

# the HERALD



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PEORIA | DECEMBER 2019



**GREG BATTON &  
YVONNE GREER**  
LESSONS & CAROLS 2019

**RECEIVE THE BEST GIFT**  
WHAT DOES GOD HAVE FOR YOU? | 3

**LA POSADA**  
OUR NINTH CELEBRATION | 8

# Letter *from* the Editor



Five dollar gift exchanges were standard fare in the church groups of my growing-up years.

I was an expert at selecting exchange gifts; and frankly, it was all I could do not to intentionally select the same package that I brought. Mom would warn me, "You better choose someone else's gift!" She knew me well. Unlike many of the other so-so gifts, no doubt selected by well-meaning mothers, I knew that I had chosen the ultimate five dollar gift exchange gift. It would always be the Santa-decorated book of Lifesavers.

I never take for granted the memories we create in the Christmas season. I know how rich and sweet they can be, especially if they involve Lifesaver books.

This issue is packed full of opportunities for your families to create priceless memories together. From Lessons and Carols, to La Posada, and more, my prayer is that your life will be enriched through these wonderful Advent events.

For the second year, local radio personality Greg Batton will narrate Lessons and Carols. This year, he is joined by his wife, Yvonne Greer, who is also well known in our community. It's been great getting to know them just a bit, and it's an honor to feature them on our cover this month.

Since last month's issue, we've launched our brand new website. It is strategically designed to be useful to everyone, from first time visitors to the most seasoned congregant. We're putting an emphasis on learning how to make the website and *The Herald* work well together as sources for revealing the heart and soul behind our ministry work.

Merry Christmas to each one of you, and thank you for making me feel at-home during my first year here at First!

Blessings to you!

Greg Fish

Editor

# the HERALD

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DISCLAIMER: The information represented here is for the purpose of informing the FUMC-Peoria congregation of the change of events for a month. They are however subject to change. For more up-to-date information, refer to us online at [www.fumcpeoria.org](http://www.fumcpeoria.org), via social media platforms (@fumcpeoria), or via our weekly email newsletter, eHighlights.

## **ON THE COVER:**

Greg Batton and Yvonne Greer have long been favorites of radio and television audiences here and in Chicago. We're honored that they will be helping to narrate this year's Lessons & Carols event.

Photo by Greg Fish

**DEADLINES:** Articles to be considered for publication in **The Herald** must be submitted to Greg Fish at [gfish@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:gfish@fumcpeoria.org) by 10 AM on the tenth day of the month preceding issue date. In the subject line of your email submission, type, "HERALD." All submissions are subject to editing and style standards, and their use is solely at the discretion of the editor. Picture submissions are encouraged to accompany your submission. Focus on individuals and smaller numbers of people who help tell the story.

*In this issue...*

**3**

RECEIVE

*God has prepared a special gift for you*

**5**

STORIES FROM LESSONS & CAROLS

*The power of Christmas to change hearts and shape lives*

**7**

DID JESUS COME TO SAVE THE WORLD?

*Can a baby really transform us?*

**8**

LA POSADA

*A Latino Christmas celebration for us all*

**9**

LOAVES & FISH: SHARING THE JOY

*Making memories with those who have great need*

**10**

GOD REVEALED THROUGH SCRIPTURE

*Pastor Evans shares the Word, and a puzzle*

**11**

FUMC LIFE

*Unwrap small packages of great joy involving our ministry work*

**13**

MISSIONS: CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS

*One act of love can bring joy hundreds of miles away*

**15**

YOUTH NEWS

*Take it to the extreme this Winter*

**16**

KIDS NEWS

*Christmas and home: how our children will help us draw closer to Christ this year*

**17**

FOSTER GALLERY

*A seasonal favorite returns in time to ready our hearts for Advent*

**18**

MUSIC AT FIRST

*Christmas Eve services by candlelight*



# Receive

## The Gifts of God

By the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ozment

The Christmas season is a time when our hearts turn towards warm family memories. Many of these memories are wrapped around thoughts of food.

