



The Ambassador

November 2023

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From the Pastor

*O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.*

Psalms 136:1

Dear Friends,

These beautiful fall days have me enjoying the beauty of changing leaves. When the light is just so, it can look as though orange and red leaves are ready to burst into flame. And when these are set against a blue sky – I cannot help myself from pointing them out to family members who might not have seen them. Mornings are cool, squirrels are busy gathering winter food supplies, leaves crunch underfoot. I enjoy the fall. Fall is a reminder that change can be beautiful.

Seasons change. That is true for creation as well as for us. Whatever season of life we find ourselves in, it will not last. That is comforting when you find yourself in a challenging season, but if you find yourself enjoying the current season, this fact may cause some anxiety. There are times when we want nothing to change so that moments can last forever. But a moment is not a moment if it lasts forever.

Not only do seasons change but there are lessons to be learned in each season. Whenever I remind myself of this fact, I realize I am encouraging myself to trust. Trust in God's goodness. Trust in God's faithfulness. And while I am at it: Be open to growth. Look for blessings - blessings are always there.

The reason that blessings are always there is because God is always there – no matter what the season. God does

Continued on page 2

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Worship With Us

Online & In Person
Worship @10:30 am
Sunday School @ 9

Inside

Music & Worship Notes 3
News From the Pews 5
Calendar & Birthdays 11



Continued from page 1

not show up for just a moment; God's steadfast love endures forever. This is not only part of the verse referenced at the beginning of this letter but it is in every verse of Psalm 136. I can find it to be redundant if I am reading it aloud but when I read it silently and reflect upon it, the repetition resonates with me. Yes, I need to be reminded again and again that God's love is steadfast, that it endures forever, that it is with me in every changing season of my life.

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the beauty of this season. But if not, if beauty is not easy to find, notice, or enjoy right now – may the fact that this season will change bring you comfort. God's steadfast love is with you right now, and God's steadfast love endures forever. Thanks be to God!

Peace,
Pastor Kim <><

Charge Conference

Tuesday, November 14, 6:00 p.m.

Our Charge Conference will be held on November 14th at 6 p.m. Rev. Tom Mellott will be our presiding elder. We will meet in the Commons and a Zoom link will be sent out for those who are unable to come to the meeting but wish to participate. This annual meeting is for the purpose of sharing information and reports about our local church to the general United Methodist Church.



There will be a Finance meeting at 5 p.m. and an Administrative Council following Charge Conference. All are invited to attend these meetings as well. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Grief Resources

The holiday seasons can be difficult for those who are grieving. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time we have resources to share. Please call the church office and let us know. We will be more than happy to get them to you.

Music and Worship Notes *by Mary Ellen Clinard*

Poinsettia Ordering Time is Here

Be sure and order your poinsettia this month! Your poinsettia will help decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Season. We will enjoy their beauty from Dec. 10 through Christmas Eve 7pm service. At the 7pm service you are welcome to take your poinsettia home afterwards. When ordering, you can dedicate your poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. These dedication will be printed in the 7pm Christmas Eve service bulletin. An order form can be found on pg. 6 of this Ambassador and deadline for ordering is **NOV. 26. Payment should accompany order form. Poinsettias are \$16 each**



Hanging of the Greens is Nov. 19



"Hanging of the Greens" is a traditional church activity where greenery and other decorations are added to the church in preparation for the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season. Make plans to stay after church on Nov. 19th to help your church family decorate the sanctuary and other areas to prepare for this exciting season which begins with the 1st Sunday of Advent on Nov. 26. This is a fun afternoon for all ages and abilities! There will be soup and sandwiches in the Commons whenever you need a break from decorating. It's a great way to get to know other church members and their families! No sign-up or registration needed—just stay after church and stay as long as you like!

Pledge Sunday—November 19th

Please plan on joining us for worship on Sunday, November 19th where we will offer our pledges as an act of worship. A letter from Gene Goecke, our Finance Chair, and Pastor Kim should be arriving to your house soon. Enclosed in the letter is your pledge card. If you do not receive one, please call the church office and we will get one in the mail for you. Thank you for all the ways you support the mission and ministry of the church.

Upcoming Advent Series

Unwrap Advent: Receive God's Gift

So many times the season of Advent is treated as a countdown to Christmas as a time of busyness, anticipation, and preparations for festivities. As a result, Advent can leave us feeling anxious, isolated, and depleted. But for Christians, Advent can be a completely different experience. Leaving countdowns behind, we are invited to observe this season of new beginnings where God gives us gifts of promise, peace, presence, and love.

