

# FAITHNews

The Newsletter of Faith United Church of God

[www.faithunitedcog.org](http://www.faithunitedcog.org)

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December 2017

## Kids Hope USA



As of this writing, our program includes seventeen mentors who are working with our Kids Hope children-boys and girls, all ages, including three sets of siblings. This will not be an easy Christmas for a number of our families, and though our congregation and the remarkable staff at Alpine Elementary School are doing all that we can to help, we ask you to continue sending prayers of hope and healing and peace for all of those in need. Thank you and God bless each of you for this wonderful work that you have so generously supported for the past fourteen years.

Judy Kerwin, Kids Hope Director

## Children's Church



Time: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Ages: 4 thru completion of the 3rd grade

Children's Church will be offered at 10:30 AM on our Lower Level each Sunday this month. Each week we will be doing hands-on worship where kids encounter God, so we always encourage your children to attend!

### Children's Church Volunteers:

December 3 = Carol Cutter & Lisa McDaniel  
December 10 = Carol Cutter & Lisa McDaniel  
December 17 = Carol Cutter & Lisa McDaniel  
December 24 = Carol Cutter & Lisa McDaniel  
December 31 = Carol Cutter & Lisa McDaniel

Volunteers, if you are unable to be here on the date that you are scheduled, please contact Carol Cutter or Wendy Shick.

## Advent Booklets Available

Advent booklets are available on the information center in the narthex. Please feel free to take one home!

## Youth News!

Join us for  
**Wednesday Night**



6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Wednesday Evenings**  
(Grades: 6th – 12th)\*

**\*Come and bring your friends!**

*(Youth Schedule is available in narthex)*

**December 6** – “Finishing the Race” – Soap Devo

**December 13** – “The Birth of Christ” – Soap Devo  
And a Snow Ball Fight. Dress Warm!

**December 20** – No Meeting

**December 27** – No Meeting

Questions? Please contact Daniel at (616) 914-5460,  
or [danielprzybylski@students.kuyper.edu](mailto:danielprzybylski@students.kuyper.edu).

**Faith United Church of God**

*“Love God, Grow together in Christ, Serve others”*



## Thanksgiving Baskets Update

The Service Board would like to thank you for your generous donations for the fourteen Thanksgiving baskets to those families in need at Alpine Elementary this holiday season.

## Candles & Carols Rehearsals

We are making plans in preparation for our Annual Candles & Carols Service on Sunday evening, December 10 at 6:00 pm.

Everyone who loves to sing is welcome to join us at **6:30 pm** on the following Wednesday nights: **November 29** and **December 6**. Come and join us!

Our Mission Statement

***“Love God, Grow together in Christ, Serve others”***

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## Senior Event, December 2

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The seniors are planning to get together for a time of fellowship at Charlie's on Plainfield Avenue in Grand Rapids on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Come and enjoy some fun! Please contact Marcia Ellen if you plan to attend.

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## Faith United Church of God Advent Season 2017

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This year's Advent theme, "Come Lord Jesus".

It is in this spirit that we welcome each of you to participate in the coming events of the Season:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent, December 3

#### **I Am Still Hopeful**

We light the Candle of Hope and launch the 2017 season.

#### **Project Prayer, December 7**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent, December 10

#### **A Call to Respond at Christmas**

We light the Candle of Response.

At **6:00 pm**, we invite you to dress in your Christmas finery and join us for the annual **Candles and Carols Service**. This service, which has become a favorite for many, will include celebrating with scriptures and singing, lighting of the Christ Candle and concludes with a reception for everyone in the Fellowship Hall.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, December 17

#### **The Miracle of Christmas**

We light the Candle of Miracles, and have our annual Christ Birthday Observance Bake Sale. Tables will be set up in the narthex with delicious baked goods made by our wonderful Faith United cooks. Items will be available for donations toward the Christ Birthday offering, which supports worldwide ministries.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, December 24

#### **Experience Peace at Christmas**

We light the Candle of Peace and collect the Christ Birthday Offering.

No Sunday School Classes

*Please mark your calendars with all of these dates so that you, your family and your friends won't miss these wonderful opportunities to truly experience the great gift of God's love.*



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## Readers Anonymous

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The Women's Book Group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month **except December** from **6:00 to 8:00 PM** at Erika Irving's. The selections are varied and there's always good conversation and fellowship! Interested? The schedule is posted in the church office or check with Erika for more details. Our next meeting is **Monday, January 15, 2018**.

