



OUR CHURCH



5 Things you may not know about Christmas

is found at:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/five-things-you-may-not-know-about-christmas>

PASTOR

Pastor Susan Rohden

515-351-7050 (cell)
515-968-4119 (home)
gowrieumcpastor@wccta.net

Talk To Us

Carrie Dalley (Secretary)

515-352-3715
gowrieumc@wccta.net
1306 Market Street
Gowrie, IA 50543

Find Us

on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/GowrieUMC/>
or Website
www.gowrieumc.com

We know the stories in the Bible, attend Advent and Christmas Eve worship each year, listen to tons of Christmas carols, and have seen just about every Christmas movie and special. We United Methodists know a lot about Christmas, but like most things there is always more to learn. Here are a few lesser-known tidbits.

John Wesley never published a Christmas sermon

One reason may be that when the Puritans rose to power in mid-1600s England, Christmas fell out of favor. Authorities passed laws attempting to prohibit the celebration of Christmas.

Charles Wesley wrote a popular Christmas song

The first Methodist hymnbook, Hymns and Sacred Poems (1739), includes Charles' "Hymn for Christmas-Day." In a later publication, Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord, Wesley published 18 more hymns for the season. We still sing one of the songs in that collection, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." The words in our United Methodist Hymnal today are almost exactly as Charles wrote them in 1745.

Nativities are filled with symbolism

What our nativities lack in historical accuracy is often due to the inclusion of powerful symbolism.

Joseph and Mary's journey

One of the roads Joseph and Mary are called to travel is one from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Jesus is born. The approximate 100-mile journey on foot, with possible help from a donkey, took an estimated nine or ten days.

Red kettles have United Methodist links

William Booth, a Methodist minister, started The Salvation Army in London in 1865. His passion for reaching the poor, homeless, and hungry with the gospel of Jesus Christ led him to open a mission to meet people's physical needs. That mission continues to grow today.

Help me wait and be ready...

to encounter Jesus wherever I go.

SERVE

- **Council** December 10 6:30 PM
- **“Singing the Favorites”** December 21
- **Sunday School:** Need Substitute and teachers. Please contact Chelsey or Anna.
- **Mitten Tree** Please donate new gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats to the Mitten Tree in the Narthex. These will be donated to local schools
- **UWF Christmas Bazaar** December 6 9:00-11:00 Join us for the UWF Christmas Bazaar.

GATHER

- **Sundays Together**

9:00 Sunday School

9:30 Coffee and Conversation

10:15 am Worship Service

Facebook live, later on Web-Cal channel 575

- **Coffee/Chat/Video** Tues 1:30 - at Joan's
 - currently we're traveling the world worshipping with churches in every time zone. Join us!
- **UWF Christmas Bazaar** Dec. 6
 - 9:00-11:00
- **Children's Christmas Program** Dec. 14
 - During Worship
- **Christmas Caroling** Dec. 21 2:00
- **Candlelight Service** Dec. 24 5:00

PRAY

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

Care Facilities and Assisted Living: Colleen Traster and George Anderson.

Health Concerns: Viney Mulder, Gabe & Jess Olson From Paton-Son Otto who was premature continues to be in the hospital, Carol Orness, DJ (Randy & Viney Mulder's Son-in-law). All those fighting cancer. All those suffering from chronic pain. All those receiving therapy. All those experiencing family distress.

Grief:

Congregational Prayer Focus:

Pray for Countries recovering from Natural disasters. (Afghanistan, Sudan, Jamaica)

Pray for all people in war zones. The Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Nigeria and those countries the Spirit has placed in your heart.

Pray for Israel and Gaza.

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

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

CELEBRATE



Advent Series

November 30,
December 7, 14, & 21



Candlelight Service

December 24 5:00 pm



**Christmas
“Jesus is Born”
December 25**

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

All the earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel," for his name is "God with us," our brother shall be, with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain; open new highways, new highways for the Lord, He is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be. (All the Earth is Waiting, UMH 210)



Our Advent series is named after the above hymn which with simple but somewhat complex lyrics so beautifully describes how the earth waits for our Lord and the Kingdom to be. The vine above has taken ages to grow to it’s current size and it’s foliage covers much of the old Lincoln College building exterior. Those who planted the vine and those who have appreciated it over the years have not been sitting by waiting for it to grow. Instead in their own time they have loved and served the Lord. Waiting for the Lord, is waiting yes but it’s more like living! God bless each one of you in your waiting and your living for the Lord.

