



GOWRIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

"THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS"

Close to our hearts are the beloved carols that the Christmas season brings to us all, each December.

While I was growing up in Gowrie, it was always a time-honored holiday tradition to gather together for an evening of caroling.

With the town all covered in glistening snow, my classmates and I would stop at designated houses, to sing Christmas carols, as a meaningful way to honor our oldest congregation members.

I remember the holiday spirit we all felt, singing together on their front porches. Many had been waiting expectantly by their front doors for our arrival. As we sang together joyfully, they smiled radiantly, touched by the lyrics of their favorite carols.

From the verses of the melodic Christmas song entitled "Caroling, Caroling," so memorably sung by Nat King Cole in the 1960s:

"Caroling, caroling, through the snow,
Christmas bells are ringing ...
Caroling, caroling, through the town,
Christmas bells are ringing.
Joyous voices, sweet and clear ..
Christmas bells are ringing.
Gladsome tidings now we bring ...
Christmas bells are ringing."

As we departed each home, after sharing one last requested carol, we were often presented with a large paper sack filled with old-fashioned molasses popcorn balls, or a special tin filled with homemade fudge and sugar-dusted Christmas cookies. We enjoyed these treats back at the church later that evening, with mugs of piping hot cocoa.

Looking back on those days, our caroling parties created bonds within our church congregation, connected generations, and drew our community closer together. What an inspiring reflection to consider, even today!

As this Christmas draws near, may we continue to remember the uplifting impact of reaching out to others, in thoughtful and heartfelt ways.

This Christmas season, let us extend a friendly greeting to a new neighbor, help someone in need, deliver a plate of gingerbread cookies, place a holiday card addressed to an old friend in the mailbox, and remember others with prayers for blessings in the NEW YEAR to follow.

May the luminous and joyful CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS resonate deeply in your heart, this holiday season!

A blessed Christmas season, to each & all ~
Darin Wooters

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Office: 515-352-3715

Pastor Susan K. Rohden

515-351-7050 (cell)
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Carrie Dalley Secretary

515-352-3715 (office)
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Randy & Rene Corell

Inside Custodians
515-351-4145
515-351-9311

Church Schedule

Tuesday 9 am-3 pm

Wednesday 9 am-5 pm

Thursday 9 am-3 pm

Worship Schedule

Worship starts at
10:15 am; Facebook
live; later on
Channel 575
at 11:00am



SERVE...



UWF

December 2 at 9:00 am –11:00 am
Christmas Bazaar



Council

No Council Meeting
Next Meeting January 10 @6:30 pm



Singing the Favorites Choir

December 31
Come Sing with us.

PRAY...

Please call in or email your prayer request, changes and updates to the office.

Nursing Home or Care Facilities: *Sunny Knoll in Rockwell City*; Ginger Marquis.

Health Concerns: Vern Bauer, Pastor Jim Davis. All those recovering from surgery and from organ transplants. All those fighting cancer.

Grief: Families of Donna Light, Doris Mundt, Donna Monson, Darlene Eklund and Donna Ziemer

Congregational Prayer Focus: Heifer Project

Pray for peace for Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan.

Pray for Gowrie UMC its ministries, its people, and its Pastor.

Pray for all who have yet to know the saving Grace of Jesus.

GATHER....



Sunday Worship

9:00 am Sunday School/Confirmation
10:15 am Worship service
Facebook live, later on Web-Cal channel 575



Bible Study

Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 at
Joan Orness's home,
All Welcome!
Apostle's Creed Study



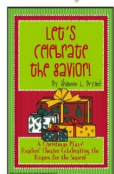
Facebook Devotional

Thursdays at 9:30 am



UWF Christmas Bazaar

December 2nd 9am-11am



Children's Christmas Program

December 17 at 10:15 am
Cast Party Following Worship in
Fellowship Hall.



Christmas Caroling

December 17 at 5:00 pm
Supper following Caroling.



Blue Christmas

December 20 @6:30 pm



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 5:00 PM



Celebrate...

