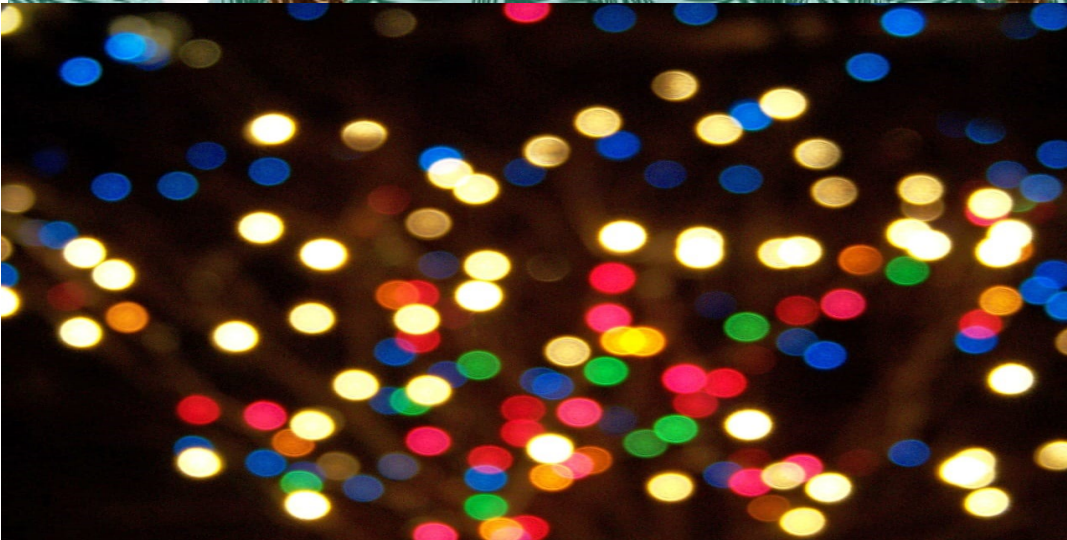
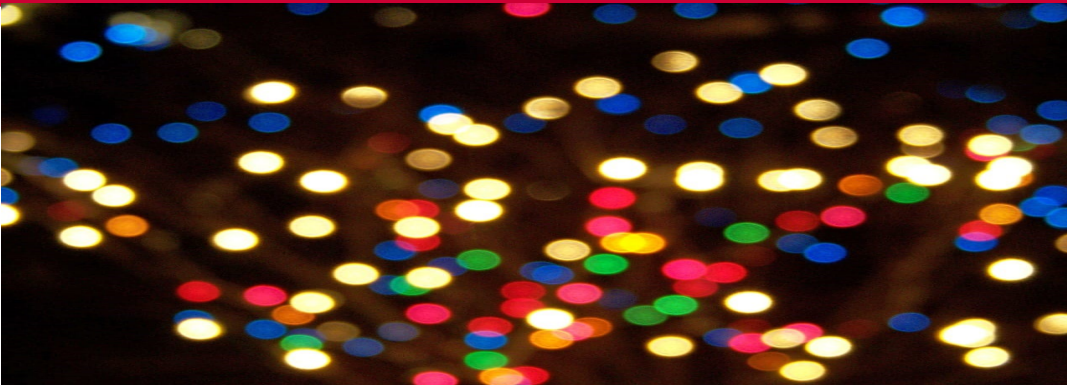


First United Methodist Church of New Lothrop Newsletter



Church Information

Pastor Russell Logston

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(Cell)

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(email)

Located at: 7495 Orchard St.
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umc7495@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and

Thursday 4pm—6pm

Wednesday 8am—2pm

Visit Us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/fumcnl



Worship with us at 8:45am
on Sunday. Communion
served 1st Sunday each
month.

Mission:

A Community Committed to
making Disciples of Jesus
Christ for the Transformation
of the World

Deadline for items/articles
for newsletter is the 21st of
each month.

