



# The Tower

**First United Methodist Church**

**Tenth & Millington, P.O. Box 270, Winfield, KS 67156**

**(620) 221-2700 – [office@winfieldfumc.org](mailto:office@winfieldfumc.org) – [www.winfieldfumc.org](http://www.winfieldfumc.org)**

*“We are not like Jesus yet, so we will continue to grow in love for God for the sake of others.”*

## WHAT IS ADVENT?

**Ministers by baptism:**  
Every Christian

**Lead Pastor:**  
Rev. David Brian Smith

**Children & Family Ministries:**  
Pastor Rachelle Epperson

**Associate in Youth  
Ministry, Education  
and Technology:**  
Bill Podschun

**Minister of Evangelism:**  
James Musler

**Visitation Pastor:**  
Pastor Beth Wilke

**Office Administrator:**  
Nancy Finley

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Amber Benavides

**Director of Maintenance  
& Property:**  
Randy Vanderpool

**Music Director:**  
Julie Woodring

**Organist:**  
Chance Alquest

**Sunday Worship Times:**  
8:30 am – Sanctuary  
9:40 am – Sunday School  
classes for all adult ages  
10:45 am – Sanctuary, with  
FaceBook Live streaming

**(Nursery available for 8:30 &  
10:45 worship services for  
infants through four-year-olds)**

The season of Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” which means “coming” or “visit.” Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the Christian year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look ahead and anticipate the second coming of Christ.

Advent is traditionally a time to celebrate the gift of “Jesus” by offering gifts to others in our lives...especially the poor, the troubled, and those who are hurting. Look for opportunities for giving that will be presented by our church and community.

With all the holiday and commercial influences, it’s easy to get the impression that everyone is happy and waiting for their diamonds from Kay Jewelers or their Lexus automobile from the car dealership. But the season of Advent is a very difficult time for those who are working through grief and depression from present or past losses. I’ve heard people say, “I can’t wait until this season is over. It’s killing me.” The Good News, however, is that none of us have to do life alone. God is here! God is with us! Jesus is the Light and Life of the world.

The first Sunday of Advent this year is Sunday, November 27. Our worship theme during Advent will be based on a devotional book by Casey Page Culbreth entitled, GOD IS HERE. Isn’t this an insane time of the year! We will need to be very intentional about the Advent journey or we will arrive at Christmas depleted and battered by all the alternate definitions of Christmas that culture offers us. Remember, this is the perfect time to appreciate what God is offering us in Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem...born in a manger...Savior of the world!

**Blessings and Grace for the Advent journey!**

**November 16, 2022**

*Pastor Dave*



**Happy Birthday to each of these special people:**

- 12/1 Jameson Donals, Greg McPherson, Lenora Nation, Bruce Russell
- 12/2 Jax Schmidt
- 12/3 Rydon Carrasco, Kelsey Henson, Maddox Madrigal
- 12/5 Janeanne Fry, Karen Johnson, Sarah Stone, Harper Whetstone
- 12/6 Aiden Busch-Riddle, Shanell Isom, Steve Wilke
- 12/7 Joseph Abdi, James Doyle, Bill June, Merlyn Logsdon
- 12/8 Pat White
- 12/9 April Madrigal, Sadie Revell, Madeline Stanton
- 12/10 Breccan Blair, Beth Lindenman, Chris Tyler
- 12/11 Jacob Pugmire, Mari Wallrabenstein
- 12/12 Dan Williams
- 12/13 Denver Arneson, Patrick Trollman
- 12/16 Robert Lattimore, Nancy McGregor
- 12/17 Sam Bertholf, Dylan Durbin, Elizabeth Vaughan
- 12/18 Bailey Heronemus, Molly McCoy, Audrina Schmidt
- 12/19 Mary Ann Beers, Wanda Hada, Reese Isom
- 12/20 Betty Martin, Justin McPherson, Kate Stanton
- 12/22 Rosemary Almassy, Lisa Buffum, Lynn Gerber, Camdon Trecek
- 12/23 Becky Brock, Christopher Norton
- 12/24 Phyllis Bigler
- 12/25 Joy Branscum, Luna Marler, Carla Tuttle, Larry White
- 12/26 Jeff Bradbury, Kirk Branscum
- 12/27 Nikki Thiel
- 12/29 Sam Camp, Autumn Mugler, Sherry Pugmire, Emma Wilke, Maddie Wilke
- 12/30 Brylee Satterlee, Stan Sawyer
- 12/31 Amber Benavides, Teresa Bradbury

**PLEDGE CARD REMINDER**

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card for 2023, it's not too late. You can pick one up at the Welcome Center and put it in the offering basket, or give Nancy a call or email her at [nancy@winfieldfumc.org](mailto:nancy@winfieldfumc.org). This helps us know how to plan for our expenses for the year. Thank you!

