

## WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

To be honest, I'm not a fan of the Christmas decorating process. Last year, I made a game-changing move by investing in a cover for our tree. This week, when we brought it out, the transformation was astonishing—tree up, lights on, decorations in place, all within 30 minutes! What a breeze compared to the usual dismantling and stringing lights. As the house began to sparkle, I realized the end result was worth it.

Now, bear with me for an analogy that might not be immediately apparent. Christmas decorating mirrors the journey of prayer or Bible study. Initially, it's a series of small decisions—coffee, a lap cover, maybe a snack. Yet, once you're settled, you're grateful for the effort. Similarly, approaching God in prayer or study can feel like a process—finding the right book, grabbing your Bible, perhaps detouring for a snack. Yet, the reward of connecting with the Christ is always worth it.

Every aspect of life demands intentionality for the desired results, and deepening our faith is no exception. It requires time, preparation, and purpose. Imagine how your relationship with Christ would flourish if you began each day ready to spend time with God, rather than working your way around to it. In this Advent season, there's no better time to commit to daily moments of reading the Bible and prayer.

Just as the tree lights bring joy, time with Christ brings hope, love, joy, peace, and more into our lives. Embrace the intentional process, and may this season be filled with the warmth of both twinkling lights and the Divine presence.

Wishing you a purposeful and joy-filled Advent season!

Pastor Candace



## POINSETTIAS 2023



You can order a **poinsettia** for \$10 per plant (in memory or honor of a loved one) to be displayed at

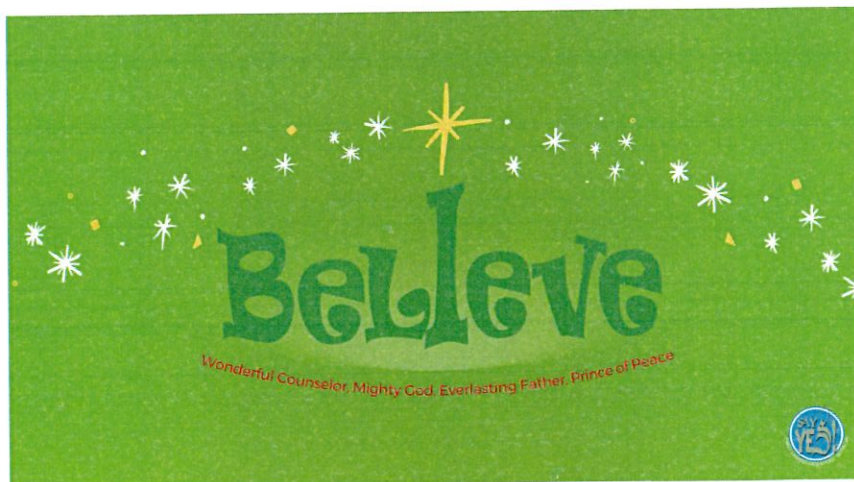
our two locations during the Christmas season. Call the church office (660-827-2993) to give memorial information. Deadline is Tuesday, December 12th for the acknowledgement list which will be available December 16/17.



### Sermon Series:

**Believe:** Do you still believe in Christmas? Do you believe you can find hope, joy, love, and peace? Let's find these together!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



## Leading People to an Active Faith in Jesus Christ



## HEARTBEATS

♥ All Youth are invited to the **MPACT Youth Karaoke Christmas Party** on Friday, December 1st from 6 to 8 p.m. in the MPACT Room at the Celebration Center. Sign up at: [Firstsayyes.com/signup](http://Firstsayyes.com/signup)

♥ If you can **make homemade cookies for our Christmas Eve services**, please call the church office (660-827-2993) and leave a message. Thank you!

♥ **MPACT Student Ministry (Grades 6-12)** meets weekly on Sundays in the MPACT room at the Celebration Center. Junior High meets from 5-6:30 and High School meets from 6-7:30. All students meet at 6:00 for a shared meal. We hope to see you there and join the fun!

♥ **Afternoon Cards** meet the First Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the First Family Room of the Celebration Center. Our next gathering will be Wednesday, December 6th. All are welcome. Water and coffee will be provided. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like. See you on Wednesdays!

♥ We need to **replace lights in the Celebration Room** (sanctuary). When giving in any amount, if you would like to give in honor, memory, or celebration of someone, contact the church office or mark your offering envelope and we will display a sign for this occasion on the church outdoor LED signs at both locations.

The deadline for submitted Newsletter articles is 12 noon on the Friday before the newsletter mailing.

### Next Newsletter:

<u>Date</u>	<u>12 noon Deadline</u>
Dec. 13	Fri. Dec. 8

## MARCH TO THE MANGER

If you have a new baby or grandbaby born this year, it's time to send our office a picture with names of baby, parents (grandparents) and birth date for the "March to the Manger," December 16/17 media presentations.

Deadline is Friday, Dec. 8th.

We will scan the photo and then return it, or you can send it electronically to [email@firstsayyes.com](mailto:email@firstsayyes.com).



## CHRISTMAS EVE SONG

ALL KIDS WELCOME

Practices will be  
December 3 and 10  
at 4pm at the  
Celebration Center

**Calling All Kids:** We have a **special song to learn for Christmas Eve.** We will **record the song** and play it on Christmas Eve. If questions, please reach out to Morgan at [morgan@firstsayyes.com](mailto:morgan@firstsayyes.com).

THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE HARD FOR THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE HURTING. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

*Blue Christmas*  
Dec 21 @ 6pm | Thompson Site

JOIN US FOR A gentle, contemplative SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO grieve OR ARE experiencing loss DURING A SEASON OF CELEBRATIONS.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

This year's Christmas Offering has been designated to support *People in Need*. For your convenience, a Christmas Offering Envelope is available at the Welcome Center or simply mark your offering, "Christmas."

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST CHURCH

**10AM  
& 11PM**

@THOMPSON SITE  
916 THOMPSON BLVD

**5PM & 7PM  
& 9PM**

@CELEBRATION CENTER  
1701 W 32ND ST







## WHITTIER CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We have decorated a Christmas tree at each First Church location with paper ornaments from the students at Whittier High School. Each ornament has a number on one side and a gift request from the students on the other side. Please consider taking a numbered ornament to purchase a gift for a Whittier Student. If you would leave your name, phone number and what number you chose on the register next to the tree so we can contact you if needed. Gifts should be returned to the church on or before Dec 10th. Thank you for your loving support of Whittier High School and Tigereyes!

## GET IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Continue the fun of photo ops, music and treats at participating United Methodist Church locations from 6 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 5 LOVE: Wesley UMC, 1322 W. Broadway Blvd.

Dec. 12 HOPE: Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St.

Dec. 19 PEACE: 400 N. Main St., LaMonte

**Grinch Family Movie Night**

Join us for a night of fun!

There will be food, hot chocolate,  
and cookie decorating

December 8 from 6-8pm in  
the Fellowship Hall

## WE CELEBRATE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN

*If your birthday is not listed, please let us know so it can be added!*

### Birthdays (Dec. 3—16)

Opal Johnson, Nick Bailey, Carley Thayer, Liz Rooks, Liza Woolery, Cheryl Hibbard, Joshua Hibbard, Annie Howe, Taylor Maze, Mary Alice Hinshaw, Linda Mayes, Mike Davidson, Shelly Graf, Mindy Ruckman, Madilynn Clavier, Lisa Flores, James Morrow, Travis VanDorn, Rance Walters, Jason Thompson, Ashley Peck, Russ Zimmerman, Billie Long, Lauryn Caldwell, Liza Jo Thompson, Christopher Castiglia, Toby Pierce, Samantha Melby, Dean Stephens, Megan Yonker, Kendra Parker, Kelly Schilb, Cassidy Ellsworth, Amy Jackson, Christina Doogs, Keith Riesberg, Karla Melton, Ashley Shane, Glenita Montgomery, Mona Wells, Chris McMannama, Peter Stephens, Jr., Hannah Funk, Brandon Ellsworth, Tyler Shepard, Emma Shelledy, Lauren Grupe, Reid Harrison, Amy Dunkin, James Finley, Susan Bybee, Mike Green, Aiden Palmer, Barry Rudd, Tina Walters, Kevin Funk, Lexi Estrada, Lulu Durant, Irene Renauld, Kristen Alexander, Kendra Arnett, Beverly Rice, Mark Schon-delmaier, Taylor Allen, Steve McKelvey, Staci Cooper, Jonathan Eaton, Ezekial Garrison, Sarah Martin, Tyler Gerken, Joe Siercks, Evan O'Shea, Garry Brashear, Bradyn Baker, Zander Bullock, Hunter Schnakenburg, Piper Gerlach, Emma Dieckmann, Reed McColleston, Jack Lewis, Becky Ott, Scott Boone, Ruth Ann Culp, Lisa Irwin, Stephanie Eaton

## FIRST STEPS

### Attendance

Nov. 18/19, 2023

Sunday School

N/A

Worship

502

Nov. 25/26, 2023

Sunday School

N/A

Worship

505

We report  
Finances monthly.

**When making  
your gift giving  
list this Christmas,  
please remember  
your church.  
Thank you  
for all the ways  
you give!**

## Promiseland Christmas

During Sunday School  
on December 17, the kids  
are welcome to bring a  
snack to share!



**Sunday School 9:45**

## MPACT Christmas

During MPACT on  
December 17, the  
students are welcome to  
bring snacks to share!

**Junior High 5-6:30  
High School 6-7:30**



First United Methodist Church  
Office: 1701 West 32nd Street  
Sedalia, MO 65301

Non-Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SEDALIA, MO 65301  
Permit #208

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# First United Methodist of Sedalia



Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St Phone // 660.827.2993  
Thompson Site, 916 Thompson Blvd Phone // 660.851.2815



Online Facebook Live & posted  
Radio 1490 KDRO 10:05 am  
Celebration Center  
Saturdays 5:30 pm Sundays 8:30, 9:45 am  
Thompson Sundays 11 am

[www.firstsayyes.com](http://www.firstsayyes.com)  
Email us at [email@firstsayyes.com](mailto:email@firstsayyes.com)



 First United Methodist Church of Sedalia  
 @firstsayyessedalia

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*join us for Live Nativity*

**Saturday, December 2nd  
3-5pm @ Fourth and Osage**

*a free event for all ages!*

