

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Advent Supper
Sunday, December 7

Leadership Team Meeting
Monday, December 8

UM Men's Breakfast
Tuesday, December 9

Women's Book Group Ornament Exchange
Saturday, December 13

**Choir Cantata
Advent Supper
Children's
Christmas Program**
Sunday, December 14

Advent Supper
Sunday, December 21

**Night Before Christmas
Eve Service**
Tuesday, December 23

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 24

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**December 2014
Volume 12, Issue 12**

Pastor's Pen

"Why The Pink Candle?"

Christmas has been around a long time. So have Christmas trees. They had lighted Christmas trees before the invention of electric lights. They were lit -- yes, no kidding -- with candles.

Candles are beautiful. House fires are not. So I'm glad we've found safer ways to light our Christmas trees. But I'm also glad real candles are still part of our tradition. We'll use real candles on Christmas Eve and we are using real candles in our Advent wreath.

One question is asked more than any other about the Advent wreath. Why the pink candle? Read on and you'll get the answer, but first a little about the Advent wreath and Advent in general.

Advent is the English version of the Latin "adventus" which means "coming". Jesus is coming. That's the meaning of Advent. Jesus is coming as a baby born in the Bethlehem manger. But also, Jesus is coming again to finish what he started. When? "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36).

Advent is a season of four Sundays leading up to Christmas. It starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which is November 30 this year, which means we have a 25 day Advent this year. Depending on how the days of the calendar fall, Advent can be as long as 28 days or as short as 22 days. These days are not to be confused with how many shopping days there are left until Christmas. In fact, the whole concept of Advent is to get us away from the commercialization of Christmas. It is to return us to the "true meaning". The Advent wreath helps us to do that.

You will notice when you come to church our Advent wreath. The biggest candle is white. This is the Christ candle. We don't get to light it until Christmas Eve. There are four other candles, one for each of the four Sundays of Advent. The color of Advent is purple, so these candles are purple. But one of the candles is supposed to be pink. And you're probably wondering why!

First, the wrong answer. Here's what they told me when I asked that question a long time ago: Pink is the color we use on the last Sunday of Advent because it's a transitional color between purple and white. That answer had me fooled for years. The real answer to the mystery of the pink candle requires some church history.

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In the early day of the church, the only church season was Lent. Lent is the six Sundays leading up to Easter. Lent was, and still is, a season of fasting, prayer, and somber reflection on the crucifixion of Jesus. But, let's face it, six weeks is a long time! So, mercifully, on the third Sunday of Lent it was permitted to break the fast and to feast. You were allowed to celebrate a little. Not a full Easter celebration. Not yet. But a little joy was allowed into the seriousness of the season.

The color of Lent was a deep purple, signifying royalty, repentance, and suffering. But on this third Sunday, the color would change to pink. Not the white of Easter. But at least a break from that deep, dark purple.

When Advent was invented (advented?) this old custom was adopted. The third Sunday of Advent is the Sunday we are allowed a little extra joy as we anticipate the full joy of Christmas and "Joy to the World! The Lord is come!"

The Advent candles are often given names and more often than not the third candle is the candle of joy. That fits. Anticipatory joy.

And if you want to get real technical, this third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday". "Gaudete" is Latin for the first word in Philippians 4:4. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

That's a good way to live every day of the year, not just on the third Sunday of Advent.



December Sermons

December 7	Don Schultze "The Good Shepherd Promises Abundant Life"	John 10: 7, 11, 14, 15
December 14	Choir Christmas Cantata "Images of Adoration" (9:00 a.m. only) "What Are You Not Doing for Christmas? Noise" (11:00 a.m. only)	Luke 1:5-20
December 21	"What Are You Not Doing for Christmas? Public Piety"	Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 6:1-6
December 28	"This Year is the Year"	Colossians 3:12-15



Kids Stuff Preschool and Daycare

I think the best question this month was from a 4-year-old preschooler. "How can it be snowing if it's not winter yet?" I also loved one of my little kindergartners as she spoke up to everyone else on our first morning on the snowy roads heading to school in our little "school" bus, better known as "the sled" - she informed them they could only talk on the bus when the sun was shining and it was warm outside. I'm not sure if she's an angel sent to be with me as I transport the children to school, a genius, or if she was just repeating the wisdom of another adult. All I know is she's definitely going to keep riding with me in the mornings whether she's needing to go to school or not.

As I traveled the roads this past month with my fingers clinched around the steering wheel of the bus, I would force myself to think of all the reasons to be thankful for each day whether it felt like winter already or not. And most people know that winter is not one of my favorite seasons. I found that this was a great way to keep the negative energy out before I had to go back and teach a preschool class. To my surprise I'd usually run out of time before reasons. I know that doesn't sound right, but this time of year with the weather like we've been having, it would be easy to become enraged with self-pity. As if I'm the only one that's cold and needing to get somewhere.

