



THE GRAPES

January Grapevine



"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." - Romans 12: 2 NIV

Happy New Year 2024!

Following Jesus, Thriving in Community and Healing the world

Be grateful to the Lord for a fresh start in 2024. Let us move on united with new hopes, new resolution, and new spirit in the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless His name! Share the news of his saving work every single day! (Psalm 96:1 & 2) That is the sound of joy, of what God has done for his people (us); who put their trust and hope in the Lord; people who have been entrusted by the Spirit of the Lord throughout the past year. There is an old saying, *"In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today. Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future."* I hope we all realize that everyday is a fresh start for all of us. That every sunrise is a new chapter in our lives waiting to be written.

We have passed through Advent. We prepared and anticipated the arrival of the Immanuel - God is with us. We believe that we all experienced the warmth of the season and the importance of being reminded of what and how we did it. We passed the Christmas season too. Now we are in the season of Epiphany. Time flies. Although Christian seasons differ by names and Scriptural readings, the joy of being physically alive in a New Year with all of our loved ones surrounding us is much more to celebrate than words alone. Our different traditional cultures may have dictated the individual celebration of the New Year but deep in our hearts, the basic exaltation is to God and his all powerful and unconditional love is what matters. Paul encouraged us that trusting with faith in God can transform us in renewing our minds. Some people produce new goals and new resolutions for the New Year, however, I find it very comforting in discerning Paul's words of *"renewing of the minds."* It is like a standard teaching in our faith based denomination at all times to proclaim the love of God and share it with others for the healing of the world.

Be grateful to the Lord for a fresh start in 2024. Let us unite and move on with new hopes, new resolution, new spirit in the Lord.

Shalom

Iunisi Tovo

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8am - 1:30pm
Thurs 8am-11:30am

Readings and Titles for January 2024

January 7, 2024

Readings: Matthew 2:1-12; Mark 1:4-11

Message: God delights in the person and ministry of Jesus

We hear God's word in many ways. As Jesus rises from the waters of the river Jordan, he hears God speak words of blessing. At the start of a new calendar year, we begin anew. As we celebrate the baptism of the Lord, we celebrate new beginnings, for God is always at work, creating and calling forth blessings. 024

January 14, 2024

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 John 1: 43-51

Message: Do we know our calling?

God calls us when we are young, when we are middle aged, even when the sun is setting in our lives. Because of this, much is expected of us. If we pay attention and open our eyes, we will truly see God's wondrous works in our lives. Nathaniel is convinced to follow Jesus because Jesus saw him sitting under a fig tree. Whether we are lying down or merely growing in our mother's wombs, God searches us and knows us, comes to us and ministers to us, and is with us and within us.

January 21, 2024

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Mark 1:14-20

Message: Just trust in God!

This Epiphany season starts to move slowly from the darkness of waiting to the expansive light of awareness. We read about God's calling and the beginning of our discipleship journey. Although human distractions and willfulness will occur, however, the need to be grounded in God will prevail.

Readings and Titles for January 2024 (cont.)

January 28, 2024

Robin Shanda

Readings: Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Title: When you're 100% right, you're 100% wrong!

Psalm is praising God for his good work. Praise God for establishing the covenant and keeping it with the community. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. The epistle is talking of the issue of food sacrificed to idols concerns the potential conflict between the freedom that accompanies knowledge and the obligation to love.

Prayer and Care Corner

Bob Knight, The Schultz Family, Tom Glover, Tina Guerra, Pastor Iunisi & Family, Robin Shanda, Beth Beazor, Nedra Beazor and Jett Trappe, Barbara St Louis, Anita Lyons and Family and Greg Aunger

December



Meena and Claire Utarid



UMW Christmas Lunch



"Advent Medley"



UMW Advent Soup



Advent





MISSIONS, OUTREACH, AND FELLOWSHIP

Submitted by Mike Mortensson

Beginning in January, we will have a new committee working on ‘**outreach**’ in our community. Some of the ideas that have been brought forward are: serving a lunch once a month for our neighbors and serving a breakfast once a week for students at Laguna High School (El Molino campus). We welcome any other new ideas to serve our community – put on your thinking cap and offer fellowship ideas and your volunteer service to the Mission and Outreach Team!

We’re also discussing starting up **Soul Café** again. For those who are not familiar with Soul Café; it is a soup supper prepared by a local non-profit, and music in the Sanctuary by local musicians. A collection is taken for the musicians; the supper (soup, salad, and bread) is \$10 of which our church gets 10 percent and the non-profit gets 90 percent.

It is held on a Sunday evening from 5:00 – 6:30pm every other month. It does need quite a few volunteers for set up and take down and collecting and counting the money, etc. We had a very good turn out from the community when we were having Soul Café (pre pandemic).