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## Womens Christmas Party, December 4

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### **GET YOUR PARTY ON!**

and mark your calendars for the

## **Womens Christmas Party!**

**Monday, December 4**

**\*6:00 PM\***

**Note earlier start time!\***

Good fun!

Good food!

Great fellowship!

**Bring your Mom,  
your sister,  
daughter and friends!**

**You'll leave with a smile!**

*Erika Irving's*

**3501 Bluewater Pines NE**

*Maps available*

*Sunday, December 3*

*Parking is very limited so please consider carpooling!*

**Bring on the holidays!**



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## Project Prayer, December 7

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Project Prayer is a day-long vigil that we want people to sign up for, committing to praying for an hour for items/people; the prayer list will be provided ahead of time. You won't need to come to the church for this, and can pray from your homes during that hour. We hope that you will participate!

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## Moms and Children Rehearsal, December 9

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Dear Parents and Grandparents,

We are going to be having a practice for moms and children who will be participating in the morning Advent services, as well as Candles and Carols. That practice will be on **Saturday, December 9, 10 am to 12 noon** at the church.

Those needed at the practice are:

- moms who will be playing hand bells with their babies or toddlers
- children who will be playing hand bells and/or singing

Thank you so much for your help and participation this Advent season!

Carol Cutter & Lisa McDaniel

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## Refreshments Needed

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The Worship Board is planning on having refreshments after the Candles & Carols service on December 10, and would like dessert and snack donations for the reception.

If you are able to bring something, a sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Thank you.

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## Candles and Carols Service, December 10

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On Sunday Evening, December 10, Faith United Church of God will once again welcome everyone to the Annual Candles and Carols Service. Using the 2017 Advent theme, "Come Lord Jesus", we will celebrate a worship experience in scripture, enjoy special music by soloists and ensemble groups and, as always, extend an open invitation for all to join in on some of our favorite Christmas Carols. Following the service, we will host a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

This is an event that you won't want to miss!



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## ATTENTION! Calling all Cooks!

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**Sunday, December 17**

## CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE BAKE SALE

Bring your special Christmas Desserts, Cookies, Family Favorites, Holiday Breads, Candies, even a special casserole.



**All proceeds go to the  
Christ's Birthday Observance Offering**

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## 5th Sunday Fellowship, December 31

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Please mark your calendars for

**Sunday, December 31**

as we worship together during a Fellowship time.

We will gather in the narthex immediately following the morning service for a time of refreshments and fellowship.

It's a great opportunity to get to know your friends at Faith better.

Join us in this fun event!

*There is no Sunday School on this day  
so parents are encouraged to bring  
their children upstairs to join in the fun!*

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## Look in your church mailbox!

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We have recently placed a 10 month Giving Statement for you to review. This reviews your offering from January through the end of October 2017. We hope you can use this to make sure your giving is on the path you'd like it to be for the conclusion of 2017! The full 2017 statement will be available shortly after the last Sunday in 2017; Dec. 26th. Any questions on the Statement can be directed to Dave Vickery or Connie Evans. Of course Pastor Steve is always open to discuss how Giving fits into your role as a follower of Christ.

For those anxious to get started on 2018, new Offering Envelopes will be distributed in the next couple weeks! Look in your mailbox for those also!

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## Health Corner

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In this Season of Giving, what better time to think about the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

St. Augustine drew a connection between the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Beatitudes that I've posted on the Health Corner Board in the stairwell. In reading them, I see so many of the same qualities in all of you.

May you celebrate a Blessed Holiday Season, Good Health and the knowledge that in all things, you are a treasured Child of God.

Your Parish Nurse, Judy

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## Northwest Food Pantry

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We continue to collect items for the Northwest Food Pantry. For the month of December, Faith United is collecting: **rice, potatoes (fresh or flakes), tuna fish and jello**. Many other food items and non food items are needed as well. Thank you for your continued support of the NWFP!

