



GATHER US IN

COME LIVE WITHIN THE PROMISE

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation * Advent 2010



Gather Us In Come Live Within The Promise

Advent Sermon Series

November 28

Matthew 24:36-44; Isaiah 2:1-5

Scott Grotewold preaching

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We begin the season of Advent and take time within our preparations to light our first Advent candle. The words of the prophet Isaiah gather us in and invite us to “Come”.

December 5

Matthew 3:1-12; Isaiah 11:1-10

Scott Grotewold preaching

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Today, through the words of the prophet Isaiah and participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we are invited to “Live”.

December 12

Luke 1:39-56; Isaiah 35:1-10

Jim Shirbroun preaching

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry; we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

This week represents an even more personal invitation for gathering us in. We are called to the challenge of “Within”. God’s word **within** us offers an alternative to the perils of the world outside of us.

December 19

Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:10-17

Melissa Warren preaching

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light-years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own. Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The challenge of Advent has been fully set before us. Come Live Within The Promise. May we continue to be gathered in, changed, and fulfilled. God says to us again and again “Come, Live Within The Promise.” So may it be.



Ames Alternative Gift Market (AAGM)

Get an early start on your Christmas shopping by selecting "alternative" gifts from our shopping list. In honor of your family and friends, these gifts will assist those people most in need locally, in the U.S., and around the world. Look for the AAGM table in the Gathering Space of Collegiate/Wesley during the Sunday School hour **starting Nov. 21 and ending Dec. 5.**

Weekly Christmas Hymn Sing

CUMC/WF Sanctuary

Advent Sunday mornings (**Nov. 28 - Dec. 19**)

8:15 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Take the opportunity to sing Christmas carols and Christmas hymns prior to the Sunday morning services, when Advent preparation of our hearts is the theme and purpose of worship.

Advent Study

Kathy Harrington-Taber will be leading an Advent study on Monday evenings at 7 pm in Room 123 from **November 29th – December 20th**. *Christmas: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly* by Richard Wilke is a 4 week study about the



The Advent Celebration Workshop

Will be held **Saturday, December 4**, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Annex Auditorium (130 S. Sheldon). The theme will be "Making Memories at Christmas". All ages are welcome. Parents please plan to come and help your children create "masterpieces" that will truly be treasured for a lifetime! There will be many craft activities for the young or the young at heart. Come and enjoy an afternoon making memories together and to keep for years to come. Refreshments will also be included.

Christmas Caroling

Join us for Christmas Caroling starting at 4:15 p.m. on **Saturday, December 4th**. It will take place right after the Advent Festival. We will meet in the Annex Auditorium and then carpool to various locations in Ames. If you have any questions contact Lisa at lisa@cwames.org or 515-292-6936 Ext. 25.

Bells and Brass Concert

Friday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Enjoy the Chancel Bell Choir and Collegiate Brass who will present a selection of Christmas music for your holiday enjoyment.

people in the story of Christ's birth. (Richard Wilke is a retired UM bishop who is a popular speaker and author. He is best known for co-writing the Disciple Bible Study with his wife Julia.) If there is sufficient interest, a daytime session will be offered as well. Books are \$7. Please contact Kathy Harrington-Taber at (515)292-6936 ext. 28 if you are interested.

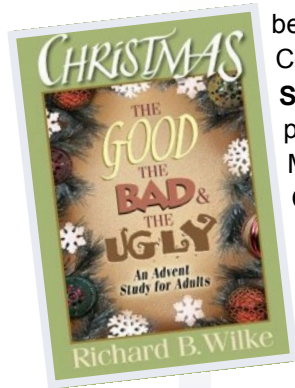
Good Neighbor Fundraisers

Worldly Goods Night (Main Street in Ames)
Thursday, Dec. 2, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Items purchased on that night will effectively be given twice—to the individuals and the communities that benefit from the fair trade policies of stores like Worldly Goods, and to Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, which will receive a portion of the proceeds from sales.

Borders Books Gift Wrapping
(Duff Ave. in Ames)

Dates and times to be announced, keep an eye out in church communications. Good Neighbor board members and volunteers will be on hand to wrap your purchases for free. Donations are appreciated.



Christmas Cookie Bake Sale

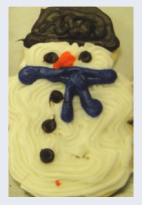
The Senior High and Middle School Youth will be selling boxed homemade Christmas Cookies and other bake sale items on

Sunday December 12th, 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., to raise money for their Summer 2011

Mission Trips. We are looking for donations of

Christmas Cookies and other baked items. We are also hoping to have many eager buyers. Contact

Kathy Harrington-Taber at (515)292-6936 ext. 28 if you would like to help out.



