" gifts are intended to generate positive, memorable emotions in ourselves and others. Hope, joy, love, and peace are key gifts that ultimately come from God. The preparation for, and the anticipation of, the birth of Christ allows us to better understand how these gifts can be connected to our relationship to God and others. We all need hope, joy, love, and peace. We should also strive to share the gift of hope, joy, love, and peace with others. Most importantly, these gifts aren't purchased, they are exchanged freely.

One of the biggest challenges is discovering ways to make the gifts last longer. How can we experience the hope, joy, love, and peace of Christ longer than a few hours on Christmas Day? Let's explore the promises of God and the possibilities for us all during this church-wide study **beginning Sunday, December 2**. During both the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services we will explore the gifts of hope, joy, love, and peace. We will also study the book "*Christmas Gifts That Won't Break*" in the Sunday school classes. I hope that each of you will participate and share your perspective. Christian education is such a critical opportunity for us to grow closer to each other and closer to God.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Dr. Jon McCoy

Coming Up in Worship



Valet Parking

A reminder that Valet Parking is available to *those in need*. Please pull up to the double doors of the East side of the church where ushers will be looking. If you don't see one, come into the church and hand your keys to an usher and your car will be parked. With the cold, icy weather approaching we need to be aware of our fellow church members who might need assistance walking from the parking lot into the church. Please take notice and help where needed.

Decorating for Advent and Christmas

Come help us dress up the beautiful Sanctuary and church grounds on **Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** We need volunteers of all ages, heights, and talents. The "Hanging of the Greens" now involves the "Hanging of the Lights" as well, so *we especially need a few people willing to climb ladders or work outdoors*. The Christmas spirit surely will fill our hearts as we give a couple of hours to the glory of the Lord. We'd love to have you join in our holiday preparations. Contact the church office at 630-325-1280 if you would like to help or have any questions. There will also be sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Thank you on behalf of the Worship Committee!



Poinsettia Orders

It is again time to think about Christmas and our Advent Season. A tradition at HUMC is to mass poinsettias around the altar for the Christmas Eve services. The plants are \$13 for a 6.5" pot. Please put your cash or check marked "Poinsettias" along with your order form in Heather Sauer's mail slot in the church office. Order forms are available in the church office or the Welcome Center. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 16.** Thank you for helping us beautify our Sanctuary this Christmas!

What do the candles in our advent wreath mean?

Advent begins Sunday, December 2. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: **Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace**. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.



HOPE – December 2 First Sunday of Advent, Purple Candle

LOVE – December 9 Second Sunday of Advent, Purple Candle

JOY – December 16 Third Sunday of Advent, Pink Candle

PEACE – December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Purple Candle

Celebrating the Coming of the Christ Child – December 24 Christmas Eve, White Candle in Center of Wreath



presents

On Christmas Night

Directed by Belford Hernandez



Sunday, December 16

7:00 p.m.

**Hinsdale United Methodist Church
945 S. Garfield, Hinsdale**

with Special Guests

**Montini Catholic High School Chamber Choir
Downers Grove South High School Madrigal Singers**

FREE BENEFIT CONCERTS

**Donations will be accepted for the
Cantores Community Choir Scholarship Fund**

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Monday, December 24, 2018



4:00 p.m. Family Worship

Families are invited to enter into the holiness of Jesus' birth with carols, candlelight, and special music.

5:30 p.m. "Sounds of the Season"

Free concert featuring local and guest musicians.

7:00 p.m. Traditional Worship Service

A service of scripture, carols, and candlelight.

Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, December 23 – One Service at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day, Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26 to Friday, December 28 – Church Office Hours 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30 – One Service at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 1 – New Year’s Day, Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2 to Friday, January 4 – Church Office Hours 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 5 – What goes up must come down!! Help take down the Advent decorations at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We need your help!

Sunday, January 6 – One Service at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 13 – Two Worship Services Resume at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Giving Thanks for our Service and Strengths over Generations Dedication of our Pledges of Financial Support for 2019 on Sunday, December 9

Hopefully, you’ve already received our materials announcing our stewardship campaign for 2019. We are hopeful everyone would consider supporting HUMC by making an annual pledge for 2019. This is a critical time for our church as we enter our 60th year!

We ask for pledges of support so that we know the resources that we have in order to plan our staffing and programs for next year. As some of our longstanding members aren’t able to provide their historical levels of support, we are looking for all our members and friends to prayerfully consider making a pledge. Frankly, we cannot accomplish our program and service objectives without an increase in support from our current levels.

Please remember that a pledge gives us an indication of your planned level of financial support for 2019. It can be changed as your circumstances change. So, please don’t allow any “discomfort” to stop you from making a pledge this year. If you need a pledge card and the background materials, please let the church office know and we will send a set to you. Thank you for your support as we dedicate our pledges on December 9.