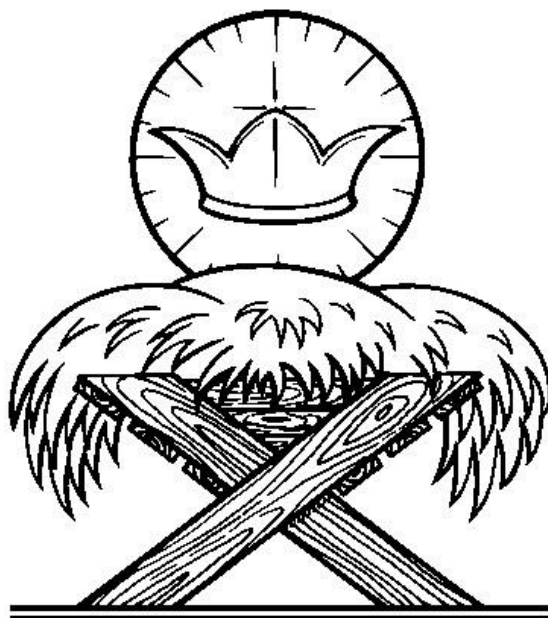
December Birthdays

Please See Calendar for Birthdays!

*Sorry if we missed your birthday.
Please let the office know.*

Birth of Our Savior

Preparing our Hearts for 2024



Grace and Peace Be With You,

Here in the Church, Advent is the beginning of our Church Year. It is a season that falls between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. At times it is crowded out by our plans for thanksgiving and Christmas: buying Christmas gifts, organizing Christmas gatherings, attending programs, etc.

What if we allow ourselves to celebrate Advent. It creates this wonderful breathing space in the Holidays. Advent isn't a season that requires great planning and celebration. Advent is a season which requires taking a moment at home or with your church family. Taking a moment to remember God's plan and God's love for us.



There are 4 Sundays in Advent. During this season, we light 4 candles in weekly worship, 3 purple and 1 pink. Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Our families share scriptures and readings which draw our minds to preparation for our Saviors birth.

When I mark time intentionally, time becomes more precious. It doesn't slip away without notice. A few years back, my cousin made a nativity scene for my home. It had many wonderful pieces, enough that I could place a piece on my hutch each day as I prepared my heart for the birth of Jesus. Day by day, I placed sheep, shepherds, donkeys, Mary, Joseph, Angels, a cow, and on Christmas Eve Baby Jesus. I placed the Kings and camels one at a time until Epiphany. I remember that particular Advent well. My heart and mind so looked forward to the complete set being in place and marking the day of Jesus birth.

So let us join together and take Advent day by day and week by week. On the back of our monthly Calendar is "A Season of Advent Reading Plan". You may use this plan or another scripture reading plan or practice such as I did with my Nativity scene. Come to worship weekly and meditate with us as we light the Advent Candles. Let us prepare for our Savior.



Pastor Susan

Coming Together

As the Body of Christ

December Sunday Services



10:15 am Sunday Worship and Facebook live, later on Web-Cal Channel 575



Gutshall Family

December 3rd & 10th

Crystal Wilks & Mike Krayenhagen

December 17th, 24th, & 31st

December 3th

Communion: Marj Johnson
Worship Leader: Eric Adam
Tech: Gary & Kendale Vosberg
Music: Colleen Palmer & Jeff Patterson
Altar Flowers: Jennifer Field
Color Bulletins: Jennifer Field

December 10th

Worship Leader: Jennifer Field
Tech: Keith & Dena Sytsma
Music: Nancy Vogt & Jeff Patterson
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
Color Bulletins: Jennifer Field

December 17th

Children's Program

Worship Leader: Carl Sandgren
Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley
Music: Jeff Patterson
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
Color Bulletins:

December 24th

Worship Leader: Darin Wooters
Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley
Music: Tom Hlubek & Jeff Patterson
Altar Flowers: Paul & Rita Kail
Color Bulletins: Dalbert Isom

December 24th

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Worship Leader: Darin Wooters
Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley
Music: Nancy Vogt & Jeff Patterson
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias

December 31st

Hymn Sing

Worship Leader: Johny Mike Lizer
Tech: Owen Nuss & Lincoln Akins
Music: Jeff Patterson
Altar Flowers:
Color Bulletins: Keith & Dena Sytsma

Sunday, December 31

The Gowrie UMC Choir
will be "Singing the Favorites"
during Worship Service.

