

December



1600 E. 12th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-2279



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Watch video recordings of messages on YouTube @ "EBCSF"



PASTOR'S BLOG: wouldbbebest.wordpress.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 a.m.

THURSDAY: Nehemiah Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.



DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 10:00 am Nehemiah Prayer Group 11:00 am Advent Bible Study 1:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Christmas Concert with "3PK"	2	3
4 Advent Sunday #2 9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Pie Social)	5	6	7 12:00 noon - SAGE (Brandon Steakhouse)	10:00 am Nehemiah Prayer Group 11:00 am Advent Bible Study 1:30 pm Men's Bible Study	9	10
11 Advent Sunday #3 9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Candy Exchange) RMMO OFFERING	12 6:00 pm Advisory Board Meeting	13	14	15 10:00 am Nehemiah Prayer Group 11:00 am Advent Bible Study 1:30 pm Men's Bible Study	16 2:00 Lamplighters	17
18 Advent Sunday #4 9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Donut Social) RMMO OFFERING	19	20	21 7:00 pm Longest Night Service (aka "Blue Christmas")	22 10:00 am Nehemiah Prayer Group 11:00 am Advent Bible Study 1:30 pm Men's Bible Study	23	24  Worship services Noon & 5:00 pm
25 9:30 am Christmas Morning Worship w/Communion <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27	28	29 Pastor Brett will be on Vacation December 26 - January 1	30	31 

NOVEMBER REPORT

	ATTENDANCE	VIEWS	OFFERING*
11/6	31	12	\$2,140.00
11/13	41	33	\$1,100.00
11/20	35	18	\$3,071.50
11/27	43	18	\$2,412.00

2022 Year to Date received: *\$128,672.93

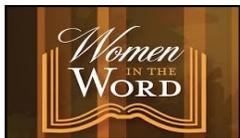
2022 Budgeted Amount: *130,092.96

Amount Needed Per Sunday: *\$2,710.00

*These figures are for General Fund and Missions only.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Steve Stutson & Leroy Mathieu



Ladies, the book of the month
For **DECEMBER** is **JOHN**.

LAMPLIGHTERS



UNION GOSPEL LAMPLIGHTERS MEETING

December 16 - 2:00 p.m.

Christmas party

Union Gospel Mission Chapel

LOVE GIFT: Clothing and food for
Christmas Dinner

**PLEASE
NOTE**

If you no longer wish to receive this Newsletter or would like to receive it by email, please call the church office, 605-336-6780 and let us know. Thanks!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mike Talbert
- 4 Amy Lindstrom
- 5 Brian Best
- 6 Tim Behrends
- 8 Michael Wise
- 20 Gary O'Connell
- 13 Megan Hadley (Gilk)
- 14 Wayne Van Der Vliet
- 27 Tim Hoover

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Roger & Fern Best
- 18 Kevin & Katrina Kruse
- 19 Jacob & Mavis Hawkins

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

12/1/2018 Paul Cleveland

“COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS”

- Dec. 1 - Advent Prayer & Bible Study (11:00 am)
Christmas Concert with “Larry Lang & 3PK (7:00 pm)
- Dec. 4 - Advent Sunday #2 Worship & Fellowship (Pie Social)
- Dec. 8 - Advent Prayer & Bible Study (11:00 am)
- Dec. 11 - Advent Sunday #3 Worship & Fellowship (Candy Exchange)
- Dec. 15 - Advent Prayer & Bible Study (11:00 am)
Christmas Concert with “Short Notice” (7:00 pm)
- Dec. 18 - Advent Sunday #4 Worship & Fellowship (Donut Social)
- Dec. 21 - Longest Night Service (aka “Blue Christmas”)
- Dec. 22 - Advent Prayer & Bible Study (11:00 am)
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship (Noon & 5:00 pm)
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Morning Worship w/ Communion (9:30 am)





Church of Hope
 Box 785
 Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Friends of Church of Hope,

Pastor Sharon Ball from Oklahoma has now been serving at Church of Hope since December 1, 2021. While Covid continues to present some ongoing issues from time to time, church services have returned to normal for the most part. A few special events have been allowed to proceed, including baptisms and a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Church of Hope. Cake and ice cream were served for the celebration, and the ladies enjoyed playing bingo with prizes being small candy bars.