If I close my eyes and reflect on Christmas past, I can still smell the yeast rolls baking in grandma's oven, and chicken n'dumplings simmering on the stove. I can see chocolate chip and cherry cookies, candies of all varieties, popcorn balls, Russian tea cookies, and divinity gracing the counter. I can taste real mashed potatoes made with cream and butter, sweet potatoes covered in marshmallows, glazed hams, turkeys, and cranberry sauce. These all come to mind making my mouth water and my stomach growl.

I remember that over the years there were a variety of artificial trees that graced our house. Some looked pretty well-worn and slightly crooked. Others were full and to the ceiling. One year we had one of those silver tin-foil trees with a color wheel on the floor to illumine it. Regardless of the tree, those wrapped, all-too-tempting presents were always underneath. Sometimes, the wrapped presents matched perfectly, and all the colors were coordinated. Other years, there was a cacophony of colors and styles. As a child I really didn't care about the wrapping paper, it was what was inside that piqued my curiosity. Regardless of how they were wrapped, I was just thankful to receive a gift with my name on it. I couldn't wait till Christmas morning to find out what was inside and if my wish list had actually come true.

***"May you find the time to pause and receive the true and lasting gift of a Savior born to set us free."***

This Advent and Christmas season, our sermon series will focus on receiving the gifts God has made available to us. There is the gift of the second coming of Christ, and the question asking if we are prepared to receive Him when He comes. We'll look at the gift of the prophet calling in the wilderness to prepare the way and receive the greater gift that will be coming. Then we'll see how Jesus shows the signs of a new season finally arriving, and we can receive the gift of a Savior. We will end with the offer to finally receive the gift of the child God saw fit to send to us, and to receive the redemption that is available to those who still seek Him.

Prayerfully, this season won't be so hectic that you miss what God is offering. Amid meals and warmhearted greetings, parties and the purchase of presents, may you find the time to pause and receive the true and lasting gift of a Savior born to set us free. May you find time to reflect and remember what God has already given to you, and may you receive the gift that was given on a Christmas past.

In addition, may this Christmas season be the cause of fond and warm memories deeply held for many years to come.



**PASTOR TIM OZMENT**

*is the Directing Pastor of First United Methodist Church - Peoria.*



**Stories from**

# *Lessons & Carols*

**Johnathan Wells**

**(Sanctuary Choir, second year singing in the FUMC Choir)**

I enjoy Lessons and Carols because not only do I get to sing with a more mature group than I traditionally do, but I also get to be exposed to music that I rarely have the opportunity to sing. Singing in Lessons and Carols has introduced me to a variety of songs that all point to the real meaning of Christmas. Each piece that we sing opens my eyes to a new and different perspective of the holiday season. I want others to see how much the message of Christmas, conveyed through Lessons and Carols, means to me. My hope is that people will notice how extremely passionate the FUMC choir is and that each musician is sharing something they truly love in the only way many of us knows how. Through the music performed, I hope listeners will come to know the story of Christmas better, and eagerly want to be a part of that story with us as we sing.

## **Heather Hill**

**(Handbell Ensemble, six years ringing in the Bells of Praise)**

I began playing in the handbell choir at First United Methodist Church over five years ago. This year, I will be ringing in my sixth Lesson and Carols and I enjoy it more and more every year. Being a member of the bell ensemble is a lot of fun, and I always look forward to the beginning of the season in August. I'm not the type of person that easily makes friends or gets to know people; however, when I started playing in the bell ensemble, I found a small group that welcomed me and loved me. I've made great friends while we work hard towards the same musical goals. Even though preparing for Lessons and Carols is a lot of work for everyone involved, it always becomes worth it when we hear the first note that is played. Lessons and Carols is a highlight of the bell choir's year, as well as a staple in the Christmas season for me.