I'm thankful for our school age children that I have to take to school. And our bus may be a sled on ice and snow, but I'm thankful that it has a heater and is more reliable than our old church bus. I'm thankful for the fact that I only put on my bus driver hat for a short amount of the day, unlike all the other bus drivers out there that have way greater responsibilities than what we give them credit for. I'm thankful for all the "duties" around school that help to make the drop off's and pick-ups a lot safer. And the crossing guards that continue to be out there every day in rain, snow, or shine. I'm feeling very guilty these days as I drive by and wave to them as I just sit in our heated bus. I ponder on ways to stop and get them a hot chocolate so that they know I appreciate and am thankful for the job that they are doing. I just can't figure out how to do this without holding up traffic and adding to the road rage.

I'm thankful for nature's beauty these days. One week as the cooler weather starts to set in I'm admiring the collage of colors burying a car parked in someone's driveway. And the very next week it was as if someone placed a white blanket over the same vehicle. I'm thankful for my place under the church portico to park our bus. And the church that provides us with a warm place to gather 5 days a week, and the children and teachers, as well as church staff and members that I get to have contact with daily.

It's easy this time of year when it's cold to forget the little things in life that can make a day better if we just stop and think about them. I hope everyone takes a moment to remember the little things this season and remember that these things are God's gifts to us. They don't come in packages or with bows and ribbons. It's just another reminder that we all have gifts that don't need wrapped. But are we passing them along? Or complaining about the cold?!

-God Bless, Ms. Carolyn





CONTRIBUTING APPRECIATED STOCK AND MUTUAL FUNDS

Your contributions to the church help us fund the many ministries that we offer to our community, our country, and the world. We accept contributions in many forms, including cash, goods, services, and property. One way you may not be familiar with is giving shares of appreciated stock or mutual funds. Because our government wants to encourage charitable giving—the tax rules permit you to give appreciated securities directly to the church and deduct the current value of the securities on your tax return. If you donate the shares directly to the church, there is no capital gains tax on the increase in the value of the shares. For example, assume you purchased 100 shares of ABC Company in 2009 at \$20 per share for a total cost of \$2,000. Today, the shares are worth \$50 per share or a total value of \$5,000. If you sell the shares and donate the cash to the church, you would only have to pay capital gains tax on the \$3,000 increase in value. However, if you donate the shares directly to the church, you can take a \$5,000 deduction as a charitable contribution and there is no tax due on the capital gains.

There are specific tax rules and limitations on donating appreciated securities. One such rule is that the securities must be held at least one year. In addition, depending upon your income level, your deduction may be limited. Therefore, we recommend you discuss this with your financial advisor prior to making this contribution. If you plan to contribute appreciated securities, please contact the church office for specific instructions on how to process your contribution.

On behalf of the congregation, thank you for your generous support of the church. We will all benefit from the valuable ministries your contributions fund.

God Bless, Terry Frisk, Church Accountant

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated in conserving energy and ensuring safety. Thank YOU!

**Lights Off
Doors Locked**



**No one can do everything.
Everyone can do something.**



**NO PARKING
24 HOUR
ACCESS
REQUIRED**

PLEASE REMEMBER that there is NO PARKING at any time in the yellow zone under the church portico.

This area is for loading/unloading only and needs to be clear for the mail truck to drive through and/or emergency vehicles to have access to the church entrance.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Stay tuned for more information on our **BIG** event coming in February!

- For **ALL AGES!**
- Family Dinner!
- Children's Activities!
 - **SURPRISES!**
 - Nursery Care!



Kids Stuff Christmas Program



Thursday, December 18

7:00 p.m.

All are invited!



David Kepner

Servant of the Month

Our December Servant of the Month is David Kepner. David has been our church drummer since 2007. That's a lot of Sundays! Rarely has David missed. The 11 am praise band can count on him to keep the beat going. David started as a sophomore in high school. He is now a senior at Boise State. November 23 was his last Sunday with us for awhile as he has accepted a professional acting job in Hailey that will require him to be out of town on weekends. We hope to have him back with us in the spring, but who knows?

David is an exceptionally talented young man and we all look forward to seeing where his career path will take him.

If you are interested in seeing him in action, the production he is working on is "Peter and the Star Catcher." It will be performed at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts. Good luck David and thank you for sharing your talent with us!