Please Meet 30 Minutes
before worship to Select
and Practice Music



Children's Christmas Program

"Let's Celebrate the Savior"

Join us December 17 for this year's Children's
Christmas program during Worship.

There will be a time of fellowship and Cast
Party after Worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is Welcome!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



5:00 PM at Gowrie United
Methodist Church

Please bring family,
friends, or neighbors.

Everyone is Welcome!

In Case of Inclement Weather



Channels 5 and 8 will be
notified should Church be
cancelled or Facebook Only.
***Service will be on
Facebook***



Mitten Tree

Please donate new mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves for this year's Mitten Tree.

The Mitten Tree will be located in the Narthex during Advent. Donated items stay local.

Our school district appreciates all help meeting our children's needs.

Thank you!



EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS FUND

Please feel free to donate to the employee Christmas fund for Christmas 2023.

Put in the memo line of your check "Employee Christmas Fund". Thank you!!



Christmas Poinsettias



Starting Thursday, December 7th

Poinsettias can be brought to the church.

- * If you bring your own, be sure to have "your name" and "In Memory Of" on the poinsettia so that your plant will go home with you on December 24 after service.
- * If you contact Foxtail Florist (515-352-3355) let Carrie in the church office know the names to be remembered for the bulletin. Thank you.
- * **Will also need a Volunteer to water poinsettias once a week through Advent. It could be right after church. Please contact Carrie if you are interested in volunteering.**

Blue Christmas Service



Gowrie United Methodist Church will be hosting a Blue Christmas Service on December 20 at 6:30 pm. This is a service for all who suffered or lost and who struggle through the Holidays.

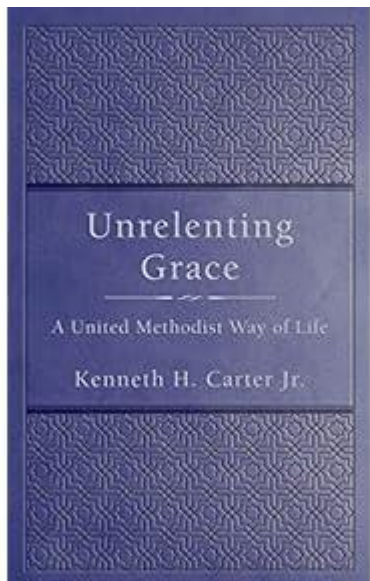
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Unrelenting Grace by Kenneth H. Carter Jr. Advent Worship Series

The book is an inspiring and practical resource for United Methodists who want to move forward with confidence and hope. As we wrestle with the effects of the pandemic, social disruption, and conflicts, Unrelenting Grace offers guidance for stepping into the future as individuals and as communities of faith.

Ken Carter reminds us of our core values as United Methodists, prompting listeners to rediscover, redefine, and reclaim the power of grace, holiness, and connection. We see afresh ways to bridge the gap between faith and life, and rediscover deep connections of unity and love.

Throughout lent Pastor Susan will be using this book as a resource for our Advent Worship Series. We will have copies available for \$10.00 in the office so that you can read along.





United
Women
in Faith

December

United Women in Faith
December 2nd 9:00-11:00 am

Christmas Coffee & Bazaar

All Members

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)



UWF Annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale

December 2nd from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Come Enjoy a Time of Fellowship and Shopping! Fresh Home Baked Goods Available! Handmade Crafts for Sale! Coffee and Treats for a Free Will Offering!

Thank You!

Thank you for
your support and
encouragement
over the last

several years that we have had a room at the Church. We deeply appreciate your devotion to our mission. We look forward to your continued support at our new location in the JK Building.



Glory
TO THE
NEWBORN
King



Christmas Caroling

Gowrie United Methodist Church will be participating in Christmas Caroling again this year on December 17 at 5:00 pm. We will meet at the Church and select some of our Senior Saints to go Caroling to. After caroling we will come back to the church to enjoy a time of Fellowship and Supper. There will be a Clipboard in the Narthex.