## **Gordon Mauer**

**(Sanctuary Choir, 34 Years in the FUMC Choir)**

The Christmas season will soon be upon us. I love to worship God through music, and the opportunity of singing in our choir's presentation of Lessons and Carols. The words of the carols that we sing, mean so much to me spiritually. Each word brings great joy, love, and fulfillment. I have sung in our church choir for 34 years, and have enjoyed being in the midst of wonderful people who love God. From the time that I was a child, music has been such an important part of my life. My mother was a church organist and piano teacher for many years, and she instilled in me the importance of music and worshiping through song. Music has a special way of bringing so much joy and contentment to one who loves the Lord. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." - Psalms 150:6

## **Leslie Koons**

**(Violinist, multiple years playing for FUMC Peoria events)**

I was asked to write about my thoughts on playing for the Lessons and Carols Christmas program every year and I immediately remembered a special time three years ago. Early in December, I received a phone call asking me to head to Wisconsin because my mother had fallen and was declining rapidly. I called Douglas Grogan to explain that I was pretty sure I wouldn't be able to play for the Christmas program. Of course, he was sympathetic and understanding about my need to back out. As it turned out, things went rather quickly and I was able to come home after making all the arrangements for a later funeral. I called Doug and explained that I was back after all, and asked him if I could still play. He said that he had hired another player, but I should come and play. Playing my violin, for music about the miracle of Christmas, with many of my musician friends was so comforting and restored my spirit. I enjoy playing every year, but I will always be very grateful to Douglas Grogan for that special chance to play the year my mother died.



**Lessons and Carols** returns this December. Celebrate the birth of Christ through music and the spoken Word. Make sure you mark these dates on your calendar:

Sat., December 14, 6 PM

Sun., December 15, 11 AM, 6 PM

This year's event will feature the world premier of a choral setting of the historic Irish Carol, "The Kerry Christmas Carol" by our very own, Dr. John Orfe. And, don't forget that Yvonne Greer and Greg Batton will be our guest readers. Yvonne is a speaker and personal trainer who has hosted shows on Peoria's WMBD-TV and WMBD Radio, Chicago's WLS and WGN Radio, and the nationally syndicated Health Radio Network. Greg is the co-host of "The Greg & Dan Show," weekday mornings on WMBD-1470/100.3, one of downstate Illinois' highest rated morning shows.

# DID *Jesus* COME TO SAVE THE WORLD?

By the Rev. Adrian Garcia

***“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”***

***Matthew 1:21***

Mary and Joseph arrived at Bethlehem looking for a Posada (inn) to spend the night, but found a stable instead.

There, in the dark of the night, the Messiah was born and laid in a manger. The baby's birth brought them great joy. The shepherds' visit confirmed that the world's Savior was born in Bethlehem, just as it had been announced by the angels. The Sacred texts attest to these facts.



*“Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” John 3:19.*

Those who believed Jesus was the Christ experienced transformation. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they spread the news of the risen Christ to the world. But, the whole world has not been transformed yet; it follows its own path, it stills walks in darkness. The Truth has not yet dawned on them.

The kind of transformation that Jesus brought was not meant for systems, governments, cities, or even families. The transformation that Jesus still offers today starts one heart at the time with those who recognize their need of a Savior.

It’s hard to recognize that we need to be saved. “Saved from what exactly?,” is the typical question asked in response to the Good News the first time someone hears it. They ask, “Am I lost?,” when they hear that Jesus came to save the lost.

And the answer is, yes, you too need to be saved. Jesus came to save each of us. Salvation is personal. It takes personal acknowledgment, and the confession that we are all sinners. When we each recognize and confess our sins, we learn how they have offended the Creator, and we recognize our personal need for a Savior.

When Jesus saves us, a transformation occurs in our lives. If each of our families follow this path, they too shall also be transformed. If everyone in my city surrenders to Him, then they will also experience that change, and so on. Each transformation will continue to impact our cities and the governments of this world. Yes, Jesus came to save the world, and His plan begins with you and me.



**PASTOR ADRIAN GARCIA**  
*is the pastor of Latino and Outreach Ministries.*



By Pastor Adrian Garcia

La Posada (the Spanish word for “the inn”) commemorates Joseph and Mary’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge for Jesus to be born.

It is a Hispanic tradition that normally takes place nine days before December 24. In the original Mexican posada, families and friends representing Mary and Joseph (or carrying their icons in the Catholic tradition) go from house to house asking for shelter until someone opens the door, lets them in, and places Mary and Joseph in their house Nativity scene (Nacimiento). Then, they proceed with celebrations that include “atole” (a warm milk and starch based sweet drink), and possibly, tamales.

