



Northern Voice Newsletter

Winter (Nov-Dec-Jan) 2023-24

Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!

“And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.” John 1:14

“Surprise, surprise, surprise!” - the immortal words of
Gomer Pyle

In the package of a goofy, beloved character, there was an amazing surprise. Johnny Carson discovered it and revealed it to the world on his program. Jim Nabors was invited to sing on Johnny's show. When he opened his mouth to sing the whole listening audience was surprised and amazed.

When was the last time you were surprised? Some turn of good fortune? Extraordinary service at a business establishment? The surprise visit of a friend or relative? The unexpected announcement of a baby or a wedding? Finding out that you're going to receive money back on your taxes?

Advent is one big surprise for those who were involved: Mary, as she was told she would give birth to the Son of God; Joseph, as he was told his beloved was pregnant; the shepherds as they experienced an angel chorus; Mary and Joseph, while Mary gave birth in a stable; a majestic, new star that appeared to guide wisemen to the Christ Child.

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

"A thrill of hope..." I ask again, when was the last you were surprised – surprised by God's gracious presence in your life? It is too easy to go through Thanksgiving and Advent with the attitude of "been there, done that, got the t-shirt." It is too easy to see the holiday season, Thanksgiving and Advent as a prelude to Christmas morning with its traditions, and presents, and family time.

It seems that each of the characters in the Nativity story were open to embracing the surprise. Most notably were the shepherds. Minding their own business, tending their flocks, they were visited by angels. Their response was to go immediately and investigate this thing that they had seen and heard. They received the surprise and allowed it to capture their attention and action. The text in Luke says, "When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, let's go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place... ."

Surprise, surprise, surprise – the gift of hope comes wrapped in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ – "the night of our dear Savior's birth."

Surprise, surprise, surprise – God came into the world for you – "the soul felt its worth."

Surprise, surprise, surprise – The Christ Child still comes to the waiting heart – "Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!"

May these next few months find you surprised once again by God's willingness to come and dwell with you, bringing grace and truth and wonder.

I hope you join us as we enter into this season of surprise asking the question: "How Does A Weary World Rejoice?" You too, may be surprised!

In Christ,

Pastor Lauren



Advent and Christmas Calendar

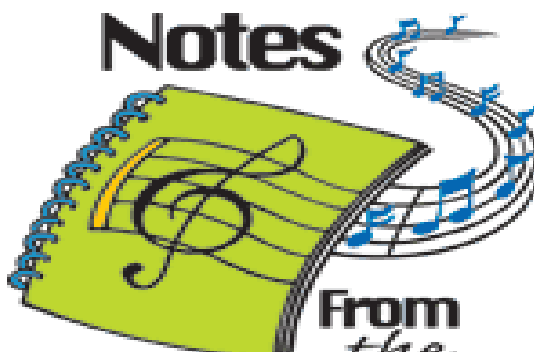
December 3rd	First Sunday of Advent
December 10th	Second Sunday of Advent
December 17th	Third Sunday of Advent
Thurs. Dec. 21st Blue Christmas 7:00 PM <i>Service of Remembrance and Hope</i> <i>with Riverside, at HUMC</i>	
Sunday, Dec. 24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve 4:00 PM

*Please check the Bulletin and Friday
Announcements for details as these dates get closer!*



Notes



From *the* Music Director

HUMC choir has felt the loss of our dear friend and choir member, Peggy Novak. All of us were honored to sing at her Celebration of Life.. Peggy you will be dearly missed...You Are the Champion!

As we approach a very busy season with Thanksgiving and Christmas knocking at the door, we begin our preparations to bring God's message though song.

For all who wish to join us, HUMC choir would love to have you sing with us!

Rehearsal dates: 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20 all at 7pm.

Sunday 8am rehearsal & Service: 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10. 12/17/ 12/21 (Blue Christmas), 12/24 (morning and Christmas Eve services).

After December choir will resume singing the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month with the rehearsal the Wednesday prior.

