

Open Hearts. Open Minds.

OPEN DOORS

November 20, 2016 to December 3, 2016

Issue #136



This Advent our theme is **Jesus' Gift**. What are the gifts Jesus gives to us? What gifts do we give to Jesus? These are the questions we will discover throughout this special time of year.

ADVENT BOXES



This year for Advent everyone is encouraged to use an Advent box to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. This is a great opportunity for families or individuals to demonstrate the gift of Jesus throughout this season. Each day of Advent everyone is invited to put something into the box and on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day you will bring your box to church as a gift to Jesus. A booklet is available with daily scripture readings and prayers written for you by our staff to enhance this special devotion time. Suggested items for the box may be canned goods for Dunedin Cares, new children's underwear or socks for

Clothes to Kids, diaper/wipes for the Diaper bank, or hygiene products for Grace House. Other suggestions are a note sharing an act of kindness you did for someone, a letter sent to someone lonely, a note or picture for our sister church in Cuba, or a children's drawing to cheer someone up. Any idea in which you give a gift to Jesus is great!

Some boxes will be available at the beginning of Advent or you can provide your own.

MAIN STREET

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

KidzCLUB will NOT meet on Wednesday, November 23rd – enjoy the holiday with your family. We will have a kid-size Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, November 26th, at 7:00pm.

For more information about children's ministries, contact carolytaylor@gmail.com or 727-515-5557.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN:

Sundays: 9:30am KidzGROUPS
10:30am MainStreet Café
11:00am KidzWORSHIP

Wednesdays at 6:30pm KidzCLUB

Saturdays at 7:00pm KidzREACH

the Christmas Store

Children are looking forward to choosing gifts for their family members at our Christmas Store on Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18. We are still in need of new or gently-used gift items for men, women, and children as well as lots of gift bags and tissue paper. Bring your donations and place them in the marked boxes at the building entrances no later than December 11th. We also are looking for some folks to help set the store up on **Wednesday, December 14th**, so let Carol Taylor know if you could help for an hour or two.

Be An Angel

This Christmas make a difference! Gift tags are available in the sanctuary and the Friendship Hall. Choose one angel (or several) from the tree and shop for the requested items to make sure a child, a teen, or a young mom feels God's love. Be sure and complete the clipboard list and take a green sheet of instructions. WRAPPED gifts are due back under the trees no later than **Sunday, December 11th**. Contact carolytaylor@gmail.com or 727-515-5557 if you have questions.

Live Nativity at Old-Fashioned Christmas



As a part of Dunedin's Olde-Fashioned Christmas Celebration on **Saturday, December 10th**, our congregation will be presenting

the story of Jesus' birth at the Purple Heart Park at the corner of Main and Broadway. There will be identical 10-minute shows all evening with the first one beginning at 6:00pm and the last one at 8:20pm.

Join the Cast

We are looking for children, teens, and adults of all ages to participate in the Live Nativity as the innkeeper, shepherds, angels, wise men, and servants of wise men. There are no speaking parts and only a short rehearsal beforehand. We will provide costumes and props. The narrator will read the scripture while the actors walk in to the Manger area and stand or sit near the Baby Jesus. Children must have an adult or teen with them in the production, but it will be relaxed and casual with breaks between each show.

There are 3 different options; choose the time (or times) that work best for your schedule.

Cast #1 – Meet at MainStreet to get dressed at 5:15pm. Walk to the park and do three short presentations, one at 6:00pm, one at 6:20pm, and one at 6:40pm. Then back to MainStreet by 7:00pm to change clothes so you can enjoy the rest of the evening.

Cast #2 – Meet at 6:15pm, presentations at 7:00 and 7:20pm, finished by 7:45pm

Cast #3 – Meet at 7:00pm, presentations at 7:40, 8:00, and 8:20pm, finished by 8:45pm

Sign up on the bulletin board or contact carolytaylor@gmail.com or 727-515-5557. Don't wait - spots are filling up fast. Decide today to make this event be one of your 2016 Christmas memories!

BODY OF CHRIST AT WORK: Christ does not call us to just stay in one place but to always push forward in our faith. Opportunities to be involved in the life of the church or to serve others will be shared in this section. These opportunities will be shared to encourage each of us to be the hands of God's kingdom.

Chili Cookoff - Help Decorate the Campus for Christmas!!!



On the afternoon of **Sunday, November 27th**, we need your help to decorate the campus for Christmas! There is something for everyone to do!! We will start at 3:00pm and finish with a chili dinner. Everyone is invited to bring your favorite crock pot of chili. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We will vote for our favorite chili recipe and crown this year's champ!!