If I had written the story of Jesus birth, I think I would have added more details than we find in the scriptures. It is not that the Gospels do a bad job, but sometimes I think they abbreviated parts of the story. Maybe this was a way to conserve time, resources, and energy in writing them out. Maybe the stories had such a rich oral tradition that they really were meant to be read and then told to an audience with all the obvious parts put back in. The Bible tends to serve the purpose of preaching well. Maybe that is what makes the Bible a book truly designed to be used for preaching. It was God's intention all along that the word should be shared from one person to another in a personal way. I do not think that limits the significance of those who have picked up a Bible in a lonely room and had their lives changed, but I always get the feeling that some parts of the story have not been fully detailed.

If I had written the story of Jesus birth I would have told more about how Joseph struggled with his decision to stay betrothed to Mary. I would have written about the grandeur of the angel that appeared to him in his dream. I would have included all the mean spirited gossiping souls of the village who said bad things about Mary, and all the kind and sympathetic people who offered Mary and her



family their support. I would have included what the local rabbi did in his efforts at counseling with Joseph and how he helped or failed to help. I think I would have told more of the story of a young girl who faced life with courage and conviction even when some probably branded her as an unfaithful person. I would have included more about Joseph's struggle to deal with his wife who was having a baby he knew he was not the father of. Did he ever have his doubts about life and his marriage? How did his faith inform his actions?

What compelled Mary to travel with Joseph to Bethlehem? Was he afraid to leave her alone? Did they know the prophecy? Did they have a choice? How moody did this young lady get traveling so far and being so near her delivery date. I find it hard to believe that she would have always been a "happy camper." I would have quoted what Mary said to Joseph when they finally got to the little town and discovered that there was no first rate accommodations available. (and I thought I

had problems on vacation one year when I couldn't find a campsite late in the evening) Was she worried, or scared.

I have always interpreted this story believing that Mary was not simply left out on the streets with doors being closed in her face. The statement that there was "no room in the inn" does not mean that no one was there who cared about her condition. It just means that she was given the most private place available for delivering her baby, and in the midst of the crowd, that place was a stable.

In the midst of all the turmoil, doubts, fears, and problems of life, I would make sure to tell the story of two people who loved each other enough to face the dilemmas of life together and found strength in one another. I would tell of how God revealed himself to them in every turn as they looked back on all that occurred. I would tell of how Mary held a new tiny baby in her arms that would wrap his finger around her little finger and of two parents who promised the child he was not alone; even when his birth was a sign to humanity that we are not alone. I would tell of all the things Mary pondered in her heart. How would you tell the story?

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Russell Logston

Food Pantry
Every Thursday
9am-12pm
All are welcome!



Soup and Pie
December 20
4:30pm-6pm



UMW
December 4th 9:30am

Church Council
11th
6pm

Holly Jolly Eve

There will be various events throughout the Village, including here at the church. The Women's group is asking for donations of baked goods to host a bake sale here at the church that evening. Proceeds will go to the village.

December 1st, 2023

Various stops throughout New Lothrop

Season of giving

DONATE BLOOD TODAY!

**Tuesday
DECEMBER**

5

2:00 PM – 6:30 PM

**Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.**

Please bring photo ID.

NEW LOTHROP COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE!

**First United Methodist Church of New Lothrop
7495 Orchard St., New Lothrop**

**To Sign Up:
Call 1-866-Mi-Blood
Visit www.Versiti.org/mi
Or scan the QR code**



**APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED,
WALK INS WELCOME!**

**Help us beat our goal of 15 donations and impact up
to 45 lives in Michigan hospitals!**



Shoeboxes have been packed and delivered to the local drop off location!!!!



Thank you for making the difference in the life of a child by packing a shoebox...or two!

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.
And you need the church.