In Him and in song,

Jennie

LET US GIVE THANKS

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

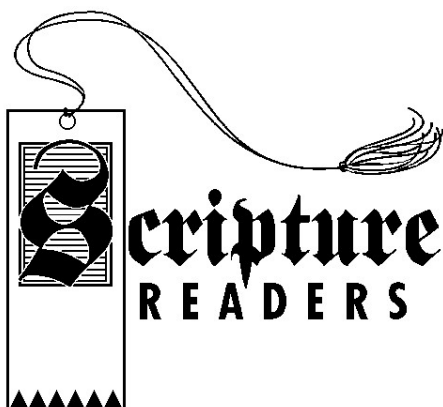
Nov. 22, 7:00pm at HVMC

Pastor Roger from Riverside will Preach

*We will hold a pie social after the
service, so stay and enjoy fellowship,
and of course, PIE!*

**Stay for
Pie!**





Scripture Readers

Please consider
volunteering for this
important part of our
Sunday Worship. Sign
up sheet is available by
the nametags
or call
Diane Thoeke at
218-255-5557



Fellowship VOLUNTEERS **NEEDED**

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up on meeting together, as
some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage each
other....

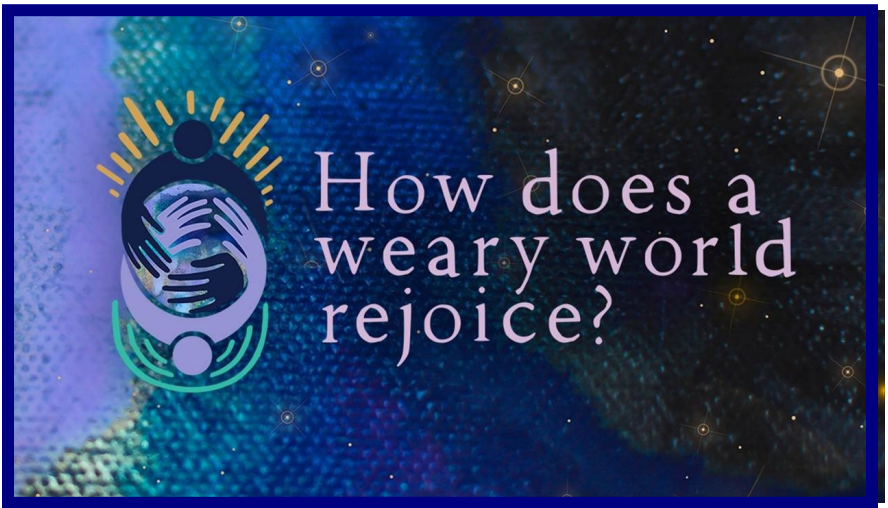
Fellowship is important, for encouraging each other, for
sharing our joys and sorrows, for getting to know our
church family a little better. Janelle and Kaylyn are very
grateful for all who have served the treats for Sunday
morning fellowship.

THANK YOU! We appreciate you!

If anyone would like to serve, there is a sign up sheet under
the nametags.



Upcoming *Sermon Series*
Join us for Advent:



And Coming in January:

"Wrestling With Doubt"





JULY Mission Giving

8-8-23

MISSION COMMITTEE

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary	\$203.02
MN Annual Conf- LOVE Offering	\$100.00
Wellspring	\$125.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING	\$428.02
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AUGUST Mission Giving

9-7-23

MISSION COMMITTEE

Century PTA- Helping Hands	\$1,000.00
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Total Mission Committee	\$1,000.00
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DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

MN Annual Conf- Lahaina, Maui	\$2,090.00
Wellspring	\$100.00
Pastor's Discretionary	\$1,360.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING	\$4,550.00
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Volunteers from HUMC deliver
Meals on Wheels to Park Rapids
residents once every 5 weeks.
If you are interested in becoming a
delivery person for this
rewarding activity,
please contact
Arnie Kuhn at 701-730-3667.
"Thank You" to our many
dedicated volunteers.