Men's Ministry

The men met at the Canyon Creek Restaurant on Tuesday November the 11th. Several of the men (veterans) received a "free" breakfast courtesy of Canyon Creek and the food was excellent. Mark your calendar for our next meeting on December 9 at Canyon Creek Restaurant.

Our breakfast program is from *Power Surge* by Pastor Michael W. Foss. The intent of the book is to provide information to move a co-dependency membership to a "surge" of discipleship membership. Pastor Foss lists six marks of discipleship: 1) Pray Daily; 2) Worship Weekly; 3) Read the Bible; 4) Encourage Growth in Others; 5) Serve; and 6) Giving of Time, Talent, and Resources. It is my interpretation that the six marks establish the culture of the church. When one steps back one sees many opportunities available in our church. I see our church as a hospitable church (Open Hearts/Open Minds/Open Doors) thanks to Pastor John and Kathy Huff. I would like to say that the growth of our church depends on PARTICIPATION. In summary, the marks of discipleship are all about equipping Christians to do what the Lord wants. Which of the marks are your strengths and where do you need growth?

The Bazaar was a success netting \$548. The UMM want to thank everyone for their contributions. The money will be used for the church OUTREACH projects. The Nampa Community Shelter is falling short of meat donations so the UMM are now purchasing the grocery items for the two lunches per month at a cost of \$80.00/\$100.00 per month.

The UMM want to thank Shirley Harrell for donating a major portion of her household furnishings to the Nampa Community Shelter and recognize Joanne Blanton and her sister for packing the items, Curtis Wilhite for the use of his trailer, Doug Renfrow for loading, and Tanner Calhoun and buddies for lifting and delivering the heavy stuff.

I left church November 9 on a cloud . . . Cherri Healea told me that she was a Mentor to a child at her school. You too can make a difference to a child . . . contact Donna Shines at 459-2844 or at www.mentoringnetworkID.org.

Dwayne Evanson, United Methodist Men



WOMEN'S ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

The Women's Book Group is hosting their annual ornament exchange and ALL women of the church are invited . . . past, present, AND FUTURE book group members! Bring a wrapped/unmarked ornament (\$10 limit) to exchange and join us at the home of Kathy Huff at 14565 Lake Avenue, on Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Muffins, coffee, and juice will be served along with warm friendship, cheer and laughter.

If you have any questions, contact Kathy Huff or Heather Carter.

*CELEBRATE ADVENT
WITH US!*



Sunday, December 7

Advent Supper served from 5:30—6:15 p.m.
followed by
Carols, crafts for the kids,
and fellowship for the adults.

Sunday, December 14

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata
"Images of Adoration" @ 9:00 a.m.
Advent Supper served from 5:30—6:15 p.m.
followed by
Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21

Advent Supper served from 5:30—6:15 p.m.
followed by
Worship, crafts, and BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR JESUS!

Tuesday, December 23

Night Before Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00 p.m.

*Welcome to
our newest members!*

Betty Clyne

1907 W. Flamingo, #73 ♦ Nampa 83651

Peggy Ellis and David Peterson

12309 S. Carriage Hill Way ♦ Nampa 83686

Deborah Jackson

7443 Nottingham Lane ♦ Nampa 83687

Scott Jacobsen

330 W. Sherman Avenue ♦ Nampa 83686

Joyce Johnson

825 W. Oakmont Ave. ♦ Nampa 83686

Elisa Lowenstein

1115 Maple Street, #3 ♦ Nampa 83686

Claressa Moore

1218 W. Orchard Ave., #2 ♦ Nampa 83651

Susie and Virgil Myers

6820 E. Greens Drive ♦ Nampa 83687

Stephanie Rogers

700 Lindenwood Drive ♦ Nampa 83686

Entered into membership on November 2, 2014

Keep
CHRIST
in Christmas

BITS AND BITES

Rachel Circle

Thursday, December 11 @ 1:30 p.m.

Meeting at Le Baron's Honker Café

1210 2nd Street South in Nampa

If you have any questions, contact Lil Willis



To Our Church Family—

Words cannot express our gratitude for all the prayers, cards, and well wishes we have received since Dennis' medical issues. He is making good progress and is home, although he will probably have a wheelchair and a walker for a while. It's been an experience that proves our God is wonderful and He is in control. Thanks to all!

—Margie and Dennis Frasier



Dear Bazaar Committee Members—

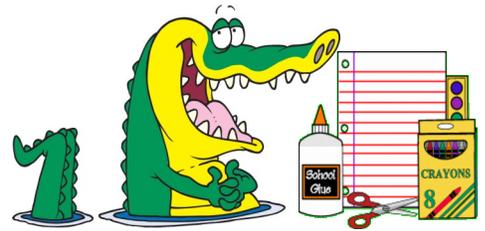
On behalf of the entire church family, we are so very thankful for the new Christmas Tree that the bazaar committee purchased and donated to the church. We can't believe what a HUGE difference there is and how much EASIER it was to set up.