On December 24, they put the baby Jesus in their Nativity sets and celebrate the birth of a King with songs and meals.

Nine years ago, our Latino ministry started our own version of the Posado celebration here at FUMC. It is a memorable celebration designed to present the true purpose of Jesus’ birth, and to invite people to make room for Jesus in their hearts. We invite our family and friends to join us for a potluck dinner, games, door prizes, and Christmas songs.

La Posada celebration culminates with a Piñata for our children. Every child receives candy, a toy, or a token bag to remind them of God’s gift. This is a visitor friendly event where we also share information regarding other Christmas programs here.

You are invited to La Posada, December 8, at 5 PM. RSVP by calling the church office.

# LOAVES & FISH

## Sharing the Joy

By Dan Philips

The Christmas season is one of my favorite times of the year.

When I was younger, the month of December seemed like the world had been transformed into a magical place with decorations and lights everywhere. At home, Christmas carols were playing and the smell of Christmas cookies baking just made me smile. When the tree went up and the Lionel trains were set up, I knew that Santa wasn't far behind.

Serving at Loaves & Fish this time of year brings a whole different perspective to the Christmas season. I still see the joy on the faces of the children that join us each week, but I know that often, the feelings I felt as a child are far from the reality for many.

Several years ago, a young mother and her little boy were going through the take home table line, picking out groceries for home. As they came to the table with the sweets, the mother said to the little boy, "It's your birthday so why don't you pick out whatever you want today." As the pantry helpers watched, the little boy looked over all the goodies to choose from and then walked over to pick up a roll of toilet tissue and handed it to his mother. Surprised, she said to him, "Honey you can get whatever you want." He quietly replied to his mother, "But momma, you said we needed toilet paper." The volunteer at the table placed the toilet paper in their bag and said, "Sweetie, go ahead and choose something else." Watching this, it was painfully obvious that things were tough at home, and even this little boy was doing what he could to help his family.

We work hard at keeping joy in the Christmas season at Loaves & Fish, particularly for the children. On the weekend before Christmas, Santa and Mrs. Claus pay us a visit. After the children finish their meals, they take a trip to see Santa where they can choose from scores of nice toys and games, and get a picture with jolly St. Nick. For years, the gifts have been provided by two local gentlemen (angels, we think), that get great joy in making sure every child will get at least one nice toy at Christmas.

The Peoria Area Food Bank often provides us with special holiday food boxes for our guests. And, the Peoria Area Association of Realtors gives us dozens of ten-dollar Kroger gift cards for families in need.



Photo by Dan Philips

# GOD REVEALED THROUGH SCRIPTURE

By the Rev. Tanya Edwards-Evans

During the past few months, I have written about Scripture in order to lead you back to the basics of Christian guidance, the Bible.

It was accomplished through questions, puzzles and instructions. In the book of 2 Timothy, third chapter, you will find these words: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine [teaching], for reproof [reprimand], for correction [adjust or modify], for instruction [directions] in righteousness [uprightness]: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” I have added the bracketed words for clarity.



The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, believed that Holy Scripture should be our primary source of understanding the acts of God in our human world. It is in Holy Scripture that God’s grace is revealed and is demonstrated through the stories that are told. From Genesis to Revelation, we find this grace revealed through the acts of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Scripture is only part of how we come to know God, Jesus,

and the Holy Spirit. We come to know the Scripture through tradition, through experience, and through reason. These ideas help make up the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, or the lenses, we call theological guidelines.

