

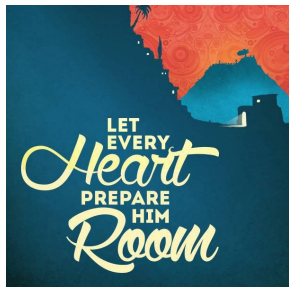
# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## SOCIAL MEDIA ROUND UP

*Highlighting posts from the past month*



Students in grades 5-8 are invited to help host Third Thursday BINGO at Hamilton Trace! Sit with our resident friends and play alongside. Meet in the Assisted Living Activities Room 3:15-4:45pm.



As we nestle into the season of Advent, how are you "preparing room" for Jesus this Christmas? In your heart. In your church. In your world.

#BecomeLikeJesus  
#ServeTheWorld  
#Together



Parker (age 6) and Carter (age 8) made birthday boxes for the children in the pantry to celebrate their own birthdays this month. Thank You!



## Upcoming Events

**December 9 Christmas Cantata**  
8:30 & 9:45am,  
Sanctuary

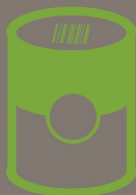
**December 9 5/6th Grade Ministries**  
4:00pm, Dining Room

**December 11 Blue Christmas Worship**  
7:00pm, Sanctuary

**December 24 Christmas Eve Worship**  
4:00pm, 7:00pm,  
9:00pm, 11:00pm,  
Sanctuary

## COMING IN JANUARY

January 19-21 Student Winter Retreat



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**CANNED BEEF STEW, CANNED CHILI, SOUP,  
MAC AND CHEESE, CANNED FRUIT**

Donations may be dropped off in the pantry boxes located inside Doors 1 & 4 or at the Food Pantry on Wednesdays between 9:30am and 7:00pm

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

It's hard to believe that the Advent Season is almost here and Christmas will be right behind it! This year in our Advent worship series we will be focusing on the Journey to that stable and all that it means for each and all of us as the shadows of pain and deferred hope finally dissipate at the brilliant dawning of the Son. Along the journey we will look into the faces of some of the people we have met through scripture along the way. For right now, look with me into the faces of some of those who waited then and an others who wait today...

...they waited in the darkness listening to the sounds of the night. It had been dark a long time. Too long. They had almost lost hope that dawn would ever come. The night had lasted 400 years. It had been 400 years since God had spoken hope to Israel through His prophets; since He had promised salvation through a Messiah He would send. They had become accustomed to groping along, feeling their way with sightless eyes stumbling through their night of despair. Suddenly, the darkness was scattered by a light. It hurt their eyes and troubled their hearts. With the light came a messenger saying, "Don't be afraid. Unto you this day is born a savior...." A choir joined the scene and sang, "Glory to

God in the highest; peace on earth; good will toward men!" Then as quickly as the light had come it was gone and darkness returned. Yet, somehow, it wasn't quite as dark. A small light remained glimmering on the horizon. They followed the light to see what would dare stand against the darkness....

...they sat in the damp darkness. The smell of wet animals and moldering straw filled their nostrils. The pains were quite close together now. There was no time to find a better place. The baby clearly was not going to wait. What a mess! This was not how he had planned it! He wanted to make her feel secure – give her a beautiful bed and surround her with familiar faces as their first child came – what a provider he proved to be! She was frightened. [So was he.] She'd never done this before and she was a long way from home. A long way from home! She shivered in the dark with fear and the cold. He covered her with a donkey blanket and then threw his coat over her as well. Hastily, he built a small fire. The flames flickered with an empty promise of light and warmth but the darkness still wrapped them in its cold grip.

The pains increased. She struggled. He held her. The

baby cried its entrance. She slumped in exhaustion. He picked the child up with awkward hands, cleaned it and held it to her breast. As they gently calmed the baby they remembered the words of their strange visitor months before and his promise that a son would be born who would be the savior of the world. They hadn't really understood then – or now. But something was different now. During labor and delivery the fire had died down but, somehow the night seemed brighter. The shadows weren't as deep; the chill had been broken...