—With Much Gratitude, Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Lynn



As the Christmas season approaches . . .

If you find yourself replacing an artificial Christmas tree and are looking for a way to dispose of your old one? Bring it to the church! These will be used as part of the VBS décor next year. Any size is fine. Just note that they WILL NOT be returned, so no loaners! Bring them to the church office. Thank you in advance!!



Sherman Elementary Church Outreach

Just a reminder that the Sherman Elementary church outreach is on-going.

Stop by the display in the narthex for a print out of suggested supplies to donate and donation envelopes. Monetary donations are always welcome and someone from Nampa First will do your shopping for you!

Thank you for your on-going support.

- ✓Crayons
- ✓Markers
- ✓Pencils
- ✓Erasers
- ✓Kleenex
- ✓Wipes
- ✓Sticky Notes
- ✓Copy Paper
- ✓Glue Sticks
- ✓Pencil Boxes
- ✓Wide-lined notebook paper
- ✓1 1/2 inch 3-ring binders
- ✓Pencil Sharpeners
- ✓Folders (for papers)
- ✓Outside Basket Balls
- ✓And any items that can be used as prizes for "Gator" Awards.



Celebrate!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 2	Ellery Fickel
Dec 3	Carol Evanson
Dec 6	Andrew Rainey
Dec 7	Clarke Yearous
Dec 8	Zac Honstead
Dec 9	Patty Schafer
Dec 12	Richard Hamann
Dec 13	Bob Burns Emily Pratte Bob Chitwood
Dec 15	Danny Jacobsen Kelly Wood David Kepner
Dec 17	Roberta Vaughn
Dec 17	Sarah Baker
Dec 18	Joan Burmester Claressa Moore
Dec 19	Jan Krall
Dec 20	Darlene Cornilles
Dec 23	Eileen Dickman
Dec 24	Jim Kusterer Isabelle Dinius
Dec 25	Alexander Butkus
Dec 27	Tony Hopkins
Dec 30	Maggie Whitlock
Dec 31	Therese Kepner Steve Hatch

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 8	Curt & Wanda Smith
Dec 11	Albert & Amaya Harley
Dec 20	Jim & Jeanne Kusterer

FELLOWSHIP COOKIE ROTATION

December 7 . . . C—E
 December 14 . . . F—H
 December 21 . . . I—M
 December 28 . . . N—R



NUMBERS THAT MATTER

November Worship Attendance:

	2	9	16	23	30
9 a.m.	104		68	81	85
11 a.m.	64	*170	59	103	76
5:30 p.m.	22	33	3	32	66
Total	190	203	130	216	227

* One combined service for Consecration Sunday

2014 Average: 189

Giving:

November Revenue:	\$ 15,237.
November Expenses:	\$ 19,246.
Year-to-Date Revenue:	\$225,622.
Year-to-Date Expenses:	\$232,809.
Percentage of Apportionments Paid:	57 %
Percentage of Year Gone:	91 %



DEATHS

Aneta Morrison
10-29-14

Elmer Gossett
10-31-14

Eric Walker (Lyle Walker's son)
11-4-14

Robert (Bob) Kausen
11-16-14

Keith Walls
11-21-14





Nampa First United Methodist Church
2717 12th Avenue Road • Nampa, ID 83686
208-467-1151
Email: nampaumc@gmail.com
Website: www.nampaumc.org

KIDS STUFF EARLY LEARNING PRESCHOOL
AND CHILD CARE CENTER
208-467-2178

Address Service Requested

November 2014



Our building is
accessible to all!

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

Childcare in the nursery is provided during morning services.

9:00 a.m. – Wesley Service: Traditional worship
10:00 a.m. – Sunday School & Shared Fellowship Time
11:00 a.m. – Celebration Service: Contemporary worship
5:30 p.m. – Simply Worship: For the disabled and their friends

NFUMC STAFF

Pastor:	<i>John Watts</i>
Office Manager:	<i>Carol Ogren</i>
Church Life:	<i>Kathy Huff</i>
Kids Stuff Director:	<i>Carolyn Curtis</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Marie Hamann</i>
Organist:	<i>Nancy Parks</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Jeanne Kusterer</i>
Lead Musician:	<i>Tim Swanson</i>
Custodian:	<i>Carolyn Curtis</i>
Lay Leader:	<i>Heather Carter</i>
Bishop:	<i>Grant Hagiya</i>
District Superintendent:	<i>Kim Fields</i>

Office Hours



Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.