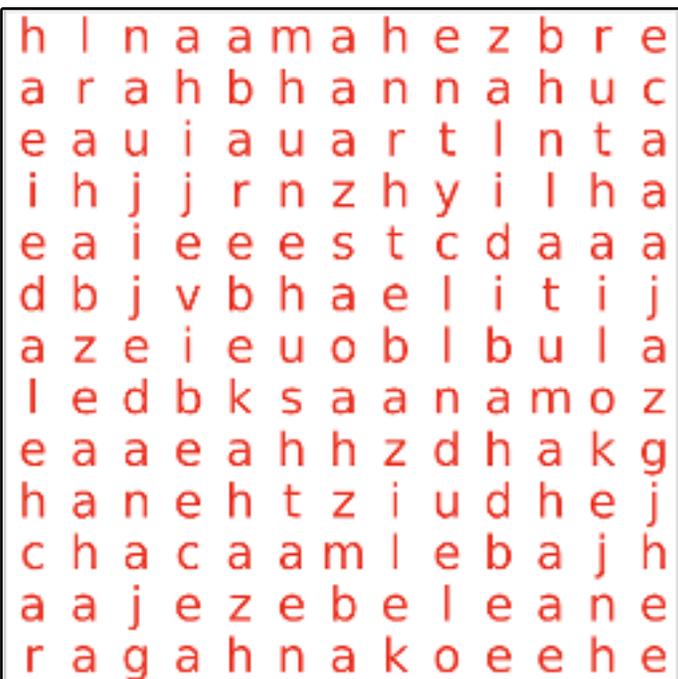
We encounter Scripture through practices that are passed from one generation to another (tradition). For example, I was told growing up to treat people the way I wanted to be treated, because I didn’t want to be treated harshly.

We encounter Scripture in our daily lives as we live in community with one another (experience). When we go against a Biblical teaching, it affects how we live out our lives, creating guilt or sadness later. It is through reading and interpreting the Scripture that we learn to live in community with each other creating traditions for generations to follow.

We do not come into the knowledge of God without encountering or witnessing the truth, as seen in our lives; and, we realize that all truth comes from God (reason). Reason clarifies God’s part in humanity and the world.



**PASTOR TANYA EDWARDS-EVANS**  
is an associate pastor at FUMC.



## Mothers of the Bible

By Pastor Tanya Edwards-Evans

Look for these mothers, who are named in the Bible. Most are associated with kings of Israel.

Rebekah	Elizabeth	Abijah
Mary	Eve	Jeruah
Rachel	Ruth	Jehoaddan
Leah	Athaliah	Bathsheba
Eunice	Maacah	Naamah
Hagar	Jekoliah	Azubah
Hannah	Hamutal	Nehushta
Rahab	Zebidah	Jezebel



## HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY MOMMY MOMENT

Conveniently download the schedule of upcoming events for Mommy Moments on our website at: [fumcpeoria.org/mommy-moments](http://fumcpeoria.org/mommy-moments)

## SACK CAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN

Our annual Loaves and Fish food drive will take place in January. Bags will be given out, to take home, in order to fill with items that will restock our pantry shelves. A list will be with the bags highlighting items most needed. The winter months are often tough times for our neighbors and your generosity helps meet the needs of many. Bags will be available January 12 and 19, and we ask that they be returned to the church in the following weeks. More details will be available in e-Highlights in early January.



*The Praise Singers, under the direction of Jill Foster, recently added to our worship service with the song, "We Will Worship You." Photo by Kara Bushong*

## LET US KNOW! LET US KNOW! LET US KNOW!

The FUMC Foundation met recently and heard Pat Smarjesse and Steve Hinrichs of David Vaughn Investments give the annual presentation on the Foundation's portfolio. Grants for utility, and parking lot repairs, and several technology updates were approved. Updates include: a wireless microphone receiver for the sanctuary audio system, a new sanctuary video control system, digital signage, and new stage lighting in the youth multipurpose room. All of these upgrades will improve the church's ability to communicate with our members more effectively. The Foundation's First Appreciation luncheon on October 8 honored those who have contributed through their gifts, time, or service. Attorney Nancy Rabel led an informative discussion on wills and probate. Thank you to all those who continue to support the Foundation through gifts, time, and service.



Photo by Greg Fish

## ANGLOS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

It was a night of laughs, learning, and praising at the annual Celebrate Missions dinner. Participants dined on dishes from various countries with mission works we support. The night concluded with a program featuring a parade of flags, Doug Grogan's take on the pop anthem, "Celebration," and presentations on the work that FUMC is a part of around the world. Pictured here, the inimitable Dan Philips (on the right), parodies the number of shots required for an upcoming trip to Liberia. Also pictured are, L-R, Megan Donnelly, Sandy Carver, and Julie Nelson.