...they stood at the grave and said good-bye. They didn't want to leave. Where would they go? What lay ahead? They could not see the way. The sun was warm and bright. Still they stumbled in the cold darkness of their grief. Groping to find their way in their despair. Familiar voices spoke to their ears. Loving arms embraced their hearts and, in their caring, brought a message of hope and light. "Don't be afraid. A light shines in the darkness for you...a Savior who will shatter your darkness." They walk on, led by loving hands – but something is changing. The shadows are not quite so deep. There is a faint glimmer of light up ahead. Together, they walk in their pain toward the light...

...a painful secret of a vow forsaken is bared. The crashing sound they hear is their world falling apart all around them. Love, trust, a home, lives being broken. A cold wind cuts to the bone as the loneliness and isolation of the one betrayed and the guilt of the betrayer tears at the fabric of their family. It's dark! The black seems to suffocate, stealing the breath from their lungs. They reel in despair stumbling, falling down in their darkness. They both retreat to their separate corners holding broken pieces of a picture of their family, their world, trying to sort out the pieces in the dark. Will they ever fit again? Won't someone please turn on the lights? The pain becomes familiar and cold. They are left with only the silence and the dark. Finally, they call out in the darkness to another who loves them, who understands their pain. A fragile light begins to shine through the night. Hope lives in its flame. Slowly, painfully, but desperately they follow that light to find a savior...

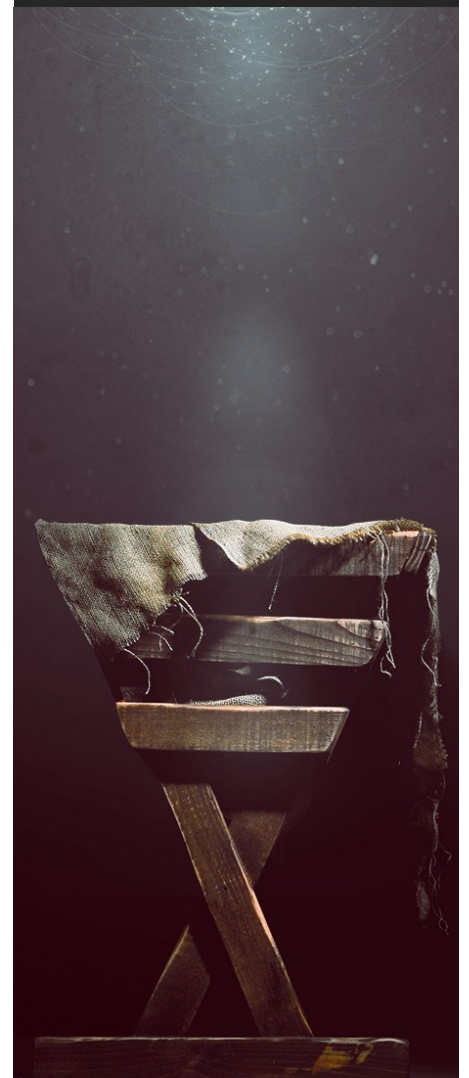
[Can we visit one more?...] Exhausted, frustrated and cold with a sense of disillusionment, not sure anything can be worth all this, they fall back on the couch and sigh. The house is decorated; the food prepared. The kids will be

home soon. The shopping is complete [they dread the January MasterCard Blues]. But there is no joy! Is this what it's all about? Courier and Ives pictures and TV ads with their soft focus shots of a warm fire, dancing smiles, and open hearts – once again this year they will try to reproduce a fairy tale picture. Once again they will be disappointed. They look at the tree. The lights have gone cold and lost their shine. In their weary darkness a glimmer of light, ancient and warm, from a fire in a stable in Bethlehem, shines and shatters their darkness as they hear familiar words pierce through their disillusionment and bring a sense of hope, of joy, of light. "Don't be afraid... unto you is born...a Savior...."