Everyone is welcome to come sing with us!



Trunk or Treat

Thank you to everyone who donated or helped with Trunk or Treat this year. It was a wonderful time of outreach to the children and families in our community!



Council Meeting Minutes

November 8th 2023 6:30-7:30 P.M.
A Place to Belong, Believe and Become

Present: John Lizer, Gary and Kendale Vosberg, Jeremy and Jill Viles, Judy Tjepkes, Carrie Dalley, and Pastor Susan

Loving: Devotion and prayer for our church: Gary

Learning: A Video on the Church had been planned by Pastor Susan, but this was not shown as the pastor has two funerals to prepare for this week, and she hoped to conclude the meeting by 7:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Requested by the chair at 6:38

L3 Leading:

Meeting Minutes: Judi-Jan, Kendale-February, March-Pastor Susan, April-Carl, May-Chelsey, June-Gary, August-Carrie, September-Carrie, October-Pastor Susan, November-Jeremy Viles

Judi volunteered to be tonight's timekeeper

Review and Approve November meeting minutes: Gary moved and Kendale seconded

Old Business

Hearing Loop conversation/Carpet conversation

Defer back to Trustees to assess all outstanding projects and set priorities (should we?)

Replacement keyboards (\$1,000 from Ziemer memorial toward keyboard)

- Rieman Music in Fort Dodge has a couple options. Free delivery and setup
- CLP775 about \$4500 (many churches have this unit; very satisfied)
- CLP735 \$2600 (many schools have this unit; very satisfied)
- Rieman's is getting CLP735 model in shortly; will be viewed by Pastor and Colleen Palmer
- Both units could be connected to our sound system, Both units have USB for recording
- The biggest difference between the CLP775 and the CLP735 is that there are fewer buttons on the CLP775 than the CLP735; however, the salesmen said the innerworkings are very similar
- Rieman's will remove the old organ unit, but then what is to be done with the organ?
- Judi moved that we should purchase the CLP735 if it suits the pianist needs; seconded by Kendale. Approved by Council Vote.
- The guy who worked on the organ would like parts. Carrie will call him about this

Other Old Business: Pastor Susan said the charge conference went well

New Business

Christmas small group invitational outreach into community

Jill suggested she enjoyed "Christmas is not Your Birthday" video and devotional

Fellowship event/ fundraiser for early 2024

Lasagna, men's pancake supper for Lent, soup

Work Area Reports

Treasurer's report	Deb Tvrdik: no report
S/PPRC	Kendale Vosberg: no report
Trustees	Carl Sandgren: trimmed bushes
Memorial	Crystal Wilks: \$1,026

Work Area Reports

Education	Chelsey Worrel: working on Christmas program, food drive, pen pals
Missions	Judi Tjepkes: UMCOR: just under \$60
UMW	Rita Kail (unable to attend)
Lay leader	Gary Vosberg: nothing to report
Lay member:	Gary Vosberg: nothing to report
At-large members	Bertie Dawster/Jeremy Viles: nothing to report
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Susan Rohden

Thanksgiving Eve Community Service Wednesday Nov. 22nd at UMC includes Pantry offering, Pastor Jim provides the message

Christmas Schedule

Sunday November 26th after worship: luncheon and decorate church

December 2nd: UMW Bazaar

Advent December 3rd-December 24th

December 17th Children's Program

December 17th Caroling??? And chili ??? or ???

December 20th Blue Christmas Service (had to cancel last year)

December 24th Christmas Eve Service 5:30

Bells on December 3rd and on Christmas Eve

Youth doing wreath display at WCCTA

Food Pantry: November

Heifer Project: December

Next meeting: January 10th at 6:30 P.M.

Prayer, Gary requested adjournment and Jill seconded

Typed by Jill Viles



GOWRIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Join us this season for Advent and Christmas!

