



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

A story of death. New life. Forgiveness. Regret. Grace. Redemption. We hear these things in the story of God's love for us, in the Christmas Story. We can also hear these things in other tellings and forms of the Christmas Story, such as Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Last year a film was released called *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. I was initially taken aback by the title, as I feel in my heart Christmas was invented by Christ! But the film takes an interesting journey with a struggling Charles Dickens who has a story to tell in a time when Christmas was not

celebrated in a very festive way.

This film along with *A Christmas Carol* will be companions with us during the Advent and Christmas season during the sermon series. Sunday School classes for all ages will be based on these themes, as will our Wednesday night discipleship. Our All Church Christmas Pageant on December 23rd will be centered around *Christmas Carol*.

I hope you join us this season for this story of death, new life, for-

giveness, and grace. I believe if we listen closely God will have a message about the one who truly came to invent the gift of Christmas for us, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben

OUR FALL

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship
- Fellowship

OUR WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:15 Nursery Opens
- 6:30 Youth Group
- 6:30 Adult Study
- 7:15 Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE- 7PM

Worship on Christmas Eve at Emmanuel will be at 7 p.m. Our service will include Carols, Candlelight, and Communion. Please make this celebration part of your holiday plans! Invite your friends and family!

Christmas Eve Worship will be followed by a favorite tradition at Emmanuel: Christmas Cookies! One of our Christmas Eve traditions is to deliver the gift of a plate of cookies to someone who

has to work on Christmas Eve, like our valued first responders at hospitals, police stations or fire stations! Bakers are needed to keep this important tradition going! Please bring treats with you on Christmas Eve or earlier that week.



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MOVIE NIGHT AT EMMANUEL DECEMBER 16TH!

Christmas is a time to gather together, hear stories, and celebrate in as many ways as possible God's love for us!

In the spirit of this we will have a special movie night on the big screen to accompany our series. *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. The movie will be on the big screen and we invite all ages to join in the fun. See you at the

movies at Emmanuel on December 16th!



COOKIES, FUDGE AND SOUP SALE DECEMBER 8TH!

The UMW invites you to the Cookies, Fudge and Soup to Go on Saturday, December 8th from 8am-noon. Why Bake? Treat yourself this holiday season! Don't forget to tell your friends about all the great treats at Emmanuel!



UMW NEWS



Circle Meetings

There will be no individual circle meetings in December. Members are encouraged to participate in Advent by Candlelight on December 1st.

Election Bake Sale

Thanks to all who helped with the election bake sale on November 6th! Over \$400 was raised for the Senegal UMC.

Cookies, Fudge, & Soup Sale

Sign-up sheets are next to the office for our bake sale on December 8th. Sales people will be needed throughout the morning. Please bring any baked goods the day before, Friday December 7th, between 3 & 5 p.m.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER PHOTOS!!



Gabrielle Davis is busy preparing a meal for Wednesday Night!
#thechefcoat



Emily Kittel had great decorations for Trunk or Treat!



We had a wonderful crowd of 75 people for our Thanksgiving "Free-view" on November 14th!



Bill Gibson enjoys coloring after the Thanksgiving meal.



Mike Pfahler visits the Youth during Trunk or Treat.

SUPPORT EMMANUEL CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP AT AMAZON.COM!

Did you know that you can shop online at Amazon.com AND help Emmanuel Church! You can through Amazon Smile!

On the "Give Online" Page of our Emmanuel website, click on the Amazon box

that says "Support Emmanuel United Church." Then start shopping as you normally do! Amazon will give Emmanuel a percentage of the proceeds.

We are grateful for all of the people who already support Emmanuel when they are doing their online shopping. We have received \$34 since October just because you remembered Emmanuel when you shopped! Thank you for all the ways you support Emmanuel!



ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND CHOIR CANTATA DECEMBER 23RD

The All Church Christmas Pageant and Choir Cantata will be Sunday, December 23rd during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. You are invited not just to attend but also to participate!