Join us as we Unwrap Advent this year and Receive God's Gift.



“At the table”

There is always something funny at the table. We share our daily routine, our experiences, and our best life moments. In the Bible, the table symbolizes blessing, protection, joy, and everlasting friendship.

For example, in the book of Genesis, some divine guest came to Abraham’s tent (*Genesis 18:1-10*). Abraham welcomed them with joy and praise, and then he begged them to stay and share a meal with him and Sarah, his wife. Sarah fixed a big meal to share with these guests. After they ate, these mysterious men gave a blessing to Abraham and Sarah, it was a promise about a son they would have even when they were old. Isn’t that amazing?

But more than blessings happen at the table. Many things happen when we gathered around food. In Psalm 23, verse 5 through 6 talks about a tired and abandoned traveler who seeks rest and refuge. This traveler found a dwelling place at God’s table with a banquet served with plenty of food, as well as divine protection, goodness, and mercy from God, our Good Shepherd. What an awesome place to rest.

Finally, at the table, we can experience joy and everlasting friendship. When Jesus was about to be betrayed and judged, he ate the Last Supper with his disciples, even with Judas. There, they shared the bread and the cup, Jesus prayed for them and he restored their troubled hearts. Also, Jesus washed his disciple’s feet showing us such an example of service, love, and friendship. Thanks be to Jesus for his amazing grace.

Gathering around the table can bring lots of blessings and gifts to each of us. Last month we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by doing good activities, but on the last Sunday of this celebration, we closed it by having a big meal together, sharing the table as the body of Christ, *“in one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all”* (*Ephesians 4:4-6*).

Because of this, I would like to say thank you so much for your incredible support and servant attitude toward this special day. I thank the Hispanic Ministry for providing food for this activity, they were awesome.

Con amor y cariño.
Rev. Daniel Cardenas

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies”

Psalm 23:5a



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

NUTS TO PORCH POTS



Nut orders will be at
the church
Sunday, November
19th for pick up.



United
Women
in Faith

Winter Porch Pots

9" pots \$32

Choose from 2 designs:

Traditional or *Luster Pot*

Order deadline is Sunday, Nov. 12th.

Order forms available at the church or
by calling the church office. They can
be picked up on Tuesday, Nov. 21st or
Sunday, Nov. 26th.

Remember all proceeds from this fundraiser benefit in house
and local missions. The UWIF thank you for your continued support.



All Saints Day—November 6,

Join us in worship as we remember those who have gone before us. In addition to receiving Holy Communion and lifting up the names of those from our church family who have passed away since last All Saints Day, we would like observe this holy day by being surrounded by pictures of the saints in our lives. We invite you to bring in a framed photo or two of loved ones who have passed away. When we celebrate communion, we can physically see part of 'the great cloud of witnesses' that come to the communion table with us. To accommodate as many pictures as possible, we would prefer 5x7 photos or smaller, but if you only have a larger photo, we will make it work! Bring them to worship with you on Nov, 6. You will be able to place them in displays we will have set up throughout the sanctuary. There will be people available if you need assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen, Pastor Kim, or call the church office.

Friday, Dec. 1st First Friday "Harps of Grace" Concert 12 Noon

Start the Advent and Christmas Season off with a wonderful concert featuring "Harps of Grace". The sight of 10-12 harps all in our sanctuary is a sight to behold. And the sound is....heavenly!

2023 Poinsettia Order Form



NAME _____

PHONE (____) _____ EMAIL _____

All POINSETTIAS will be red with a traditional foil wrap. **ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023**

Memory of:	Honor of:	Name flowers are for:	From: (How your name(s) will be listed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

MUST PAY WHEN PLACING ORDER

____ Quantity of Arrangements @ \$16 each = \$_____ Total Due (check payable to FUMC; also accepting credit/debit)



Harvest of the Heart

Big 12/Pantry:

- Toilet tissue (4 pack)
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Dish soap
- Vegetable/Canola Oil
- Flour
- Sugar
- Salt
- Vienna Sausages
- White Rice (3 lb bag)
- Jiffy Corn Bread Mix
- Shampoo (V05)

Daily Bread:

- Tuna/Chicken/Ham Salad Snack Pack
(Includes crackers)
- Fruit Bars
- Fruit Cups
- Puding Cups
- Bottled Water
- Spoons
- Napkins

We will be collecting items thru Sunday, Nov. 19th. Please place donations behind the kneeling rail in the front of the sanctuary,

We usually shop at Dollar Tree, ALDI & Walmart.
Thank you for your donation!