-Michael Carl

The Story Behind the Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” sounds like Gregorian chant, and essentially, it is. It is a paraphrase of the “O” antiphons, each one starting with the exclamation “O,” that are chanted as part of the Liturgy of the Hours as Christmas approaches. The lyrics of the carol go back to the twelfth century or earlier, and the melody at least as far back as the fifteenth century. Interestingly, though the song is sung in many languages all over the world and the same ancient melody is



O Come, All Ye Faithful

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” is another ancient carol. Probably originally composed by Cistercian monks in the Middle Ages, we can thank an exiled English Catholic for our beloved English version. It was illegal to practice the Catholic Faith in England from 1588 to 1829. John Wade, having escaped to France, had a successful career as a musical copyist known for his beautiful calligraphy. In 1751, he penned “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” the first known version of the carol in English. Did he actually write it? We don’t know for sure, but he gets the credit, any-

Away in a Manger

An American tune finally hits the list with “Away in a Manger,” written around 1885, but the original promoters claimed it was written by Martin Luther, the German founder of Lutheranism, in the 1500s. Though popular among Pennsylvania Germans, it was unknown in Germany until years later. The song may have been connected with Martin Luther simply because the author of a collection of Christmas songs wanted to make it sound more impressive. Basically, it was a marketing gimmick.



Silent Night

“Silent Night” was penned in 1818 by a young Austrian priest who asked the church organist to write a melody to be played on the guitar. Why would an organist, who barely knew how to play guitar, use that instrument for Christmas Mass? It would seem the church organ was out of commission. Whether it was damaged by flooding or hungry church mice is unknown, but the result is a simple, touching song that has become one of the most

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

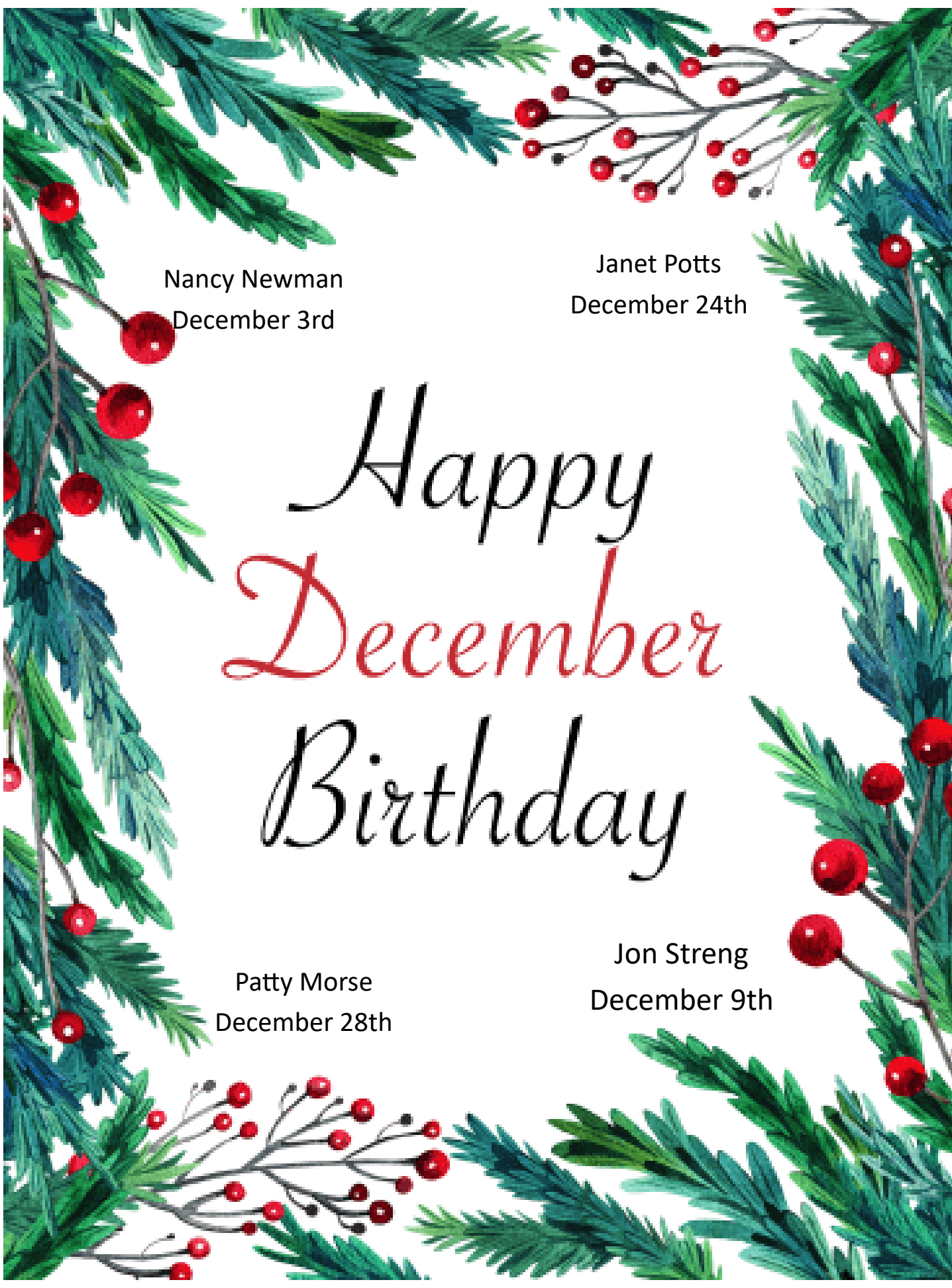
The cheery tune of “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” was not the author’s idea. Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, requested a slow, somber melody when he wrote the song in 1739, but apparently it wasn’t terribly popular that way. In 1840, a new collection of carols featured a melody adapted from a cantata by Felix Mendelssohn. The cantata was, interestingly, originally written to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press—a rather unlikely source for a Christmas carol.