Olde Fashioned Christmas

On the evening of December 10th, Downtown Dunedin will be turned into a winter wonderland. The sights and sounds of Christmas will be everywhere. Our church will be in the heart of this great celebration with singers in our sanctuary from schools and other groups including our own choir. You can be involved in one of the following ways:

- Hosts to welcome guests to our sanctuary for the concerts
- Servers in sanctuary lobby of complimentary hot chocolate and cider
- Preparers in the kitchen to heat and transport drinks
- Bathroom hosts to welcome guests and keep bathrooms clean
- People to sell pecans during the evening

Sign up or contact Pastor Linda to say I can help!

Thanksgiving Service

Our Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, **November 22nd** in the chapel at **6:30pm**. Give thanks to God before you celebrate Turkey Day. Bring a gift. Children will worship with families.



PECANS ARE IN!!

16 OZ BAGS OF JUMBO HALVES OR PIECES ARE \$12.00; CHOCOLATE COVERED AND CINNAMON GLAZED ARE \$8.00. TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. THIS IS A CHURCH FUND RAISER TO SUPPORT THE OPERATING BUDGET.

Charge Conference Update

At our recent charge conference two important items were voted on.

- First Dunedin unanimously voted to merge with Union St UMC. A final vote will be held by Union St. on **December 14th** to discontinue and merge. This will be effective January 1 or when conference paperwork can be completed.
- First Dunedin approved a loan for the needed repairs to the educational building. This loan can be up to \$64,000, if needed.

New Employees

We welcome our two new employees who began this month:

- John Allen is our new sexton. John will work on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 8:30 – 12:30. If you have something you would like John to do, please contact Bill or Pastor Linda.



- Lindsey Bauer is our new nursery worker! Lindsey is the daughter of Pam Bauer. She will be working on Sunday mornings and other needed times in the nursery and toddler room.

NOTE: The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after. If you are in need of a pastor during this time, contact Pastor Rachel at 727-488-3570.

Upcoming Events



- **Nov. 21** - 50+ Dinner Out
- **Nov. 23** - NO Wednesday Night Events
- **Nov. 22** - Thanksgiving Service
- **Nov. 27** - Campus Christmas
Decorating & Chilli Dinner
- **Nov. 29** - Healing Service
- **Dec. 7** - Monthly Church Dinner
- **Dec. 10** - Olde Fashioned Christmas
- **Dec. 11** - Choir Cantata
- **Dec. 14** - Union Street Church
Conference
- **Dec. 14** - Caroling at Mease Manor
- **Dec. 18** - Children's Christmas Store
- **Dec. 21** - Caroling Downtown Dunedin
- **Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Services
- **Dec. 25** - Christmas Day Worship
- **Dec. 27** - Healing Service
- **January 15** - Bethune Cookman

Reminder:

Reminder to all Union Street members – a special called church conference will be held Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30pm to vote on the final merge with First Dunedin.

Cantata – December 11th

Our wonderful choir will perform the cantata 'Morning Star' by Lloyd Larson as part of the traditional worship service at 9:30am on Sunday, December 11th. The choir has been working hard to prepare this gift for us. Pastor Linda will continue the Advent sermon series at the 11:00 modern service. Regular children's activities during both services.

Mark Your Calendar



Christmas Eve Services

6:00pm – Modern

7:30pm – Traditional Candlelight

11:00pm - Midnight Candlelight service

Christmas Day Service – one service at 10:00am

HEALING SERVICE

Our next Healing Service will be on **Tuesday, November 29th**. Come and receive prayer for your needs and pray for the community. Pastor Rachel will lead this service and Chris Wolf will provide the music. All are welcome and invited!



Thank You

Help us thank Camelot Breads for their donation of bread to the Micronesian Mission. Stop by their booth in the Green Market on Fridays and Saturdays and support them or like them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/camelotbreads) as a way to let them know we appreciate their generosity.

To make a reservation for a particular bread on any market day call 727-637-9350.

December Wednesday Dinner

Join us for dinner on **December 7th** from 5:45 - 6:30pm. Relax and enjoy time with your church family. Kaite Goodell will then teach us to make a Christmas craft. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office to let us know you are coming! Elementary kids will go to Main Street for regular Wednesday activities.

Dunedin
First United Methodist Church



Want to know more about the church?

Visit : www.dunedinfumc.org and sign up for Pastor Linda's weekly email devotion and announcements

Union Street

First United Methodist Church

Church Office Hours:
Monday —Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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