Sarah Boluyt, Northwest Food Pantry Director

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## Cancellation Guidelines

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*The winter months are upon us and there may be times when we have to cancel services or meetings due to weather conditions. In case of severe weather, please do the following:*

- Call the church office. Our voicemail system will tell you if we are canceling.
- You may also tune to TV channels 8 & 13. We will attempt to have cancellation information available on their news bulletins.
- We will also attempt to communicate via our website and Facebook page.



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## Children, Youth and Adult Classes

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### CHILDREN

- **Infant** (Newborn up to 2 year olds)  
Teachers: Connie Evans and Mary Irving
- **Toddlers** (2 - 3 year olds)  
Teachers: Erika Irving and Velvet Lerch
- **Pre-K - 3rd Grade** (4 years - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)  
Teachers: Carol Cutter and Heather Bessinger  
Class meets in room #2 on the lower level

### YOUTH

- **Ted's Tweens** (4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grades)  
Teacher: Ted Evans  
Sub: Tonya Mashue  
Class meets in room #3 on the lower level
- **Youth Class** (8th - 12th grades)  
Teacher: Daniel Przybylski  
Sub: Tonya Mashue  
Class meets in room #4 on the lower level

### ADULT

- **Foundations Class**  
Teachers: Ryan and Becki Simpson,  
Steve Shick and Steve McDaniel  
Studying: *The Gratitude Diaries*  
by Janice Kaplan  
Class meets in the Narthex
- **Adult Pulpit Class**  
Teachers: Marcia and Garrett Holleman  
Sub: Janice Ertle  
Studying: "Old Testament Characters"  
By Peter Scazzero  
Class meets on the Sanctuary Platform
- **Bridges Class**  
Teachers: Lou Van Dyke and Millard Knapp  
Studying: Adult *Bridges* Curriculum  
Class meets in the west end of the Fellowship Hall
- **Elective Class I**  
Teachers: Mark Peterson & Judy Kerwin  
Studying: *Lies We Believe About God*  
by William Paul Young  
Class is meeting in the center of the Fellowship Hall
- **Elective Class II**  
Teachers: Michele Paulin and Esther Hickerty  
Studying: *NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*  
2017-2018, edited by Ronald L. Nickelson  
Class meets in the east end of the Fellowship Hall

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## December Nursery Volunteers

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### Infant

- 3 – Karen Stevens & Tonya Mashue
- 10 – Janice Ertle & Patti Cutter
- 17 – Andy & Brittany Lerch
- 24 – Rhonda Plants & Heidi Przybylski
- 31 – Mary Irving & helper

### Toddler

- 3 – Connie Evans & Jolie Stanton
- 10 – Mary Irving
- 17 – Velvet & Jordan Lerch
- 24 – To be determined
- 31 – To be determined

Please contact Rhonda Plants if you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday.

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## Church Office Closed

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In observance of the holidays, the Church Office will be closed on the following days: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 and Tuesday, January 2, 2018.



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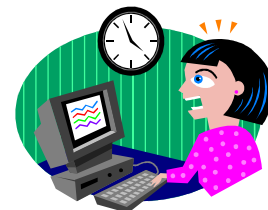
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## Newsletter Deadline

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Deadline for articles to be turned into the church office for the January 2018 edition of FAITHNews is Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Thank you!





**Faith United Church of God**

**3290 Walker Avenue NW**

**Grand Rapids, MI 49544-9431**

Phone (616) 784-5060 / Fax 784-9141

Church Website: <http://www.faithunitedcog.org>

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Steve McDaniel ([sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org](mailto:sdmcdaniel@faithunitedcog.org))

Youth Director: Daniel Przybylski ([danielprzybylski@students.kuyper.edu](mailto:danielprzybylski@students.kuyper.edu))

Administrative Assistant: Rhonda Plants ([secretary@faithunitedcog.org](mailto:secretary@faithunitedcog.org))

Church Custodian: Karen Stevens

Kids Hope USA Director: Judy Hewett Kerwin ([judyhewett@comcast.net](mailto:judyhewett@comcast.net))

**Parish Nursing Program**

Judy Hewett Kerwin, R.N. ([judyhewett@comcast.net](mailto:judyhewett@comcast.net))

**Living Link Missionaries**

Alfonso & Elizabeth Ayala (Belize)

Daniel & Christy Kihm (Netherlands)

Sundays

10:00 AM Celebration of Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School

6:00 PM December 10 – Candles & Carols Service

Wednesdays

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Youth (December 6 & 13)

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