



Asbury United Methodist Church

Wellman, IA

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Lisa Crow

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Sunday School: 9:30 AM Worship: 10:30 AM

December 2025

Christmas Season Events:

Christmas Cantata - December 14: Our annual cooperative Christmas Cantata with our friends from Kalona is coming right up! It will be held on Sunday, December 14 at Kalona UMC at 10:00AM (Please note that start time!) A potluck lunch will follow...please plan to come!

Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday - December 21:

On Sunday, Dec 21, you are encouraged to wear your ugliest Christmas sweater or dress in your favorite Grinch inspired clothes! This is just for fun, but there may be a special treat for those who participate! (Don't have any tacky Christmas apparel? Try Crowded Closet or Goodwill!)



Christmas Eve Services: Join us for our Candlelight Christmas Eve service and invite your family, friends, and neighbors! Our traditional Christmas Eve service will celebrate the coming of the Christ child with holy communion and a candlelit Silent Night. Can't make it to Asbury's service AT 5 PM? Come on over to Kalona at 7 PM...the service will be the same.

Christmas Day Potluck: There will be a potluck at the Wellman Senior Center on Christmas Day, 12:00 Noon. Doors open at 11 AM; plan to arrive at least a bit early so that everything can be ready at noon. Federation Bank is providing the meat and potatoes. Please bring one or two side dishes / desserts to share. Coffee and water will be provided. Please bring your own table service (except serving spoons). There will NOT be exercise or Coffee in the morning that day.

December 28 - Joint Service @ Asbury + Hot Cocoa Bar!

On Sunday, December 28 @ **10:00 (note that early start time!)** we will host our friends from Kalona for a joint "Lessons and Carols" worship service at Asbury. The service will include lots of Christmas songs and tell the story of Christmas through the scriptures.

NEW EVENT ALERT!!! Following the service there will be a **Hot Cocoa Bar!** Customize your own sweet treat and enjoy a fun time socializing with friends from both churches!



Youth Group –Sunday, December 7 @ Noon

On Sunday, December 7, the youth group will meet at the KUMC parking lot at noon and trek to the Coral Ridge Mall, where they will be shopping for Christmas gifts for the Mid-Prairie Christmas Assistance Program. The gifts will be taken to the Kalona Y, and families will be choosing the gifts. Everyone will be back at the church by 3.

Kids are asked to bring money for lunch at the mall, and then the group will shop at Target.

Please plan to join us! We do need a head count to ensure we have enough vehicle space.

A TRANSPORTATION RELEASE MUST BE SIGNED BY YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRIOR TO LEAVING THE CHURCH ON DEC 7TH.



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing a fruitcake.

©Gary Larson

Mission Market: As you and your family prepare your Christmas gift list, ask yourself if anyone on this list would appreciate being honored by a donation to one of the three local mission projects sponsored by the Council of Mid-Prairie Churches:

- **Retrograde Ministries**, a Christian residential care program supporting people with addiction
- **Kalona and Wellman Food Pantries**
- **Kalona and Wellman Utilities**, providing assistance with utility bills at the discretion of our local utilities companies.

If you are interested in making a contribution to this year's Mission Market, please take one of the flyers at the back of the church.

IAUMF Scholarships: The Foundation once again has over 100 scholarships to award to UM students across Iowa! From December 1st - March 1st, visit iumf.org/scholarships to review the criteria for all available scholarships, then click **APPLY NOW** when you are ready to complete the application.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES!!!

3	Sandra Schauf
8	Gracie Sisson
10	Donna Palmer
12	Betty Johnston
13	Maria Jebens
15	Kevin Kral
19	Kelsey McVey
22	Dan & Chris Jirsa
25	Don Randol
26	Dennis Hulseberg
27	Deb Seward
29	Colette Yoder



Pastor's Note: "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes"

This year, our Advent worship series will revolve around the story of *THE GRINCH* based on the writings of Matt Rawle in his book entitled "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of *THE GRINCH*."