Zed Francis, Chair of Stewardship and Finance

Children's Ministry

Dear Church Family,

It has been a wonderful Fall season for Children's Ministries. We have had some great events to start the holiday.

In October, we had over 30 adults, youth, and children join for an evening of fun packing over 70 shoeboxes with toys for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to the many who donated items, packed the boxes, and help pay for the cost to ship them to children all around the world. And a special thank you to Heather Sauer who brought them all to the drop off location. A job well done by all!

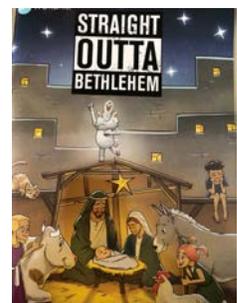


On the last Sunday of October, we braved the cold to entertain our kids in the fun tradition of "Trunk or Treating" that we have started a few years ago. Thank you to the 18 plus trunks and the many kids who dressed up, and the various folks who made this day so much fun. We cannot forget the yummy tail gate food too. Thank you Laura and Heather for helping out! What is a gathering without good food?



Next on the holiday calendar is our Family Advent Event on **December 2 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Don't forget to RSVP to Jenny Austgen at jennifer.austgen@hinsdaleumc.com so she can have enough Gingerbread houses for families to decorate. We will also have gingerbread cookies for the kids to decorate this year. All kids will get an advent booklet to take home to help them on their journey to the true meaning of Christmas.

What is Christmas at HUMC without a Christmas Pageant? Join us this year on **December 16 at 10:30 a.m.** as the kids share in word and song portions of the musical called, "Straight Outta Bethlehem." In this tiny town, something big and miraculous happened. The kids will make you laugh and cry as they tell the story of Jesus, our Messiah and Savior. Don't forget to stay for the yummy Christmas treats in the Fireside Room afterwards. What a great way to support our kids and share with them the joy of the season!



With Gratitude,

Jenny Austgen

Director of Children's Ministries

jennifer.austgen@hinsdaleumc.com

Education Opportunities

Hinsdale UMC offers adult education groups that meet on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., September through May. There is a place for children of all ages while their parents participate in adult education classes. The Nursery is available to infants through age three, and children and youth meet for Sunday School.



Christmas Gifts That Won't Break – An All Church Advent Study

Beginning **Sunday, December 2**, Ms. Vicki Greene will lead one Adult Sunday School class in Room 109 for the Advent season. Our Advent Book Study is titled *Christmas Gifts that Won't Break* by James W. Moore and Jacob Armstrong. Come with us on an Advent Journey in order to explore the true spirit of Christmas. As we light our candles in our Advent wreath, we will reflect on the unbreakable gifts that God has given us: **hope, love, joy, and peace**. We will also remember God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ, who comes to us as a baby and leads us through all the days of our lives. The whole church will experience these gifts as we study and worship these together. The book is available in the church office or online. Everyone is welcome to join in the book study!

Mark Your Calendar for the all new classes beginning in January!

January 6: Craig Roselieb: Lyrics that inspire:

January 13: Craig Roselieb: Lyrics that inspire:

January 20: Craig Roselieb: Lyrics that inspire:

January 27: Speaker on the Opioid Crisis (see below)

February 3: Gay Hatfield: Visual Arts and Faith

February 10: UMW Sunday

February 17: Angela Adolf: Theater and Faith

February 24: Mary Ann Darnaby: Literature and Faith

Everybody Knows; Nobody's Talking

The opioid crisis has been around us for many decades. However, recently there has been an increase in the conversations regarding the appropriate responses. Obviously, ignoring the problem or its reverberating impact has only allowed the ranks of those who suffer silently to far outnumber those who wish to remain oblivious. Everybody knows somebody who knows someone whose life has been upended because of ongoing struggles with addictions. In many cases, everybody knows, but nobody knows what to do. It isn't clear what should be said or what should remain unspoken. **On the fourth Sunday of January (1/27/19)**, the church will host a dialogue in which we will hopefully answer some of these questions.

Even when we look away from suffering, the painful images remain with us. In the faces of confused, frustrated, and sometimes angry families, we see ourselves. In every family, there are situations that seem beyond our control or understanding. We want to help, but we don't know how. As a result, we often say nothing and sometimes do even less. In some cases, a simple act of acknowledgement such as a hug, handshake or a smile can help ease the feelings of being isolated or ostracized.

The Sunday morning presentations by those who endured the loss of sons following years of the rehabilitation, incarceration, banishment, hope, and estrangement cycle are intended to provide examples and encouragement to those who wish to support the families of those who struggle. The presentations won't provide all the answers, but hopefully you'll be inspired to persevere.

Please invite your neighbors, colleagues, and friends to come and learn from the stories of fathers who are still working through the grief of regrets and frustrations. The "take home" message is one of hope and encouragement. Perhaps, the message won't necessarily be one for you to receive. Instead it may be a message for you to deliver to someone else.