Rev. Dr. Dan Cash, the new Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas, is scheduled to speak at the services on December 10th and 11th, and on December 17th and 18th, Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to be in attendance for the services and Christmas Party. Also, Surprise Package, a local singing group, is planning to present a concert in the upcoming weeks.

Due to restrictions we continue to accept only monetary donations for the goodie bags each woman will receive. The Christmas goodie bags are a gallon-sized zip-lock bag filled with a variety of candies, snacks, teas, hot cocoa mixes. We are so excited to be able to share this small gift to bring Christmas joy to a hurting, lonely and, at times, forgotten group of people. A former inmate stated for at least 80% of the women this is the only Christmas gift they will receive. For those who have been there for some time, it is a topic of conversation throughout the year...wondering what they will receive this year, and how much they appreciate that someone remembered them.

As in previous years, we ask for your partnership in presenting a goodie bag to each woman at the South Dakota Women's Prison, to bring joy at Christmas time to a group of hurting people. We appreciate any support you can give to this outreach. Your

Arise! Ukraine

Good morning and Happy Thanksgiving!

As we give thanks to God on this otherwise festive day, I'm asking you to find a minute today to lift Ukraine up in prayer.

As you may have heard, main power stations across the country have been badly damaged due to selective bombing--even as winter freeze sets in. Up to 70% of Kyiv and millions of others were without power and water last evening as 70 missiles were launched at the country. The situation has gotten worse over the last few weeks even where we live.

Nastia & I are receiving electricity for only an hour or two at a time...then 4-5 hours of nothing...to run our lights and heating system. (I'm presently writing this in my sweatshirt and coat and sitting in a completely dark room.)

Shops are shuttered. Buildings and streets are dark. Stop lights have stopped working. The building where we serve 170 refugees was 48.2 degrees on Wednesday morning affecting health and well-being. Situations like this are repeated in virtually every town and city across Ukraine.

Please ask God to:

- stop the war, restore power and help us to:
- find generators to supply power for those in need (they are becoming scarce).
- complete paperwork to open a building for 150 refugees
- locate all who are needing basic food, wood-burning stoves and medicines
- reach Ukraine with the gospel

Thank you to all of you who have prayed and given so generously over the last several months.

"For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer..." (1 Pet. 3:12)

If you would like to continue giving, please press here to make a secure gift: <https://engage.suran.com/ariseukr/s/give/new-gift>

Or send a check to:

Arise! Ukraine - P.O. Box 812 - Sioux Falls, SD 57101

Thank you for your care and partnership with us at this time!

In Jesus' love,
 Paul, Nastia & Team

LAMPLIGHTERS

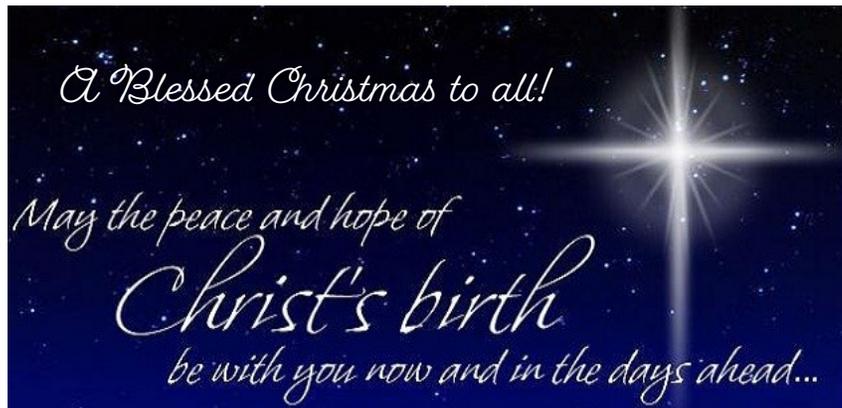


The Lamplighters met at the Mission on November 18. Emmanuel Baptist was the host. Mavis Hawkins gave the welcome and invocation. We sang "Thanks to God". Pastor Brett gave the devotional. He spoke on the coming Advent. The angel Gabriel brought the news to the virgin Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus. She probably never realized her son, as Savior of the world, would heal so many and give His life on a cross so we may live forever.

Darlene Frueh opened our meeting. The love gift for December is winter clothes and food for the Christmas dinner. A replacement has been found to take the place of our president. It will be announced later. Our next meeting is December 16 at 2:00 p.m.—a Christmas party at the mission.