Each generation has likely heard the story of *THE GRINCH* through Doctor Seuss's *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* with some adaptations being made throughout the years. Whether you have come to know the story through the

original children's book that debuted in 1957, or the animated TV special that came out in 1966, or the more recent blockbuster movie that graced the big screen in 2000, or even the musical theater production that began in 2007; "*How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has remained an iconic story for several generations because of its seasonal theme, happy ending, universal ambiguity, and moral conclusion. The ambiguity throughout the story perpetuates an exciting mystery to the motivation behind both the Grinch's hatred of Christmas and his seemingly sudden transformation. We aren't quite sure why the Grinch is so miserable in the original story, which allows the readers to identify their own frustrations in the Grinch's character. Sometimes we are melancholy during the Christmas season and it's difficult to understand precisely why. Whether we appreciate it or not, it's easy to identify with the Grinch's aggravation. Likewise, at the end of the story we aren't given a reason why the Grinch's heart grew three sizes. The Whos do not seek retribution or vengeance; rather they invite the Grinch to eat with them at the table."(1)



Can we find Christ in the midst of a classical secular story? Scripture says that all things were made through Christ (John 1:3), and through Christ all things were reconciled to God (Colossians 1:20). "In other words, everything and everyone in our world contains a spark of the divine—everything is sacred, and whether or not we choose to live in that truth depends on our perspective. So now that all is sacred and in everything we are to see and proclaim his glory. I truly believe we are called not to reject the culture we live in, but to re-narrate its meaning—to tell God's story in the midst of it. As we walk with Christ we discover the divine all around us, and in turn, the world invites us into a deeper picture of its Creator. Through this lens of God's redemption story, we are invited to look at culture in a new and inviting way. We are invited to dive into the realms of literature, art, and entertainment to explore and discover how God is working in and through us and in the world around us to tell God's great story of redemption and transformation."(1)

I hope that you will join us this Advent season! We have lots of fun things happening in the month of December, so be sure to mark your calendar for the special joint services with opportunities for fellowship and fun! Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your neighbors! We will save you a seat!

"Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being." - John 1:3

"Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him, and he reconciled all things to himself through him—whether things on earth or in the heavens. He brought peace through the blood of his cross." - Colossians 1:19-20

Walking alongside you,

Pastor Lisa

(1) Matt Rawle, *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press), 2021.

Scripture Readings

Scripture Readings for December 1-7:

Monday: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Tuesday: Matthew 3:1-12, Isaiah 40:1-11
 Wednesday: 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
 Thursday: Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11
 Friday: Luke 3:1-6, Baruch 5:1-9
 Saturday: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13
 Sunday: Matthew 3:1-12, James 5:7-10

Scripture Readings for December 8-14:

Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-15, Luke 1:47-55
 Tuesday: Malachi 4:1-6, Matthew 17:10-13
 Wednesday: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, 1 Thess 5:16-24
 Thursday: John 1:6-8, 19-28, Zeph 3:14-20
 Friday: Philippians 4:4-9, Luke 3:7-20
 Saturday: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10
 Sunday: Matthew 11:2-11, Matthew 1:1-17

Scripture Readings for December 15-21:

Monday: Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Psalm 80:1-7
 Tuesday: Matthew 1:18-25, 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16
 Wednesday: Romans 16:25-27, Micah 5:2-5a
 Thursday: Hebrews 10:5-10, Jeremiah 23:5-6
 Friday: Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Ps 96
 Saturday: Luke 1:5-17, Luke 1:18-25, Ps 113
 Sunday: Heb. 10:35—11:1, John 20:24-29, Psalm 126

Scripture Readings for December 22-28:

Monday: Luke 1:26-33, Luke 1:34-38, Psalm 40:1-11
 Tuesday: 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Luke 1:39-45, 56, Luke 1:47-55
 Wednesday: Luke 1:57-66, 80, Luke 2:1-20, Ps 96
 Thursday: Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-18, Psalm 98
 Friday: Acts 6:1—7:2a, 51-60, Matthew 23:34-39, Psalm 31
 Saturday: 1 John 1:1-9, John 21:19b-24, Ps 92
 Sunday: Jeremiah 31:15-17, Matthew 2:13-23, Psalm 124

Scripture Readings for Dec 29 – Jan 4:

Monday: Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18, Psalm 148
 Tuesday: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8
 Wednesday: Revelation 21:1-6a, Phil 2:5-11
 Thursday: Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 2:15-21
 Friday: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12
 Saturday: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Matthew 2:1-12
 Sunday: Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:10-18

Date	Ushers	Coffee Servers		
12/7	Lori Reece, Nelsons	Lori Reece & Kym Kral		
12/14	Cantata @ Kalona 10:00 AM			
12/21	Powells	Powells		
12/24	Christmas Eve: Ehrenfelts	(no coffee time)		
12/28	L&M Whetstine	Donna Palmer (Joint Service w/ Hot Cocoa Bar)		

Sound/PowerPoint Coverage							PowerPoint Prep					Song Leader					
Date	Lori	Anita	Donna	Mike	Maria	Gracyn	Lori	Anita	Donna	Mike	Gracyn	Lori	Maria	Mike	Pam	Melody	Shauna
12/7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Finance Summary	
Year-to-date offerings	
Year-to-date expenses paid	
Year-to-date overage/(shortfall)	