Blessing Les & Debbie Dornon and their mission in Nepal.



Open House for Hispanic Heritage Month



An update from Dr. Les and Debbie Dornon, missionaries to Nepal working in the Tansen Hospital

It is hard to believe 3 weeks have passed since we said farewell - in some ways it seems like yesterday, and in others, like many months ago! We have certainly come to a very different part of the world since we left you.

We had a wonderful final visit with the grandkids before flying from Chicago on Friday, Sept 29. The flight to Doha, Qatar was 13 hours which were spent eating, snoozing and watching movies. :) We had about 6 hours in the airport, but were able to be in a comfortable lounge before boarding the plane for Kathmandu which took another 7 hours. We arrived in the "Big Smoke" just after 7 am Sunday morning here (Oct 1). After collecting all our luggage (thankful to God it all arrived okay) we went to the guest house. We started the visa process on Monday morning, but it went nowhere quickly.

On Friday, we traveled to Pokhara for the United Mission to Nepal retreat for the expat missionaries. The road has deteriorated so much that the trip took 10 hours now - as opposed to the 6 or so previously. But - it was wonderful to connect with our Tansen "family" who had also come to Pokhara for the retreat. We returned to KTM on Monday (only 9 hours!) and Les had his interview at the Labor Dept on Thursday. Meanwhile on Tuesday, he was bitten by a dog while running, so had to make a trip to a clinic for a post exposure rabies shot... He is doing fine. Now we are waiting for immigration (to get the work visas) and finally Nepal Medical council - an interview to give Les another Nepal license. Lots of time, money and patience needed! We are praying it will finish by Friday before the major Hindu festival begins and all offices close. Either way, we plan to travel to Tansen finally on the weekend.

Happily, while here at the guest house we have enjoyed reconnecting with another couple also returning to Nepal to work - we had been together in Tansen back in the 90's! We have had great fun together catching up and also have seen other friends in the KTM area.

We miss you all and appreciate your prayers so much! Our first day back in KTM we went to our favorite cafe, and there was a "welcome heart" on my latte! :) Much love to you all!



Advent Resources for You and Your Family

The Advent season is a wonderful time for spiritual formation. What better way to prepare for Christ to be born in us, than to set aside some time for intentional reflection. We are providing some resources to help you do just that. Check out the resource table that will be in the Commons beginning on Sunday, November 26th. On it you will find coloring calendars, daily scripture readings, prayer calendars, and whatever other resources Pastor Kim can locate between now and then. While no supplies are needed, colored pencils and/or markers will help make your devotional time more colorful. See Pastor Kim if you have any questions.

Congregational Care with Christmas Cards

You are invited to join the Congregational Care team in providing holiday blessings to those members of our congregation that we do not get to see as often as we like. We will be gathering Christmas cards and delivering them to our beloved friends so that they know we carry them in our hearts throughout the holiday season. Here is how you can be a part of this outreach:



1. Pick up the list of names that can be found on the table in the narthex or ask for a copy from the church office.
2. Write a card to as many people on the list as you would like. Make sure to identify yourself as a part of the First UMC family so that there will be less of a chance for confusion on the part of the recipient.
3. Put the individual's first and last name on the envelope. You do not need to address it or stamp it, the congregational care team will deliver these in person.
4. Bring your cards to the church and put them in the container on the desk in the Commons.



First UMC's Community Ministries is offering CPR Training. It will be given by the local fire department, on Saturday, December 9th, at 9 A.M., in the Commons area. It will cover CPR, use of the AED, Narcan use and other emergencies. There is a fee of \$40 to be paid when registering. That fee covers the presenter's time, Your card and materials that will be given out. To register, go to: www.aclsandblstraining.com, click the link that says book, scroll down until you find the class with the church's address, click book now and sign up. You do NOT have to save for future classes, that is optional. If you have trouble, please call the church office 513-423-4629. This class would be very helpful to those working with Shalom, ushering, working in the pantry or just around church grounds. **Please register by Monday, December 4th.**

Bible Reading Schedule for November

We have only two more months to go! We've got this! This month we will finish the book of Acts and then jump into the epistles.