Where are you as you read this? Do you know their pain? Are you stumbling in your own darkness groping for hope and warmth against the cold? As you approach this Christmas season search the darkness with eyes of hope; stretch forth fingers of faith; listen! Can you hear the good news?! "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news for all people [for a family lost in grief; a home and lives broken by failed promises and faithless love; for those of us trapped by impossible expectations; for those...;

for you.] For unto you this day is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And you will find Him wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. Go and find Him!" Come with me as we follow the light that shatters our darkness. Come, as we seek the Savior born for us, into our darkness, who brings the dawning of new hope and life!

**FOR THE ONLY  
CAUSE THAT  
MATTERS,**  
Pastor Kevin



# ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

## UNITED METHODIST MEN



Get ready for another fun time exchanging “white elephants” at the United Methodist Men December Christmas party. All men of the congregation are invited to participate. Bring a “white elephant” gift from around home (\$10 value upper limit) and enjoy some fun with other men of the congregation. As usual, there will be a hot breakfast, devotions, update of joys and concerns regarding members of the congregation and others, and a quick review of outreach projects.

Join us on Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 AM in the Dining Room.

## FIFTY PLUS

Please join Fifty Plus in the Church dining room on Thursday December 13 at 11:30am for lunch, learning and fellowship. We'll enjoy another outstanding luncheon, and then Reverend David Babb, who refers to himself as a woodcarver for Christ, will present a new program showing the life of Christ through his carvings. Reverend Babb has been carving and preaching the gospel for most of his life, and his programs are always fun and educational. The details in his carvings are so beautiful, and the stories he shares are things you won't want to miss.

No reservations are necessary; just come and bring a friend! Please contact jenni debaun at 317.849.1805 or [jdebaun@fishersumc.org](mailto:jdebaun@fishersumc.org) if you have any questions.

## MONTHLY BOOK CLUB



Join the Monthly Book Club in December as they read and discuss *Home for Christmas* by Andrew M. Greeley. Petey Pat Kane and Mariana Pia Pelligrino have been in love with each other their whole lives. But on a night that is supposed to be one of the best of their lives, Peter makes a choice that forces him to leave Chicago—and Mariana—behind. Guilt leads him into the Army. But nothing can make him forget his love for Mariana. On his third deployment in Iraq, Peter is injured and finds himself both alive and dead on a wondrous spiritual journey where he is given a second chance at life from God Himself. With Christmas approaching, time is running out for Peter to complete the most important mission of his life.

If you are looking for a way to combine your love of reading and books with a small group atmosphere of fellowship, this is the place for you! The Book Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Library at 7:00pm. **However, because of the holidays we will meet on December 18.** If you are interested or need more information, contact Kim Arnott at 317-797-8612 or [kimarnott@mac.com](mailto:kimarnott@mac.com).

# STUDENT MINISTRIES



## WHAT IS FIRE & WATER NIGHT OUT?

Every month we have a fun event for the sole purpose of students inviting their friends so they can meet us and get a little more comfortable with FIRE & WATER Student Ministries. If you know someone who has never been to a FIRE & WATER event these are a great way to invite them and help them get to know us better.

FIRE & WATER Night Out is always the third Friday of the month and we try our best to keep these to little or no cost. Be watching for more information on what we will be doing each month as the date gets closer (or just check here in newsletter).