On December 7, the movie "Ben is Back" will be released in many American theaters. The movie presents a familiar story that far too many families will experience again this year. It's a different and a difficult Christmas story. However, it reveals a reality that many families experience. The movie helps to highlight the relevance of the special presentations in January. Let us remember the hope, love, joy and peace that we all seek during this time of the year. Let us help spread the Message to all those who need to hear.

Upcoming Groups and Events

Men's Group Lunch and Discussion



The Men's Group meets in the Fireside Room the **first Friday of each month at 12:00 Noon**. Bring a sack lunch and join in the conversation. Current events, community news, joys, and concerns are discussed. New members are always welcome!

Upcoming discussions: December 7, January 4, February 1

Knit or Knot



The Knit or Knot Ministry meets the **third Wednesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. During a time of fellowship; shawls, pillows, sweaters and blankets are created to comfort those in need and to celebrate life's joys. Each piece becomes an expression of love – and the loving care of God who works through the crafters. As each piece of work reaches completion it is passed around the circle and blessed by each crafter's hands.

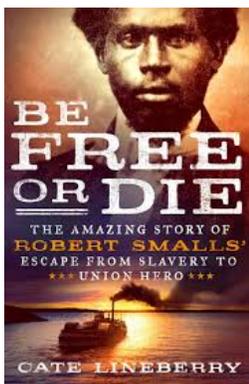
Upcoming meetings: December 19, January 16, February 20

Membership Exploration Class



Our next Membership Exploration Class is **Sunday, January 13 at 9:15 a.m.** Rev. Dr. Jon McCoy invites you to join him for an exciting "tour" to become more acquainted with the United Methodist Church and Hinsdale UMC. Participation does *not* obligate anyone to become a member of Hinsdale UMC. The class is available to anyone interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church globally and locally. The class also provides an opportunity to hear perspectives from some of our members, and to meet others interested in learning more about the church. If you have questions, please call Dick Kingman at 630-654-4534.

Fireside Readers Book Discussion Group



The Fireside Readers is an informal book discussion group that welcomes all men and women who enjoy reading and stimulating discussion. We meet about once a month from September to May in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m. for dessert and coffee, and discussion at 7:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, January 21** in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m. for dessert and coffee and discussion at 7:00 p.m. Our book is *“Be Free or Die: The Amazing Story of Robert Smalls' Escape from Slavery to Union Hero”*, by Cate Lineberry. This is the true story of a slave who escaped, and with the aid of a few men, captured a Confederate steamer and reached Union territory. After he achieved freedom for himself and his family, he became the first African-American captain of an Army vessel. After the war, he was a five term U.S. Congressman. The book is available at public libraries and Amazon. Please contact Mary Ann Darnaby if you have any questions.

United Methodist Women



HUMC's local unit of *United Methodist Women* is comprised of three "CIRCLES" that meet the **2nd Thursday**, September through May. Circles are a time for spiritual growth, mission & service activities and food & fellowship. We would love to have you join us! For questions, please call Mrs. Betty Drucker or read more on our [HUMW page](#).

Winter Calendar

UMW Circle Meetings – December 13

Mary Circle meets at 9:00 at Carole Feagler's home. We will be packing cookies for seniors.

Mary Circle January meeting (January 10th) is open to everyone. We will be watching and discussing a segment from the documentary "Unnatural Causes...is inequality making us sick?". This series sheds light on mounting evidence that inequities our lives – jobs, wealth, where we live- can disrupt our biology. Join us for a thought provoking morning. Refreshments provided.

Priscilla Circle meets at 1:00 in the Fireside Room. This month we are wrapping Christmas gifts for residents of the Methodist Home in Chicago.

Lydia Circle meets at 7:00 at Sharon Wilmore's home.

Thursday, January 3 – UMW Board Meeting

Thursday, January 10 – 9:00 a.m. Mary Circle Meeting, 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Lydia Circle Meeting

Thursday, February 7 – UMW Board Meeting

Thursday, February 14 – 9:00 a.m. Mary Circle Meeting, 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Lydia Circle Meeting

Craft Event on Monday, December 17 at 2:30 p.m.

First, a big thank you to all who donated clothing and blankets to the **UMW Warming Ministry**, supporting our friends at Olivet UMC. We have made two deliveries to date which have provided over 500 items including blankets, coats, scarves, hats, gloves and boots. Olivet has received these with great joy, gratitude, and amazement at both the number and quality of our donations. There were many hand-knit scarves, hats, and mittens, in addition to over 30 hand tied fleece blankets.