Hubbard MOW Dates:

November 27- Dec.1
January 1-5, 2024

SEPTEMBER Mission Giving	10-4-23
MISSION COMMITTEE	\$748.29
Total Mission Committee	\$748.29
DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING	
Wellspring	\$550.00
MN Annual Conf-Maui	\$2820.00
TOTAL MISSION GIVING	\$4,118.29

BIRTHDAYS

November

Doug Rathbun	1
Arnie Kuhn	2
Angie Hutchins	4
Pam Davis	7
Ron Taggart	7
Randy Wimmer	9
Denise Kisser	10
Liz Stevens	13
Aaron Kjenaas	13
Neil Jordheim	16
Dennis Bolton	19
Travis Bolton	23
Betty Larsen	26
Bob Stevens	26

December

Marshall Howe	2
Arlene Valentin	12
Tom Moore	16
Dean Jacobson	18
Locky Horst	19
Maxine Rathbun	20
Nancy Martinson	20
Gayle Laine	21
Noel Moore	25
Janet Gray	27
Sharilyn Perrine	27
Jim Eisele	28
Dave Thoeke	31

January

Bob Boyd	4
Nash Selander	4
Mary Sue Skelton	8
Melvin Bolton	11
Cheryl Steinborn	14
Lauren Hauger	15
Carolyn Carter	16
Martha Tacker	16
Betty Barrett	18
Janet McMillen	19
Jennie Anderson	20
Janet Munson	21
John Davis	22
Andy Hendrickson	22
Don Balk	23
Edna Underwood	24
Lily Friedl	27
Robyn Wimmer	30

ANNIVERSARIES

November

Janet McMillen & Marshall Howe	8
Bob & Liz Stevens	9
John & Denise Kisser	13
Nancy Seaberg & Bonnie Williams	23
Bill & Cherylin Sinner	25

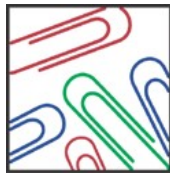
December

Ron & Margi Taggart	3
Neil & Nancy Jordheim	18
Dick & Jackie Lundstrom	20
Steve & Rose Christenson	26
Bob & Barb Boyd	27
John & Alice Strom	28
Steve & Cheryl Steinborn	28

January

Bill & MarySue Skelton	14
Jim & Nancy Vogt	31





FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

Northern Voice- Newsletter Deadline

The Northern Voice newsletter is now published quarterly.
The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the month, so mark your calendar: the **Spring 2024 Issue deadline is January 15th**. Thank you!!

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**Daylight Saving  
Time Ends  
Sunday, November 5  
Turn Your Clocks Back!**

## *We Need You!*

**Please consider volunteering. We are always looking for  
Ushers & Greeters & Tech people- whatever gifts you  
have or are willing to learn!**

**Thank you to all of our many faithful volunteers!**





## Digital Campus

### Analytics Report October 2023

#### ***Website***

Over the past 90 days, our website has received a total of 412 visitors, a 6% decrease from the previous 90 days. 45% of these visitors are organic (coming from google searches) and 48% of them are direct (link pasted directly into the search bar, like a bookmark or a saved link). Our unique visitor count is 184, down 3% from the previous 90 days. While some of these statistics are slightly down, more people are visiting our site after seeing it pop up in their search results. From a total of 4.6K impressions, 156 people click to visit our site, a 5%

increase from the previous 90 days. Another thing to note is that our homepage has a 64% increase in clicks and a 17% increase in engagement, meaning more people are spending more time on the homepage *than any other page*.

#### ***YouTube***

Over the past 90 days, we have received over 1.8K channel views, a 38% increase from our previous 90 days! We also have a watchtime of over 280 hours, an increase by 65%, and have gained 7 new subscribers! We have reached a total of 775 new viewers for our livestreams and have a whopping 31K content impressions! From these impressions, 854 people have decided to check us out and have an average view duration of 11 minutes. One way we can increase the clicks from impressions is by creating interesting thumbnails. Thumbnails are what causes a person to really take interest in the video and are a huge part of how a viewer decides what to watch. If we work on creating better thumbnails, we could potentially have a large increase in viewers from YouTube's recommendation system. Our top videos for the past 90 days are the

## ***Facebook and Instagram***

During the past 90 days, our Facebook reach has dropped 40% to 1,225 people. While this may seem shocking, our facebook profile visits is at 1,281 people, a 27% increase in visitors. Facebook has recommended our content to less people than who actually visit our page. That means that while Facebook recommending our content to others has dropped, more and more people are either revisiting our page after the first view or connecting to us using an outside link. Also, there has been a 65% increase in engagement with our audience, so while our reach has dropped, our community has become more active and willing to interact with our page and with each other. With our instagram, we have gained 8 followers (a total of 12 overall followers now) and reached 125 people over the past 90 days. Almost all of these impressions happened in one video, so short videos might be the better option for instagram than daily posts. Since the instagram account is so new, experimenting with different types of content will lead to the best outcome for interacting with more people,