## FELIZ NAVIDAD, PROSPERO ESL Y FELICIDAD

For the fourth year, we are offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to adults here at FUMC. Over 100 students have been served in the past, and we're ready to grow the program. We're looking for volunteers to fill several roles. The only requirement is that you have a heart for immigrants; Spanish skills are not needed. Volunteers are needed to teach, assist and talk with students, fill-in for teachers if needed, provide snacks, help with childcare, provide occasional transportation, and to be a conversation partner when classes are not in session. If you're willing to help, contact Helen Potts at [dayhe@yahoo.com](mailto:dayhe@yahoo.com), or call 643-5560 for more information.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEAR'S EVE?

In order for gifts to be included in the 2019 financial results for FUMC, and to qualify as a tax deductible gift in 2019, all gifts must be received by or postmarked on or before December 31. Postdated checks mailed or received after that date will be considered 2020 gifts. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (309) 673-3641.

## SILENT NIGHTS AND DAYS

Our offices will be closed on December 24-25, and December 31-January 1. December 26-27, and 30, our offices will only be open from 9 AM-noon.

## HARK! THE HERALD DEADLINE CHANGE

*The Herald* will not publish again until early January for a special January/February issue. The deadline for submissions will be Thursday, January 2. The normal deadline of the tenth day of the month will resume in February for the March issue.



# Christmas Backpacks



By Kevin Nelson

We are happy to partner with a United Methodist church in northern Mexico to deliver backpacks with Christmas gifts and basic necessities to children of families waiting entry into the United States.

Due to recent governmental mandates, families applying for immigration to the U.S. must now wait in Mexico before they can enter. Often, families have traveled long distances in search for a safe place. They arrive with little more than the clothes they are wearing; and the weather near the border during winter is frequently cold, wet, and windy. There are also groups of families near the border, in the U.S., awaiting a more permanent place to live.

Backpacks are provided for free to anyone willing to fill one with Christmas gifts. We can accept filled backpacks through December 1, and you may pick one up at the church office.

Items needed include small blankets, small stuffed animals, soccer balls, Crayons, coloring books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, bars of soap, shampoo, and conditioner.

Separate items are recommended for children ages 3-6, 7-11, or 12-16. Backpacks are designated for boys or girls.

Please contact Julie Nelson, (309) 657-4488 if you have any questions.

# fresh

fumcpeoria.org  
redesigned. reimagined.

Our website has been freshly redesigned and reimagined.

Be sure to scroll down the home page for many new features, provided in a modern, user-friendly setting.

Among the new additions is a wonderful page for first time guests featuring informative, fun videos, and details that will help plan a first visit here.

The site architecture is designed around the, "Higher, Wider, Closer, Deeper," concept. Explore the site to learn more about what that means, and how it enhances our ministry work together. More will be added to the site, so check back often.

In the event of bad weather, there will be a banner on the home page with closing information as it becomes available.

Our website can be found at [fumcpeoria.org](http://fumcpeoria.org).



**SUNDAY JANUARY 5  
AFTER WORSHIP | 12 -1 PM**

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# Family & Friends Sunday

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**POTLUCK STYLE**

## WINTER XTREME 2020

Grades 6-12 will explore their 2020 Vision and how it includes our great God. This will be the seventh annual trek to East Troy, Wisconsin for students to enjoy a weekend full of wintery fun and deeper learning. Camp Timber-lee has a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, including broomball, cross country skiing, karaoke, tobogganing, trail rides, tubing, ziplining, crafts, and a science center.

It will be a great weekend to play in the snow (they make their own if needed), and to learn more about God. We will leave around 4 PM on January 31, and return around 4 PM on February 2. Cost is \$115 (scholarships and multiple children discounts available).

You'll find the registration form on our website youth page. Registration and \$50 deposit due by January 5. Remaining \$65 due by January 19.