## DECEMBER FOR FIRE & WATER STUDENT MINISTRIES

### F.I.R.E. (JUNIOR HIGH)

- December 2** Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours
- December 5** Advent Bible Study @ 7:00pm
- December 9** Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours
- December 12** Advent Bible Study @ 7:00pm
- December 16** Sunday School, Christmas Party @ 6:00pm
- December 19** Advent Bible Study @ 7:00pm
- December 20** Bingo at Hamilton Trace @ 3:15 pm
- December 21** Fire & Water Night Out @ 7:00 pm
- December 23** Sunday School
- December 30** Sunday School

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Refinery @ 6:00 pm, After Hours @ 7:30 pm  
Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

### W.A.T.E.R (SENIOR HIGH)

- December 2** Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours
- December 5** Advent Bible Study @ 7:00pm
- December 6** Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm
- December 9** Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours
- December 12** Advent Bible Study @ 7:00pm
- December 13** Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm
- December 16** Sunday School, Christmas Party @ 6:00pm
- December 19** Advent Bible Study @ 7:00pm
- December 20** Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm
- December 21** Fire & Water Night Out @ 7:00 pm
- December 23** Sunday School
- December 27** Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm
- December 30** Sunday School

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School @ 9:45 am  
Drink Deep @ 6:00 pm, After Hours @ 7:30 pm

## FIRE & WATER NIGHT OUT!

This month we will be taking a trip to Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art) for the Winterlights Christmas display followed by hot chocolate in the Wharf. There will be no cost for this event, but dress warm, we will be outside. We are leaving the church at 7:00 and will be done at 10:00.

## "GAME ON" WINTER RETREAT

FIRE & WATER's "Game On" Winter Retreat permission forms are available on the dock or you can sign up online at [www.fumcfireandwater.com](http://www.fumcfireandwater.com). Sign up by Dec. 16th to save \$25.

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM BY SEARCHING FOR  
FIRE & WATER STUDENT MINISTRIES OR VISITING [FUMCFIREANDWATER.COM](http://FUMCFIREANDWATER.COM)

# WAYS YOU CAN SERVE

## MILK JUGS NEEDED

300 Gallon Milk Jugs are needed for Christmas Eve luminaries. Bring empty, rinsed CLEAR (Not White) gallon milk jugs to collection points throughout the Church. Boy Scout Troop 109 will be making luminaries for Christmas Eve.



## CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS & GREETERS

Ushers and Greeters are needed for all Christmas Eve services and communion servers are needed for the 9 and 11 pm services. Sign up in Connection Central.



## THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Fishers UMC is partnering with Hoosier Road Elementary once again to provide Christmas presents for children and their families. Tags with wish list items are in Connection Central. Please drop off presents by December 9th.



## REYNOLDS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Sign up in Connection Central to help collect donations at the Reynolds Farm Equipment Christmas Light display on the weekends. This is a great way to support the Pantry and wish hundreds of people a Merry Christmas!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Join us in the Sanctuary on December 9th at 8:30 or 9:45am for our annual Christmas Cantata! This year's Cantata program is "Sing Christmas" by Joel Raney and Mary McDonald. Admission is free. Invite your friends and neighbors!



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Send your Christmas Cards to fellow Fishers UMC members this December, postage free! Bring the cards to the South Narthex and the Pathfinders Sunday School class will sort them into the recipient's folders. As you leave each Sunday, check your folder and take your cards. This service is provided by the Pathfinders Class.



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

### Family Service

Geared towards families with children, 4pm

### Traditional Service

With hymns and candlelight, 7 pm

### Traditional Service

With hymns, candlelight & communion, 9 & 11 pm

# STEPHEN MINISTRY



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

Are you dreading Christmas celebrations because of painful memories, financial problems or other concerns?

A Stephen Minister is waiting to walk alongside you and provide emotional and spiritual support. To learn more about the ways in which a Stephen Minister can provide confidential care, please speak with Pastor Kevin or Pastor Jared, call the church office at 317-849-1805 or email [stephenministry@fishersumc.org](mailto:stephenministry@fishersumc.org).

# C O N N E C T

Fishers United Methodist Church



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## S U N D A Y S

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TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 8:30 & 9:45 am  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 11:00 am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 & 11:00 am

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