O, Holy Night

The hauntingly beautiful “O, Holy Night” was an instant hit, but was banned by the French church soon thereafter. In 1847, a French parish priest asked a local poet to write a Christmas carol, even though the poet’s church practice was a bit shaky. The poet wrote the beautiful lyrics and asked a composer friend to create the music. The magnificent carol quickly spread throughout France, however, the local Church soon discovered that the author was a socialist and the composer Jewish, and banned the song for a time. But the people continued to sing it, and in 1871, on Christmas Eve during the Franco-Prussian War, a French soldier ran out of his trench unarmed and began to sing this carol. Silence fell across the battlefield, and when he was finished, a German soldier came out and sang a favorite German carol. A Christmas ceasefire followed.

Source:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/12/23/the-stories-behind-our-most-beloved-christmas-carols-%EF%BB%BF/>



Nancy Newman
December 3rd

Janet Potts
December 24th

*Happy
December
Birthday*

Patty Morse
December 28th

Jon Streng
December 9th

Sunday's in December

Week 1

Reader: Dorothy Warren

Greeters: Jon and Kathi Streng

Please remember to pray for: Our
President, Our Country, the Military,
Our Public Servants

Week 2

Reader: Kate Weber

Greeters: Fred and Bev Henige

Week 3

Reader: Jon Streng

Greeters: Lanny and Verna Neighorn

Our Pastor, the Church, Our Families,
the

Community, the School, our Students,
Shut-ins within our community

Those in Need, the Hurting, the Sick,
Victims, Survivors

Week 4

Reader: Ann Martin

Greeter: Ann Martin

Morning Prayer

Dear God,
I thank You for protecting
me through the night.
I praise You and give You
thanks for all the
blessings You have bestowed
on me.
Lord, I give to You all my
words, thoughts, and actions
and consecrate them to You.
Lord, may the words
of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be pleasing to You
for You O LORD are my strength
and my redeemer.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

the Ministry & Finances—in
Jesus Name. **AMEN!**