*Photo by Christina Koepfel*

## YOUTH LOCK IN

On December 13-14, we are having a lock-in at the church. We'll be making cookies for Loaves & Fish, Lessons & Carols, and the Shelter at DCP. We'll also serve at Loaves & Fish, have a Karaoke/talent show, play games, watch Elf, and so much more. Get ready for some crazy fun!

Cost is \$5 to help with cookie supplies and food. RSVP with Christina so that we have a good count for food and supplies.

Parents, guardians, other brave souls who want to chaperone for all, or part, of the night, as well as have a great time with the youth, contact Christina at [ckoeppel@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:ckoeppel@fumcpeoria.org).

*Go to the youth page at [fumcpeoria.org](http://fumcpeoria.org) for a look at an upcoming calendar of events.*

# Coming Home FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time of joy when we come home to celebrate the birth of Christ with family and friends. It can also be a time of stress as we clean our houses, shop for the perfect gift, and figure out how we are going to survive the family drama. We often let the different stresses in our life get in the way of being able to fully embrace the true meaning of Christmas. It does not matter how far you have strayed from God, we pray that this Christmas you remember that you are never too far gone to come home to our Father's house. Are you ready to accept God's invitation to come home and let Jesus live in your heart this Christmas?

**We can't wait to see you Sunday,  
December 8, at the 9:45 AM Renew  
service, where the kids will perform their  
Christmas Program "Coming Home for  
Christmas!"**

Kara Bushong  
Director of Children & Family Ministries





## Seeing Joy

December 1 – 29, 2019

*“Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord” Luke 2:10-11*

Again this year, we will be displaying Rolan Johnson prints in the Foster Gallery during Advent. Johnson’s prints point us to the joy of our Savior’s birth. In the second Gallery, you are invited to share the joy you experience in your life by creating ornaments to hang on the tree.

Open House: December 14 and 15, 7:30 PM

Join us in the Foster Gallery for light refreshments following Lessons and Carols.



# *Christmas Eve* Candlelight & Communion Worship Services

Celebrate the birth of Jesus with your family and friends.

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion:

4, 7, & 11 PM – Traditional Music in the sanctuary.

7 PM – Contemporary in the Worship Center

\*Childcare is provided at 4 & 7 PM services for infants through age 7.

There will be no childcare at the 11 PM service.





# DIGITAL GIVING

It's the time of year when thoughts of gratitude and giving fill our hearts and minds.

We're grateful for the generous ways you've supported and empowered our ministry work together. In this technological age we're in, digital giving has become a safe and popular option. You too can help support our ministry work in Peoria and beyond with a few taps of your smartphone. So, in the midst of checking your Facebook page, and ordering Christmas gifts online, be sure to check out how easy it is to practice generous giving in the digital age.

## TEXT TO GIVE

Text "FUMCTXT" to 73256.

Standard text messaging rates may apply.

You will be prompted for information when using for the first time.

## BRING US SOME FIGGY PUDDING... AND A QR CODE OR TWO...

Here are the QR codes to take you to just where you need to be in order to give using your smartphone. Scan the appropriate code to get started:



*New user*



*Returning user*

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

**2, 9, 16**  
MOMMY MOMENTS

**4, 11, 18**  
ESL  
PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

**6**  
DATE NIGHT

**8**  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
LA PASADA

**9**  
MEN'S GATHERING

**13, 14**  
YOUTH LOCK-IN

**14, 15**  
LESSONS & CAROLS

**24**  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**24-25**  
OFFICE CLOSED

**31**  
WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

## WORSHIP EVENTS

Saturdays

Alive (Loaves & Fish) | 10:30 AM |  
Rooms L65 & L67

Sundays

Traditional | 8:30 & 11:00 AM | Sanctuary

RENEW | 9:45 AM | Worship Center

Renuevo | 11:15 AM | Worship Center

Wednesdays

Contemporary Worship | 6:30 |  
Worship Center

**Our mission is to make  
disciples of Jesus Christ for  
the transformation of Peoria  
and the World.**



**FIRST**  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
PEORIA • ILLINOIS