*Prayer List*

**Winfield First Family**

Colleen Andreas	Betty Gray	Ramon James Tapia
Wanda Andreas	Eric Hunt	Willie Tuttle
Bill Black	Doris Reynolds	Anthony Whetstone
Carolyn Eastman	Dollie Rosecrans	Sonja Yates

**Extended Family and Friends**

Valerie Aladieff	Terry Golden	Elizabeth Pool
Sarah Ballerd	Darlene Green	Nevaeh Russell
Irene Bauler	Janine Hagebert	Marsha Spangler
Phillip Bauler	Teresa Higdon	Brantley Taylor
Noble Bradbury	Nate Hobson	Aaron Toney
Dr. Bryan Dennett	Benny Hockersmith	Damisha Truitt
Jerry Drennan	Leann Little	Jeremy Walker
Addi Foster	Roger Moon	Joe West
Jeff Glenn	Dorothy Morain	

Southwestern College and Employees

**Grief & Loss**

Cheryl Rude in the death of her father  
The family and friends of Donna McCallum

**World Concerns**

Military and first responders and their families; teachers, families and students, people affected by recent hurricanes, and those affected by violence in Ukraine.

If you have given us a name to put on the Prayer List, please give us frequent updates so we can keep current. Thank you for all your prayers on behalf of those in our prayer concerns.

**A Look at Our Loyalty**

	Offering
<b>October 16</b>	\$8,225.00
<b>October 23</b>	\$5,861.00
<b>October 30</b>	\$10,707.00
<b>November 6</b>	\$5,827.00
<b>November 13</b>	\$3,690.00
Needed Weekly	\$12,186.00
Needed as of 10/31	\$528,076.00
Received as of 10/31	\$494,205.00

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generous support of this year's CROP Walk. Our grand total for 2022 is \$4810.45. This is the first time since 2018 we've raised over \$4000. The Food Pantry and Joseph's Storehouse will receive almost \$1200, which is 25% of the total returned for use locally. This will mean a great deal to both agencies as their usage has been up this year. Once again, a heartfelt thanks for your support and generosity. —Bob Baer



Thank you in to Alex and Laura Gottlob and JoAnn Parsons for donating pumpkins and gourds to decorate the altar!

**Come Home for Christmas: GOD IS HERE!**



**November 20 – Decorate Church (after 10:45 worship)**

**November 27 – First Sunday of Advent (one service at 10:00 am)**

**November 29 – City Band Christmas Concert, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall**

**December 4 – “Worship and Justice Go Together” Isaiah 1:11-12, 15-18**

**December 8 – Salvation Army Bell Ringing Day for FUMC, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm**

**December 11 – “The God of the Impossible” Luke 1:5-25**  
**[Gentiva Hospice “Grief and the Holidays” 2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall]**  
**[Marquee Christmas Readings, 4:30 in the Sanctuary]**

**December 18 – “The Visitation” Luke 1:39-45**  
**[Concert and Soup at The Barns, 4:00 pm]**

**December 24 – “God Is Here” Luke 2:8-20**  
**[Services at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm]**

**December 25 – “The Great Gift” Revelation 21:1-5**  
**[One service at 10:00 am]**



We invite you to give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. The names of donors will be listed in the worship guide on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, and in the December Tower. You may give any amount, but a suggested donation is \$15. The gifts will be used to purchase some poinsettias and some new decorations for the Sanctuary, and the rest will go to the Helping Hands fund, which helps people in need in our community with essentials such as rent, utilities, medicine, etc. – an especially important gift at the holiday season. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Enclosed is my \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_



REGISTER TO

RING™

**Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive!  
Bell Ringers needed at Walmart and Dillons!**

Nov. 27 - Dec. 24

To sign up or for more info contact:  
Mark Olney, local kettle drive coordinator  
222-5988  
markaolney@gmail.com



*Through your generous donation the Salvation Army is able to help those less fortunate (year-round) and the majority of your money stays local.*

**WINFIELD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BELL RINGING DAY IS THURSDAY, 12/8/22  
ONE-HOUR SHIFTS FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM  
3 LOCATIONS: 2 @ WALMART, 1 @ DILLONS**

You may sign up at the church, or by calling or emailing the church office. Shifts are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Thank you for considering this opportunity to have fun and make a difference for those in need in your community.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT & SOUP SUPPER AT THE BARNS**

We invite you to join us at The Barns at Timber Creek on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm**. We will celebrate together with a "Come Home for Christmas" concert and soup supper. This event will benefit our youth going to the national retreat next supper.