Sunday, November 26: Luncheon hosted by UWF and Decorate Church
Saturday, December 2: UWF Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale from 9:00 to Noon
Sunday, December 3-24: Advent Worship Series "Weekly at 10:15 am
Sunday, December 17: Children's Christmas Program During Worship at 10:15 am
Sunday, December 17: Christmas Caroling at 5:00 pm, followed by supper
Wednesday, December 20: Blue Christmas Service at 6:30 pm
Sunday, December 24: Sunday Worship Service at 10:15 am
Sunday, December 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm

CELEBRATE WITH US!



The Prophecy

Day 1: Isaiah 9:2-7
Day 2: Isaiah 11:1-5
Day 3: Isaiah 7:10-14
Day 4: Micah 5:1-5
Day 5: 2 Samuel 7:12-16

The Messiah is Born

Day 6: Luke 1:26-33
Day 7: Luke 1:34-38
Day 8: Luke 1:46-55
Day 9: Matthew 1:18-25
Day 10: Luke 2:1-7
Day 11: Luke 2:8-12
Day 12: Luke 2:13-20
Day 13: Matthew 1:1-17

The Gift of Salvation

Day 14: Romans 6:20-23
Day 15: Galatians 4:1-7
Day 16: 1 Timothy 1:15-17
Day 17: Titus 3:3-7
Day 18: Philippians 2:6-8






The Messiah Will Return

Day 19: John 14:1-6
Day 20: Daniel 7:13-14
Day 21: Revelation 1:4-7
Day 22: Revelation 3:20-22
Day 23: Revelation 22:12-13
Day 24: Revelation 22:16-17
Day 25: Revelation 22:20



A Season of *Advent* Reading Plan

Gowrie United Methodist Church December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy Birthday! Betty Byson 9am Adult Sunday School 9am Sunday School/Confirmation 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study 3pm Zoom Mtg	28 Happy Birthday! Eli Eller Kevin Kruse Siena Gutshall 9am Office Open 3pm Confirmation 5pm Bell Choir	29 Happy Birthday! Caterina Dalley 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	30 Happy Birthday! Pastor's Prep Day	1 9am UWF Christmas Bazaar 
3 9am Adult Sunday School 9am Sunday School/Confirmation 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5 Happy Birthday! Ryan Adam 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study 3pm Zoom Mtg	6 Happy Birthday! Roger Brandes 9am Office Open 3pm Confirmation 5pm Bell Choir	7 Happy Birthday! Dave Johnson Jezika Joyce 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	8 Pastor's Prep Day	9
10 9am Adult Sunday School 9am Sunday School/Confirmation 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	11 Happy Birthday! Owen Nuss Pastor's Sabbath	12 Happy Birthday! Sam Trdrlik 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study 3pm Zoom Mtg	13 Happy Birthday! Doug Ziemer 9am Office Open 3pm Confirmation 5pm Bell Choir	14 Happy Birthday! Abigail Adam Dillon Sytsma 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	15 Happy Birthday! Heather Slawson Lindsey Osorio Pastor's Prep Day	16
17 9am Adult Sunday School 9am Sunday School/Confirmation 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship 5:00 pm Christmas Caroling and Supper 	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19 Happy Birthday! Jeremy Viles 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study 3pm Zoom Mtg	20 Happy Birthday! Penny Blunk 9am Office Open 3pm Confirmation 5pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Blue Christmas	21 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	22 Pastor's Prep Day	23
24 Happy Birthday Jackson Barker Noah Slawson 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship 5pm Christmas Eve Service 	25 Christmas Day 	26 Happy Birthday! Cora Johnson Lesley Worrel Marj Johnson 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study 3pm Zoom Mtg	27 Happy Birthday! Samuel Sytsma 9am Office Open 3pm Confirmation 5pm Bell Choir	28 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	29 Happy Birthday! Rachael Eller Pastor's Prep Day	30 Happy Birthday! Zoe Schneider
31 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship/Choir 	1 New Year's Day	2 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study 3pm Zoom Mtg	3 9am Office Open 3pm Confirmation 5pm Bell Choir	4 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion 1pm UWF Meeting	5 Happy Birthday! Joelle Lizer Pastor's Prep Day	6 Happy Birthday! Ryan Rice