Eric gave the mission report saying they do not tolerate bad behavior. No drinking or drugs. Forty-five lbs. of clothes have been bailed and recycled this past month. The air conditioner is now paid. The new project is adding risers to the windows to comply with regulation of the city. Todd gave a report on the discipleship class. They need to know God and salvation through Jesus. David Glader closed in prayer.

We enjoyed delicious bars furnished by our Emmanuel ladies. Thank you so much. Helen Peters - delegate



gift can be sent to: Church of Hope, P.O. Box 785, Pierre, SD 57501. Please designate the monies for goodie bags. Any extra funds received will be used for the ministry throughout the coming year.

Please feel free to assist in the assembly of the bags at Community Bible Church on December 18, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. Thank you for blessing these precious ladies at the South Dakota Women's Prison. Please remember them in your prayers during this challenging season of year.

"The Holy Spirit translates our best efforts into what needs to be communicated to that person in his or her place of need."

This letter was forwarded from the District Office.



THANK YOU to the Lindstrom family for the new Christmas tree in memory of Joanne for our sanctuary. The Decoration Committee invites you to share an ornament to be placed on the tree. The ornament could be in memory of someone, in honor of someone or an event, or an ornament brought from home. After the church service on December 4, you may bring your ornament to the Decoration Committee, and they will place it on the tree. You may take your ornament home after Christmas. Thank you for sharing a part of your home with your church family.

Decoration Committee: Sandy Sherman, Sharon Hoover, Nancy & Gary O'Connell, Marlene Kriech & Al Parliament



The Christmas poinsettias have been generously donated by a church member. There will not be an individual purchase of a poinsettia for the sanctuary.

Be a Warrior, not a Worrier

In His “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus spoke about the problem of worry.

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”

(Matthew 6:25-27, NLT)

His word to worriers? “Don’t.” His reasoning? First, there is much more to life than material concerns. In verse 33 He said,

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

Second, you can trust God to provide all your needs. Yes, ALL your needs: material, social, spiritual, emotional. He knows what’s best for you and will provide it. Relax – He takes care of the birds and they don’t do a thing to take care of themselves!

Third, worry does not fix problems or help you avoid problems. It just extends the duration of problems. You can’t add a second to your lifespan by worrying, but you can diminish the quality of the life you have left by giving into worry.

From a faith perspective, it just makes sense to let God handle it. Relieve yourself of your worries by giving them to God.

That’s the advice Paul gave the Philippians:

Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for what he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NLT)

When I give my anxiety to God I get His peace in return? Why would anyone turn down that offer?!

One of our family’s Christmas traditions is to watch a set of carefully chosen Christmas movies like “White Christmas.” I’m borrowing some wisdom from that movie for the last word on worry.

“When you’re worried and you can’t sleep,
Just count your blessings instead of sheep,
And you’ll fall asleep, counting your blessings!”

It’s good advice, crooned by Bing Crosby, no less! It’s my practice every night, after my prayers, to end my day thanking God for all His gifts and nod off with a glad heart. I heartily recommend it to you.

- p a s t o r b r e t t



We all remember the pastor or missionary who made a difference in our lives. The ones who were with us in the big moments and small. With leadership, listening, wisdom, condolence or just the right prayer when needed most, their selfless service has a lasting effect. **The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** is a way to give back.

You may use the enclosed offering envelope and mail it to the church or we will be taking an offering during the Worship Service on December 11 & December 18.

I thank my God every time I remember you. Phil:3

RMMO2022

Remember and thank retired ministers and missionaries who have served ABCUSA churches and ministries through your gift to **RMMO2022**. Your heartfelt expressions of appreciation truly makes a difference. **Give to RMMO.**

For all they've done for you:
Pray. Listen. Baptize. Marry.
Direct. Lead. Bury. Celebrate.
Counsel. Mourn. Welcome.
Enlighten. **Give to RMMO.**

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RMMO2022

I thank my God every time I remember you. Phil.1:3

What is the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering?

RMMO is a congregational offering and a joint project of ABCUSA and MMBB. Collected annually in December from participating congregations, RMMO funds are distributed as “*Thank You*” checks to ABCUSA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. The offering originated in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering and since 1977 has been known as RMMO.