## ***Tik Tok***

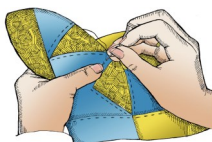
Tik Tok is a social media platform that consists of short videos delivered one at a time to a user. If the user does not want to watch a certain video that is played, they scroll down and a different video is played for them. Instead of choosing which video to watch next like YouTube, TikTok's algorithm picks what video to play based on the user's amount of time spent on certain types of videos and engagement with those videos.

Since the creation of our TikTok account we have uploaded 1 video, gained 2 followers, and reached 220 people. There is a large potential for growth and the exciting prospect of reaching a new audience through this platform. Our church can spread the love of God online where we previously could not, and by using these modern tools we can touch the lives of people who would previously have no contact with us or our congregation.

(Thanks to Andy Hendrickson, our digital host,  
for this report)



## Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

### **Quilting Kits To Sew At Home**

*“One thing I know for sure; there are no rules in quilting. And if you think there are, then it’s time you try breaking a few.” — Dana Bolyard*

The HUMC Threads of Love Quilters have a new way for you to participate in their wonderful work.

You have heard about the fleece blankets to tie and the opportunity to join the crew on Tuesdays to do any number of tasks that increase our opportunity to make someone feel warm and loved this winter.

Well now there are kits to sew! There will be zip lock bags on the “fleece blanket” table with fabric already cut and a pattern enclosed. If you know how to sew, now you don’t have to be in church on Tuesday to participate! You can take a kit home, sew the pieces together, and bring the top back to the table. If you are an experienced sewer and you are interested in more complex kits, please let Mary Takle or Joy Derr know. We would love to get you a kit that makes you feel effective!

We are also hoping to have kits set up for summer sewing, but that is not our focus just yet. Stay tuned for that.

The quilters meet every Tuesday beginning at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, breaking for lunch and devotions. The next Quilter’s Coffee Hop is set for Tuesday, Nov. 14, destination to be determined. Everyone is welcome to participate..





# United Women in Faith

PIES, PIES, PIES: Hubbard UMC will be providing delicious pies after the Thanksgiving Eve service. Check out the sign-up sheet in the Welcome area. If you have questions, contact Marion Hansen

THANK BANKS: United Women in Faith is participating again this year in collecting change (other denominations welcome) for the World Thank Offering. Jars are available in the welcome area for you to utilize. If you have questions or a contribution, please see Shari Perrine.

Please submit your contributions by November 20, 2023

CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION FOR INMATES AT THE HUBBARD JAIL: United Women in Faith are hosting this effort as we collect new Christmas Cards with stamped envelopes (if possible). These cards are then provided to the inmates so they can connect with their families at Christmas. 250-300 cards are needed. If you have questions, contact Marion Hansen

## *Pastor Discretionary Fund*

Thank you for your support of the Pastor's Discretionary Funds ..... Please continue your support as the funds are being depleted quickly due to the great need.

*Please Consider Giving to the Pastor  
Discretionary Fund Today!  
The needs are great!*



*Mark your Calendar for this very  
Special Service in December!*



**BLUE CHRISTMAS**  
*A service of hope for the holidays*

December 21, 2023  
7:00PM

Hubbard United Methodist Church  
Hubbard United Methodist Church  
12150 Broadway Road  
Park Rapids, MN

Join us in person or online at:  
[www.hubbardumc.org/worship-live-stream/](http://www.hubbardumc.org/worship-live-stream/)

Overwhelmed? Sad? Lost? Alone? Depressed?  
Abandoned? Brokenhearted? Despairing? Exhausted?

*If you would like to have a prayer request printed in the bulletin or  
given to our telephone prayer chain, please  
inform the office or email Deb Haagenson at  
[debhaagenson@catholichealth.net](mailto:debhaagenson@catholichealth.net)*

**Remember, due to patient privacy, please get permission  
from the person needing  
prayers to have their name printed.**



DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO  
*Prayer.*  
C O L O S S I A N S 4 : 2