The Pageant this year designed to encourage participation from all ages and levels. Ann Pleiss Morris describes it

as a "salon reading" or reader's theater. Parts will be chosen and assigned following worship on December 16th. The morning of December 23rd we will find some costumes and run the pageant!

Our pageant will tie into our Worship Series theme for this year of *A Christmas Carol*. Join us on

this Victorian Christmas journey!



SCRIP FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING NEEDS!

What will you need this busy Christmas season! Groceries for cooking and holiday baking. Gas for travelling to see family. Maybe a run to Target to start your holiday shopping?

You can do all of these things **AND contribute to Emmanuel Church at the same time** through the SCRIP program. Through the SCRIP program you purchase a gift card (at church for

face value) to your favorite retailer, gas station, and grocery store. Use these gift cards in your daily doings as you normally would. Meanwhile, these retailers are returning a portion to Emmanuel!

We are grateful for all of the work that Barb Steele does for our Scrip program. She is at the Scrip table following worship every week, and would be happy to answer any questions you may

have. Shop with Scrip and fundraise for our church!

EMMANUEL WELCOMES A FULL HOUSE DURING THANKSGIVING “FREE-VIEW”



We had another overwhelming response to our “Trunk or Treat” event this year. To follow up from the success of that event we invited our guests to Thanksgiving dinner. Emmanuel held a free thanksgiving dinner on week early on November 14th; a Thanksgiving “Free-view!”

It was a wonderful

success as we welcomed 75 people for dinner to Emmanuel on November 14th! It was a full house of many church members and friends but we also welcomed many people who came to Emmanuel for the first time! Thanks be to God!

The Thanksgiving “Free-view” was made possible by many people sharing their times and talents. We give thanks especially to Denise Linstedt,

Audrey Lunday, Marilyn Zylstra, Kathy Able, and Gabrielle Davis, who spent two full days in the kitchen preparing a wonderful meal. Mao Vang brought a large pan of egg rolls to add to the feast. Mike Pfahler and Don Mosher helped to greet visitors at the top of the stairs and direct them to the fellowship hall. We are also grateful to Don Mosher for the donations of turkeys.

We give thanks to God for all of the many gifts shared and

FRIENDS, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Join us every Wednesday at 5:30 for the best meal and best deal in town! Because of increase in food prices, meals this year will cost \$4 per person or \$10 per family! Meal will be followed by fellowship and discipleship each week.

Every month we will feature a delicious recipe that has been ‘sampled lovingly’ on Wednesdays. Try it out at home!

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/2 cup reduced-sodium beef broth
- 1/4 cup sherry or additional beef broth
- 2 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh gingerroot
- 2 teaspoons canola oil, divided
- 1/2 pound beef top sirloin steak, cut into 1/4-inch-thick strips
- 2 cups fresh small broccoli florets
- 8 green onions, cut into 1-inch piece

Directions

- Mix first seven ingredients. In a large nonstick skillet, heat 1 teaspoon oil over medium-high heat; stir-fry beef until browned, 1-3 minutes. Remove from pan.
- Stir-fry broccoli in remaining oil until crisp-tender, 3-5 minutes. Add green onions; cook just until tender, 1-2 minutes. Stir cornstarch mixture and add to pan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until sauce is thickened, 2-3 minutes. Add beef and heat through.



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COMING UP AT EMMANUEL!!!!

- December 1st Advent by Candlelight
- December 2nd Communion Sunday
- December 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 8th Cookies, Fudge, and Soup Sale ! 8am-Noon
- December 9th Food Pantry Sunday! Bring your items for St. Joe's!!
- December 20th Emmanuel Serving at Salvation Army
- December 23rd All Church Christmas Pageant and Choir Cantata
- December 24th Christmas Eve Worship
- December 25th Christmas Day
- December 30th Lynn Kollath Preaching
- December 31st New Years Eve
- January 1st New Years Day