Manger Gifts Service

The Manger Gifts Service is Collegiate/Wesley's own version of a Christmas Pageant. It can be experienced in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, December 12** at 7:00 p.m. We will be collecting various food items, toiletries, and household items for people in need around us. Most of the gifts will help families in need through ERP (Emergency Residence Project) and MICA (Mid Iowa Community Action). Stay tuned for a suggested list of items. Please wrap the gifts in recycled paper or white paper. Please contact Rev. Melissa Warren at melissa@cwames.org if you would like to take part in the service or with any questions.

Christmas Giving Projects

MICA Adopt-A-Family

The UMW Saturday Circle will decorate the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space with “gift suggestions” for MICA (Mid-Iowa Community Action) families. When you put an ornament on the tree, take the card with the suggestion and then bring back the gift to put under the tree by **Monday, December 13**. Contact Amanda Heeren at aheeren@iastate.edu with questions.



Gift Cards for ERP

(Emergency Residence Project)

Anytime in December, you and your family can participate by purchasing gift cards, in increments of \$25 or less, for families in need. Grocery (particularly Aldi), telephone, gas, Cy-Ride, Target, K-Mart, etc., are particularly needed. Please bring your gift card to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate by **Sunday, December 26**.

Christmas Special Offering

This year's Christmas Special Offering will support AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) of which Collegiate/Wesley is a member. This offering will be held on **Christmas Eve, and Sunday, December 26**.

“My soul magnifies the Lord” says Mary upon the revelation that she has been chosen to carry the son of God. She goes on to proclaim that God has “filled the hungry with great things.” Mary realized that justice would be brought about by her son, and she understood that she too was an instrument of that justice.

Through AMOS we continue to fulfill the promise of Christ. AMOS is currently focused on Economic and Environmental Justice, workforce development, and Mental Healthcare to name a few.

Advent @ *faithspring*

faithspring is our alternative worship experience @ Collegiate/Wesley. *faithspring* happens on Sunday nights at 5:30 p.m. in our Annex worship space @ 130 S. Sheldon. It's followed by free food at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Due to Winter Break, Advent @ *faithspring* is just three weeks long (Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12). Our *faithspring* sermon series for Advent is “Advent(ures)”. Preachers Jim Shirbroun, Scott Grotewold and Melissa Warren will, in that order, share stories of their past Christmas experiences to help us prepare our hearts and minds, once again, for the birth of Christ. Please join us!

“The Longest Night” Worship Service

Sunday, December 19, 4:00 p.m. in Nichols Chapel

The Christmas season swirls around us daily with its images of gaiety and sweetness and wanting for nothing. Internally, the season’s charms and our own reality don’t always coincide. For many, the Christmas season is marked more by nature’s realities. The days are short and the nights are long and empty.

Often, as the Earth continues to tend toward more darkness and less light, so do our emotions and our perceptions of already troubled places in our lives. For some, the loss of a loved one is still very much a part of day to day living. For others, the pain of broken relationships or the insecurity that comes with uncertain employment futures interferes with our ability to see the lighter side of the season. For still others, even poor health crowds in pushing out the promises of a joy-filled season. All of these things can cause us to feel very much alone and make the seemingly endless nights even longer.

As a people of light, we need a place to remember, and we need the space and place to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to be reminded that the sun is not gone from our lives forever, it is just following an established pattern that will, eventually, lead back to light triumphing over the darkness.

Join with us as we hear and share prayers, scripture, and music that help us to remember that God’s presence is in all seasons and God’s word comes to give light to all darkness.

In God’s light,

Rev. Melissa J. Warren



Christmas Eve Services

Friday evening, December 24

6:00pm
Space
(Aldon)

6:30pm
Space
(Aldon)

7:00pm
St. Paul's Chapel,
1000 14th St.
8:00pm

7:00pm

CUMCWF Sanctuary

Rev. Scott Grotewold, officiating

Special Music: The Kaizer Family
(Ed, Lynn, Alex, Drew & Nick)

7:00pm

CUMCWF Sanctuary

Rev. Scott Grotewold, officiating

Special Music: The Kaizer Family
(Ed, Lynn, Alex, Drew & Nick)

8:00pm
There will be one service
Sunday, December 25