Pastor Susan

December Worship Series

Toda la Tierra Espera: All the Earth is Waiting

Advent is the beginning of a new year of waiting. It is an active and watchful waiting. It taps into the world's longing for redemption, salvation, and transformation. The beautiful and singable hymn Toda la Tierra, 210 in the United Methodist Hymnal, is a reminder of what is at stake. “All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty” in the first verse allows us to look back to the story of the Incarnation and to look forward to the coming of the kingdom of heaven, when the will of God will be done on earth as in heaven. All of earth is waiting for this fulfillment. In worship, we can see the signs of the nearness of Emmanuel, God with us.



December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24	December 28
Signs and Stories	Signs and Truths	Signs and Faithfulness	Signs and Glory	Signs and Power
Isaiah 11:1-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	Psalms 146:5-10	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Psalms 96	Psalms 148
Romans 15:4-13	James 5:7-10	Romans 1:1-7	Titus 2:11-14	Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 3:1-12	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 1:18-25	Luke 2:1-20	Matthew 2:13-23

Help me wait and be ready...

to encounter Jesus wherever I go.



DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 am Sunday School
 9:45 am Coffee and Conversation
 10:15 am Sunday Worship and Facebook live, later on Web-Cal Channel 575

Gutshall Family
 Rice Family

December 7 & 14
 December 21 & 28

December 7

Communion: Nate & Brenda Brandes
 Worship Leader: Chelsey Worrel
 Advent Readers: Nuss Family
 Music: Colleen Palmer & Jeff Patterson
 Tech: Owen Nuss & Glenn Rohden
 Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
 Bulletins/Online: Ardie Shirbroun

December 14

Worship Leader: John Lizer
 Advent Readers: John Lizer
 Music: Nancy Vogt & Jeff Patterson
 Tech: Lincoln & August Akins
 Tech 2: Bergan & Carrie Dalley
 Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
 Bulletins/Online: Poinsettias

December 21

Worship Leader: Anna Cottington
 Advent Readers: Akins Family
 Music: Jeff Patterson
 Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley
 Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
 Bulletins/Online: Poinsettias



December 24

Worship Leader: Darin Wooters
 Advent Readers: Adam Family
 Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley
 Music: Nancy Vogt

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM

December 28

Worship Leader: Bergan Dalley
 Music: Jeff Patterson
 Tech: Keith & Dena Sytsma
 Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
 Bulletins/Online: Crystal Wilks



Automatic Payments and E-payments are a great way to give on your schedule. You can set frequency and date of all gifts to fit your budget.

November Offerings

\$12,842.00

Thank you!

Outgoing Automatic
 Bill Withdrawals
 Per Month
 Approximately \$9000

In recent months, we saw increased giving of in-kind gifts to the food pantry, which are greatly appreciated. The Community Food Pantry served 6 new families in November.

Thank you for your Generosity!

We are God's church!

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Happy Birthday! Nina Dalley 9am No Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:15am Fellowship Luncheon/Decorate the Church	1 Happy Birthday! Ella Farnham Pastor's Sabbath	2 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study	3 Happy Birthday! Kelly Stewart 9am Office Open	4 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	5 Happy Birthday! Ryan Adam Pastor's Prep Day	6 Happy Birthday! Roger Brandes 9am UWF Christmas Bazaar
7 Happy Birthday! Dave Johnson Jezika Myers 9am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study	10 9am Office Open 6:30pm Council Mgt.	11 Happy Birthday! Jane Shepherd Owen Nuss 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	12 Happy Birthday! Sam Tvrdik Pastor's Prep Day	13 Happy Birthday! Doug Ziemer
14 Happy Birthday! Abigail Adam Dillon Sytsma John Thielmann 9am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship/Children's Christmas Program 11:15am Cast Party Luncheon	15 Happy Birthday! Heather Slawson Lindsey Osorio Pastor's Sabbath	16 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study	17 9am Office Open	18 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	19 Happy Birthday! Jeremy Viles Pastor's Prep Day	20 Happy Birthday! Penny Blunk
21 No Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship/Choir 2pm Christmas Caroling	22 Happy Birthday! Dave Stokesbary Pastor's Sabbath	23 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study	24 Happy Birthday! Jackson Barker Noah Slawson 9am Office Open 5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Closed For Christmas	26 Happy Birthday! Cora Johnson Lesley Worrel Marj Johnson Tim Brandes Pastor's Prep Day	27 Happy Birthday! Samuel Sytsma
28 No Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	29 Happy Birthday! Rachael Eller Pastor's Sabbath	30 Happy Birthday! Zoe Schneider 9am Office Open 1:30pm Bible Study	31 9am Office Open	1 Closed for New Year's	2 Pastor's Prep Day	3

WORSHIP LIVE ON FACEBOOK AND ON LATER CHANNEL 575 AT 11:00 AM

Help me wait and be ready...

to encounter Jesus wherever I go.