Speaking of blankets, despite the many donated blankets and fleece blankets made by UMW, there is an ongoing need for more blankets. So, we are announcing another **Craft Event** to be held on **Monday, December 17 at 2:30 p.m., in the Fireside Room and Narthex**. We will be tying and finishing fleece blankets. Thanks to several generous cash donations, we were able to buy fleece to make 10+ blankets. Please bring any fleece blanket kits you may have and we will help get them done quickly. Everyone is invited to attend, all ages and genders! Holiday snacks and beverages will be provided. Come have a fun afternoon and create warm, comforting blankets for the Olivet community.

For more information please contact Marsha Fisher 708-522-7740 or Sharrann Simmons 973-420-2557.

Missions



Thank You!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed food and/or hams for the Thanksgiving boxes for Olivet. They were delivered on Saturday, November 17. They were extremely thankful for the contributions and they distributed them to families in their community that weekend.

Christmas Gifts

Once again, HUMC members have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts of warm clothing to children in the Olivet neighborhood. There are many children on our list this year and we will need your help to bless them all with gifts. You may sign-up in the Narthex on Sunday, December 2 and Sunday, December 9. Simply take a tag with the child's name and clothing size, wrap the gift and bring it back to the church office with the tag attached. Gifts need to be delivered by **Thursday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m.** Thank you for helping to make this Christmas a brighter one for those in need!



Food Boxes for Christmas

Christmas Food Boxes for Olivet UMC will be available for pick up in the Narthex beginning December 2. Please take and fill a box with the groceries suggested on the label, such as staples like white rice, dried beans, flour, sugar, cooking oil, breakfast cereals, canned soups, canned vegetables, some fresh fruit and veggies, and some Christmas treats. Please return the filled box to the kitchen across from the fellowship Hall **no later than Friday, December 14.**

Do not purchase a ham when you buy the groceries. Missions Committee has arranged to purchase all the hams at a discounted price from Kramer Foods. You can contribute one of these 5-pound canned hams for a family by donating online. The cost for a ham is \$14.50. [Click here to donate a ham.](#) Anyone needing assistance to make the online donation can contact a member of the Missions Work Area at hams@hinsdaleumc.com.

The food boxes and hams will be delivered to our sister church, Olivet United Methodist Church, on Chicago's west side December 15. If you would like to help with the delivery or have any questions about this mission, please contact Dan Irwin at hams@hinsdaleumc.com.

Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

Members of the First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple have formed a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. One of their goals is to consider ways the church can promote safer gun laws in our city, state and country. Their task force would like to connect with other citizens in the United Methodist Faith Community who would be interested in joining forces with their group. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Sandy Usher at sandyusher224@gmail.com.

All Church Mission Opportunity

Back by Popular Demand! We are again offering an all church Mission Opportunity on **Saturday, January 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. Feed My Starving Children is a Christian non-profit organization that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Volunteers hand pack the meals that are then delivered to their food partners around the world.



We have reserved 40 spots to pack meals and are hoping for church members and friends of all ages to join us. Young, old, families, youth – all are welcome! (Minimum age for participation is 5 years old.) We all had a great time last year. Please contact Sandy Usher at sandyusher224@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Rule of Christ

A Guide for Congregations in the Northern Illinois Conference

The Northern Illinois Conference is encouraging its congregations to create healthy steps in dealing with concerns and issues. A process called *Rule of Christ* promotes good communication, and offers a structured way to deal with the concerns that can arise in a congregation. It is based on the guidance given in *Matthew 18*. A training session to introduce us to the *Rule of Christ* process was conducted for members of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) at HUMC last January; other interested members of the congregation were invited to attend also.

As an outcome of this training, the SPRC is called upon to promulgate to the congregation a guide for registering concerns and for conflict resolution. We are reminded that how we live together is as important as what we do together, because as Christ's disciples, we must have love for one another. The guiding principles based on Matthew 18 require that the individual involved in a conflict:

--1 first examine his(her) own role in the conflict to see whether he(she) would consider him(her)self justifiably aggrieved or blameless in the sight of God. If so:

--2 the first approach to a resolution should be made in a private conversation with the person with whom there is the conflict. Should this yield no progress:

--3 additional persons should be asked to listen to the conversation between the protagonists and serve as mediators.

Recourse to an appropriate church committee might be made at this point. The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is the proper body for issues involving the staff, but another committee might be better suited when the issue properly falls into its domain. The Worship, Education, Finance, and Missions Committees, or the Trustees could fill the role. When involving a committee, a complainant should use a form that summarizes the complaint, and reviews the state of the matter based on the outcome of the earlier conversations.

If this mediation fails to resolve the issue satisfactorily:

--4 the matter should be discussed with the Administrative Council as the representative body of the congregation at large.

In difficult situations, the Administrative Council might recommend involving an outside specialist in conflict resolution. At this stage, the guidance of the District Superintendent, or ultimately, the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference, would be sought.

Forms can be found in the church office. If you have questions, please contact Jim Chadwick, Chairperson of SPRC.