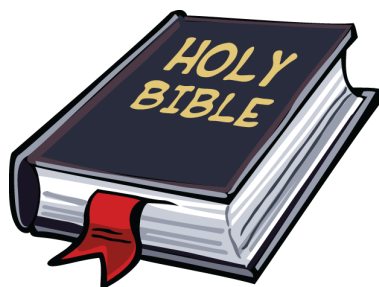
Here is what I am excited about for our readings this month. You may find yourself thinking as you read, "Hey! These words are familiar!" So many times we hear a verse or two from the epistles but very seldom do we see those verses in their larger context. In November we will be reading the whole context! Take notice of times when the larger context adds meaning to the verse or verses that are familiar.

I am also looking forward to reading all of Philippians on the weekend that we celebrate Thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians is infused with thanksgiving and praise. Reading it after Thanksgiving will be a way to continue the celebration!

As always, I am here if you have any questions or want to talk about your experience. Any day I get to talk about the Bible is a good day!

Peace,
Pastor Kim <><

November 1	Acts 21-23	November 16	II Corinthians 4-7
November 2	Acts 24-26	November 17	II Corinthians 8-10
November 3	Acts 27-28	November 18	II Corinthians 11-13
November 4	Romans 1:1-3:20	November 19	Galatians 1-2
November 5	Romans 3:21-5:21	November 20	Galatians 3-4
November 6	Romans 6:1-8:17	November 21	Galatians 5-6
November 7	Romans 8:18-10:21	November 22	Ephesians 1-2
November 8	Romans 11-13	November 23	Ephesians 3-4
November 9	Romans 14-16	November 24	Ephesians 5-6
November 10	I Corinthians 1-3	November 25	Philippians 1-2
November 11	I Corinthians 4-6	November 26	Philippians 3-4
November 12	I Corinthians 7-9	November 27	Colossians 1-2
November 13	I Corinthians 10-12	November 28	Colossians 3-4
November 14	I Corinthians 13-16	November 29	I Thessalonians 1-3
November 15	II Corinthians 1-3	November 30	I Thessalonians 4-5



November 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dates to remember in December: December 1: First Friday Concert @ Noon December 5: Community Christmas Dinner at 5:30 pm December 10: UWIF Cookie Walk December 17: Children's Christmas Program December 24: Sunday Worship at 10:30 am/Candlelight Service at 7:30 pm December 25/26: Christmas Day/ Church Closed						
5 COMMUNION/ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Daylight Saving Time ends 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	6 8:00 Breakfast Club	7 2:00 Pantry	8 6:00 Hispanic Bible Study 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	9 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	10 10:00 UWIF Meeting	11 VETERAN'S DAY
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship UWIF Porcht Pot orders due 2:00 Confirmation Class	13 8:00 Breakfast Club 6:00 Immigration Clinic	14 11:00 Memorials 2:00 Pantry 5:30 Finance Mtg. 6:00 Charge Conf! Admin Council	15 6:00 Hispanic Bible Study 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	16 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	17 AMBASSADOR ARTICLE DEADLINE 9:00 Hope Circle @ Bob Evans 10:00 Elizabeth Circle	18 9:00 Hope Circle @ Bob Evans 10:00 Elizabeth Circle
19 PLEDGE SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship After Worship- Hanging of the Greens UWIF Nut orders available	20 8:00 Breakfast Club	21 NO Pantry UWIF Porcht Pots Available 9:30—11:30	22 NO Choir Rhrls NO Hispanic Bible Study	23 THANKSGIVING DAY/CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NO Sonshine Bible Study	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 1st Sun. of Advent/UM Student Day (special offering) 9:00 SS/10:30 Worship UWIF Porcht Pots available POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE	27 8:00 Breakfast Club	28 2:00 Pantry	29 6:00 Hispanic Bible Study 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls.	30 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	 Give Thanks	

- Matthew Palmer 1
- Pat Duffey 2
- Rose Morgan 6
- Amy Palmer 6
- Danica Murphy 7
- Patt Gibson 10
- Kathi Wilson 10
- Herman Emmert 11
- Sally Jo Inwood 12
- Joni Regensburg 14
- Karen Deddens 16
- David Harris 17
- Carol Byrd 18
- Erin Overpeck 19
- Kerry Byrd 22
- Leo Davis 25
- Stephen Garrett 26
- Bill Thom 29
- Les Dornon 30

Happy Birthday!



2023 First Friday Concert & Artist Series

November 3, 2023

Cincinnati Opera Presents!

**The Cincinnati Opera features the
beloved arias, duets, and trios of opera's
greatest composers**

First UMC - Middletown

@noon

Free Admission

first church
MIDDLETOWN
a united methodist community
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