Mitten Tree

Please donate new mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats to the mitten tree in the Narthex. These mittens are donated at the end of the season to the local schools for students in need. Thank you



THANK YOU



We had a great crowd for Trunk or Treat. A huge Thank you to those of you that donated, brought a trunk, or helped with hot chocolate.

Christmas Caroling

Join us December 21 at 2:00 pm for Christmas Caroling! We will go caroling to our senior congregation members!



Employee Christmas Fund

Let us Thank our Church employees. Donate to the employee Christmas fund for Christmas 2025. Put in the memo line of your check "Employee Christmas Fund". Thank you!!



Poinsettias

November 30-December 24

We invite everyone to bring a Poinsettia to church this holiday season. Please put your name and who the poinsettia is in memory of on the clipboard in the Narthex.

You can pick up your poinsettia from the church following the services on December 24.

SEV Greenhouse has Poinsettias for sale now through December 3-4. Cost varies from \$12.00 to \$40.00 depending on size. Please bring your own poinsettia.



In Case of Bad Weather please watch Channel 5, Channel 8 or Facebook for updates.





United
Women
in Faith

2025: Carrying Our Faith Forward

December 6 9:00 -11:00

Program :Christmas Bazaar
Server: All Members

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)



JOIN US FOR
GOWRIE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S
**CHRISTMAS
COFFEE & BAZAAR**

DECEMBER 6;
FROM 9AM TO 11AM

Gowrie United Methodist Church

Coffee & Baked Items
Homemade Rye Bread
Candy Shop
Cookie Walk
Craft Items
Gift Ideas
Stocking Stuffers

Everyone is
Welcome!

Books of the
Good Book



Our Sunday School has been hard at work with the first part of their school year. This year they are talking about the 66 books within the Bible.



Gowrie United Methodist Church
← Join us here

**CHRISTMAS
ROAD
TRIP**
A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHAM

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14, 2025
during worship at 10:15 am



CAST PARTY!

JOIN US SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 14 AFTER
WORSHIP TO
CELEBRATE OUR
CHILDREN! SIMPLE
MEAL PROVIDED BY
PAUL & RITA KAIL.

Council Meeting Minutes**November 5, 2025 6:30 PM**

Pastor Susan opened the meeting with devotions.

In attendance were Ryan Cottingham, Chelsey Worrel, Rita Kail, Jeremy Viles, Kendale Vosberg, Judi Tjepkes.

The meeting was called to order.

the October minutes were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

- *Congregational meeting was discussed*
- *October Offerings-\$8676. Praise God for our Congregations faithfulness.*

New Business

- *Charge Conference Reports. Copies are available in the office*
- *UMC Insurance will be provided under the Annual Conference group insurance program called Sovereign Insurance Group. There will be a small increase in cost.*
- *Ryan Cottingham gave the treasurer's report. Jeremy made motion to accept the report and Chelsey seconded. Approved.*
- *The 2026 Budget was discussed. A financial meeting was set for November 19, 6:30 pm.*
- *Discussion about leadership positions was tabled until December/January.*
- *Discussion about a UMC credit card for Malware, Wirecast...was discussed.*

Work Area Reports

- *Education: Chelsey reported that the Children's Christmas Program will be December 14 during regular church service..*
- *UWF: Rita informed us that she will be working with the children during Sunday School time helping do a Christmas craft.*
- *Also the UWF Annual Christmas Bazaar will be on December 6, 8-11 am.*

Adjournment**Prayer**

The next council meeting will be on December 10, 6:30 pm.

Written By Judi Tjepkes



Thank You

Thank you the family of Delbert Isom, who donated a new Christ candle to the church. May it bring light to the Season.



Gowrie United Methodist Church
1306 Market Street, PO Box 479
Gowrie, IA 50543

Office Schedule

Tuesday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 am
Coffee and Conversation 9:45 am
Worship 10:15 am
Facebook Live
Later on Channel 575 at 11:00 am

**JOIN US
FOR ADVENT
AND
CHRISTMAS!**

***November 30-December 21 During Worship**

Advent Series: All the Earth is Waiting

***December 6 9:00-11:00**

UWF Christmas Bazaar in Fellowship Hall

***December 14 During Worship 10:15**

Children's Christmas Program

After Worship 11:15

Fellowship Cast Party Meal hosted by Rita & Paul Kail

***December 21 2:00**

Christmas Caroling meet in the Narthex

***December 24 5:00 PM**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service