The Just Off-Center Thrift Store opened on November 5, 2022. In the first year the Thrift Store raised over \$5000 for church programs. Now in our second year the Thrift Store has committed a minimum donation of \$250 per month as a “fundraiser”. We urge you to stop by when we’re open to see what good deals are available to you!

The Thrift Store is open from **10am-2pm** on the first Saturday of every month. We are open on a few other special days – watch the sign in the church parking lot. We need more volunteers to staff the store and handle sorting and displaying items. Contact Joan Mortensson or Vickie Holden to offer your services.

Hey MEN! It’s been a while since the **United Methodist Men** gathered on a Saturday morning for breakfast, meditation and work projects. But the need to offer opportunities for service and spiritual fellowship is an idea now being discussed. Contact Neil Yeager or Mike Mortensson to discuss how you could participate.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Many people now offer their time and service to the programs of FUMC but we need more volunteers to continue and expand God’s love to others. A few opportunities for you include being a welcoming host at services, lighting candles, helping in kitchen duties, setting up tables for gatherings, assisting the Thrift Store, and more. Contact the Church office to become a FUMC volunteer.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY, AND BEYOND

Submitted by Mike Mortensson

Thank you to all who contributed to our beautiful Advent and Christmas Eve Services. -- the Choir, the Bells, the Advent Candle Lighters, the ones who arrange the altar every week, (and the soup chefs, let's not forget them—we did enjoy those after-service lunches). The poinsettias were absolutely gorgeous – thank you Neil for getting those. They add so much to our Candlelight Service.

We hope you enjoyed the outside of the church during Advent. Our thanks to Triscia Shanda and Keith Garlock of the Garlock Tree Farm for the Christmas tree. Thanks also to Tiffany Shanda, Neil and Mike for the lighting and to the Johnson/Mortensson families for the manger scene.

If you were not able to be with us this year, we sincerely hope we will be seeing you soon.

Our Christmas services are over but in the words of Howard Thurman:

“The Work of Christmas Begins”

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among people,
 To make music in the heart

Please join us at FUMC as we strive to follow these words!



Trustee Treasures

Respectfully submitted by Neil Yeager

The FUMC Board of Trustees continues to focus on the betterment of our church campus.

Quarterly meetings for the Board of Trustees occur on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:00 pm in the Education Building corner Conference Room. Meetings will be held on January 16, April 16, July 16, and October 15. The January meeting will select the Chairperson for the coming year.

We are pleased to announce that a local choral group called the Acorn Musecology Project will be holding practices in Wiebe Hall on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. This is a non-profit group of about 20 singers.

Reminder: The WIFI in Wiebe Hall is available for anyone using our facility.

TPLINK-3B73 or TPLINK-3B73-5g
Password/PIN 32237320



Effective January 10th The Food Closet will move it's operations into the Hall and discontinue the drive thru. Individuals will now be able to choose the items they need and want and our volunteers will be out of the cold and rain!!

FYI: the parking lot will more than likely be full on Food Closet days, so if possible it would be best to avoid the campus until 1:30pm on Food Closet Days.



January 1st	Vickie Holden
January 6th	Joy Derry
January 22nd	Monique-Cheri



January 22nd
Joseph 7 Katherine Best Smith



UMW 12pm
Monday, January 8th
Brown Bag Lunch Meeting

Finance 12:15pm
Sunday, January 14th

Trustees 8pm
Tuesday, January 16th

Prime Timers 12pm
Wednesday, January 17th

Kallah 11:30am
Monday, January 22nd

Food Closet
11:30am-1pm
Wednesday,
January 10th & 24th

Church Council 12:25pm
Sunday, January 28th

Worship Leaders and Scripture Readers

January 7th	Vickie Holden	Neil Yeager
January 14th	Chris Pinney	Bobbie Fortunati
January 21st	Mike Mortensson	Knoel Owen
January 28th	Michael Stanford	Barbara St. Louis

	January 2024					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Choir 4:30pm	4 Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm	5	6 Strings 10am-12pm Ukes 12-1pm AA 7-9pm Hall
7 Communion Sunday 11am Worship AA 3:30-5pm Fireside	8 UMW Noon	9	10 Food Closet 11:30-1pm NO CHOIR	11 Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm	12	13 Strings 10am-12pm Ukes 12-1pm AA 7-9pm Hall
14 11am Worship 12:15 Finance AA 3:30-5pm Fireside	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Ofc Closed	16 Trustees 8pm	17 Choir 4:30pm	18 Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm	19	20 Strings 10am-12pm Ukes 12-1pm AA 7-9pm Hall
21 11am Worship AA 3:30-5pm Fireside	22 Kallah 11:30	23	24 Food Closet 11:30-1pm Choir 4:30pm	25 Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm Info for Feb. Grapevine Due	26	27 Strings 10am-12pm Ukes 12-1pm AA 7-9pm Hall
28 11am Worship 12:15 Church Council AA 3:30-5pm Fireside	29	30	31 Choir 4:30pm	Bells will return to practice on February 7th		