

Inman United Methodist Church

Informer

December 2025

Rev. Joe Blackwelder, Pastor

From Vicki McCartha, Lay Leader

I'm focusing on feeling joyful these days. We all live in this moment, in this world, and there's so much happening in it to make us feel sad, worried, even hopeless. So I'm looking around for the Joy! Music brings me joy, especially Christmas music. This month I'm feeling Joy for the voices that have come to join our church choir.

I know that church, in general, has changed...everywhere, and ours is no exception. Many churches in our denomination and others have closed, and most of those remaining are changed, smaller and getting even smaller. But somehow, Inman UMC continues to practice the business and art of "church".

Even though Inman UMC is truly a progressive, "Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds" kind of Methodist Church, we value our traditional worship practices. We don't have screens, we don't have a praise band, and our order of worship hasn't changed much in decades. We don't use recorded music; we have been fortunate to have a talented pianist/organist for as long as I have been here and I suspect for many years before that. And most of us feel like a Sunday church service should include an anthem: a musical special by the choir, or maybe a solo or duet.

Just a couple of months ago our choir consisted of 4 or 5 women on a good Sunday. For the upcoming Christmas music program, we have 12 voices, including 3 men! That brings Joy...and Hope; Hope that going forward we will have a viable choir as a regular part of our Sunday services; that our congregation will sing out Christmas carols stronger than they have in years; that our Richard Crib will stay strong and healthy and will continue to find Joy in providing music for the choir and the entire church.

Churches dwindle and die. It happens. It could happen to us. But Advent is about Hope. And Hope is more than just wishing for something good to happen, or for someone heroic to rise up and make it happen. Hope is active, not passive. Every time you participate in our services, events, missions, programs and committees, every time you show up and sit in a pew, every time you invite a neighbor or welcome a stranger, you are helping to keep us alive. If our Inman UMC is a community that we cherish, that we want to survive and thrive, **let's actively practice Hope and Joy.**

Soup Lunch after service—Sunday, December 7

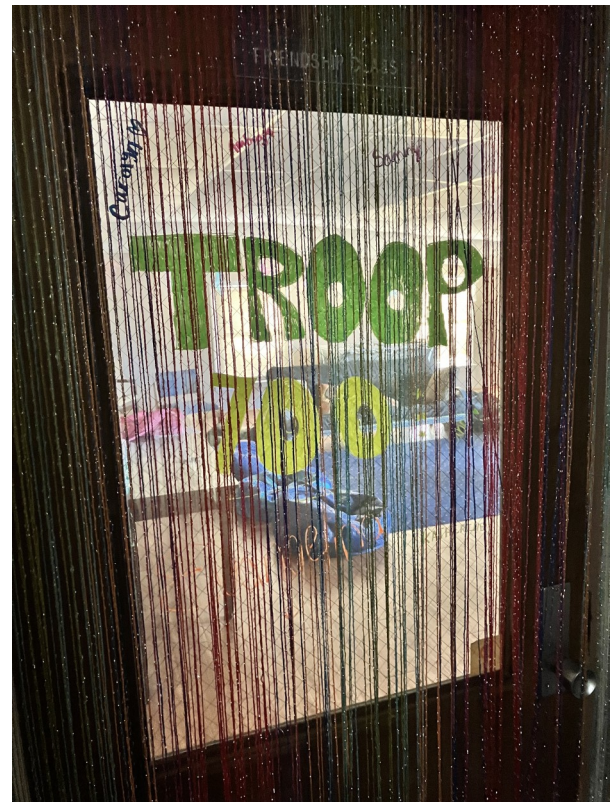
Inman UMC Christmas Music Program—Sunday, December 14, 11:15

Christmas Eve Service—Wednesday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.





Above: The Beta Club from the home school group Kalidescope helped Jean McDowell in the courtyard on November 19. They swept, planted winter flowers and plants and made garden flags. "They were a huge help." The group meets at our church twice a month.



Girl Scout Troop 700 is now meeting twice monthly in the old choir room above the big kitchen and are fixing up the room to suit them. They made their own door sign. (Above) More photos next month.



Above: At our 2025 Charge Conference October 30, District Superintendent Cathy Mitchell presented IUMC Treasurer Brenda Verdell with a certificate of appreciation for paying in full last year's apportionments (the amount the SC United Methodist Conference asks churches to contribute to the Conference budget). We have paid in full for the last 12 years.

61 Years! That's Staying Power!

Congratulations to Jeanne and Don Alverson and to Sue and Larry Chase. Both couples celebrated their 61st wedding anniversaries in November.

Offerings and Other Income for Inman UMC November 2025

Food Pantry	\$ 595
General Budget Monthly Need 2025	\$11,310
Offering to General Budget for November	9,277
Gym Rental for November	610
Budget Short Year-to-Date (end of Oct.)	\$ 27,728

Newsletter, Calendar and Financials compiled by
Jessica McCullough, iumc@inmanumc.org
Editor : Vicki McCartha, vmccartha@gmail.com
Advisor: Bill McCartha, matchcar4@gmail.com

Getting Ready Christmas is Coming



Above: With less than a week's notice, the Inman UMC congregation prepared and donated 30 gift bags to be shipped by United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) to Haiti. Children there will receive these “stockings” that were filled with essentials like toothpaste and soap, along with a small toy and some hard candy.



About 15 kind volunteers gathered to help decorate the church for the 2025 Advent and Christmas season.

Above: A few brave (younger) souls, put up the tree and climbed the ladder to decorate the top. Others added ornaments to lower limbs and hung wreaths and banners, inside and out.

Above right: Pastor Joe, Paulette, and Susan Rollins are agreeing—something's not right with this Advent Wreath.

Right: It seems to be okay, as the McGinnis family (fondly known as “The McGinni”) lead the Advent reading and lighting of the first candle Nov. 30.



INMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	2 8–10 Food Pantry Bible Study @ IUMC 11:00 in Parlor Kaleidoscope Learning 1:30-3:30 7–9 Square Dance Lessons	3 10 – 11:30 Line Dance Bible Study @ Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	4 6 – 7 Zumba	5	6 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Road House Band
7 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship Lunch after Service	8 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	9 8–10 Food Pantry Bible Study @ IUMC 11:00 in Parlor 7–9 Square Dance Lessons	10 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6:00 Bible Study @ Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	11 6 – 7 Zumba	12 Peach Blossom Square Dance 7 - 9:30	13 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Road House Band
14 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship Christmas Music Program	15 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	16 8–10 Food Pantry Bible Study @ IUMC 11:00 in Parlor 7–9 Square Dance Lessons	17 10 – 11:30 Line Dance and Party 6:00 Bible Study @ Aldersgate 6:30 Choir Practice	18 6 – 7 Zumba	19 Dave Bolinger & Jens Slaton	20 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Road House Band
21 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	22 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 6–7 Zumba	23 8–10 Food Pantry 7–9 Square Dance Lessons	24 Joint Christmas Eve Service @ 6:00 pm Church Office Closed	25 Russ Crago Church Office Closed	26	27 10-12 Narcotics Anon. 5:30 - 9:30 Road House Band
28 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Worship	29 8:30-9:30 Coffee at Bojangles 10 – 11:30 Line Dance 6–7 Zumba	30 8–10 Food Pantry 7–9 Square Dance Lessons	31 10 – 11:30 Line Dance Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed		Blue Indicates Birthdays