**ANGEL TREE**

GIVE TO SOMEONE IN NEED



**Cowley County Foster Care Angel Tree**

This is the sixth year that our church is helping provide Christmas to local children in foster care. An Angel Tree will be located in the vestibule outside of the sanctuary with ornament shaped name tags. Each tag contains the name of a child in foster care in Cowley County, their age, gender, clothing size, and 3 wish list items. If you are able to provide gifts for a child in foster care, please take a tag from the tree and return the tag with your unwrapped gifts in the bag provided to the church office no later than **December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**. Thank you for your generosity!

## God is Here – Advent Study

This Advent season, we will celebrate our God who is already in the midst of our everyday lives with the Advent study *God is Here*. We invite all FUMC members and friends to join a 4-week Advent study group in one of the following options:

- By joining a small group meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30 beginning December 6 at the church
- By joining a small group meeting during the daytime (day and time and local to be determined)
- In a private Facebook group where you can participate as you are able
- By reading the book on your own, with a Sunday School class, as a small group, or with friends.

Complete a commitment card to drop off or sign up on a sheet in the Welcome Center. Books are \$11 (inquire on book scholarship in church office if this is a hardship.) We need to order books, so please sign up for one as soon as possible.

Come worship with us each Sunday as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, together.

*Join our Facebook group with this QR code*



## College Care Packages

Thanks to everyone who took college care packages on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Packages are due back on **November 27<sup>th</sup>** or before if you would like for the church to mail them. Please put a personal note in the packages so that students know who prepared their package from the church. You can include non-perishable items like granola bars, hot cocoa mix, candy, microwave popcorn, gift cards etc.





**Kid's Club** is an after-school program that meets at the church from **3:45 - 5:15 pm on Wednesdays**, following the school calendar. Students, Kindergarten - 5th grades, enjoy snacks, a weekly Bible story told in "3D," games, and either a craft or cooking activity that correlates with each week's Bible story. This Fall we are hearing the Old Testament stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus. If you have a K - 5th grade child, grandchild, or neighbor who would enjoy a weekly program such as Kid's Club, call or stop by the church office for more info! Registration is free and students are invited to bring a friend!

**Sunday School** for elementary grades, K - 4th, meet each **Sunday morning at 9:40 am** in Room 206 with Brenda Hicks. This class is growing and a second class for early elementary may be added and led by Camille Richert in Room 205. Kids are welcome to grab a donut in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday before Sunday School begins!



### **EVENTS**

Kids and Families are invited to join us for **Christmas Cookie decorating Sunday, December 18th** when we gather at **The Barns** for our annual Concert and Soup Youth fundraiser. Come early at **3:30 pm for an icing and idea tutorial** with lots of sprinkles and fun for all ages and skill levels! Stay for the concert at 4:00 pm and the soup supper immediately following.



### **MS/HS Youth**

We will have a parent/youth meeting on **Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:40** in Fellowship Hall. Bill would like to receive a \$100 deposit for youth going to the national event in Daytona Beach next summer. It is time to start looking for airline tickets.

Get your "How to Start a Fire" t-shirt at the church. It is time to get fired up about our faith and know that the only way to start a fire is with Jesus in our lives.

Middle School youth group meets at the Church on **Wednesday** nights from 6:00-7:30 pm. We will have supper, games, and a study of some of our Wild Bible Characters. Our final meeting this semester is December 14<sup>th</sup>.

High School youth group meets at the Church on **Wednesday** nights at 7:15 pm. We will focus on reading the New Testament throughout the school year. Our final meeting this semester is December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday School classes for youth this fall meet on **Sunday** mornings at 9:40 am. Our 8-12<sup>th</sup> graders meet in the South Youth Room with Bill leading. All 5-7<sup>th</sup> graders meet in Fellowship Hall for pre-confirmation with Cheryl Rude and Karen Podschun.

High School youth meets at the Podschun's on **Sunday** nights for Supper Club at 6:00 pm. This is an opportunity for group cooking and growth. Join us if you are hungry for food and the Word. We will not meet November 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 PO BOX 270  
 WINFIELD KS 67156  
 Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage PAID  
 Winfield KS  
 Permit No. 185

**HANGING OF THE GREENS – NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**



Please join us Sunday, November 20<sup>TH</sup> as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Following the second morning service, around 12:00 noon, we will hang garland and wreaths, set up our beautiful Christmas tree, and deck the halls for about an hour. All are invited to help!

**SOROPTOMIST THANKSGIVING DINNER**

The Soroptimists International of Winfield are graciously serving Thanksgiving Dinner to the Winfield area on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. Social time begins at 11:30 am. Dinner will be served at First United Methodist Church Methodist Church or to-go style.



Space is limited and reservations are required by Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. For reservations call 620-222-8221 or 620-262-1859.

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

Circle of Friends hosted a Paint Party to raise money for Kairos Prison Ministry. It was a lot of fun and a success raising a donation of \$700 for our mission. It is planned to host another in the Spring, 2023. Thank you to all who donated.

