



Faith *news*

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER | WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Blood Mobile

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at the Wood River Methodist Church on December 19th from 12 noon to 6 PM. Please call Linda Thompson at 308-381-0566 to make an appointment or you can call 1-800-REDCROSS or go online to American Red Cross Wood River Blood Mobile on December 19th. There is a continuous blood shortage and the Red Cross is the safest blood you can receive so the demand is very high. Give the gift of life to someone this Christmas with your gift of a blood donation.

There will be a double machine as well as whole blood so please give.

Christmas Eve Services

We will have morning worship as usual (4th Sunday of Advent) WR 9:30, Alda 11:00.

Christmas Eve service will be at WR 5:00 and Alda 6:30.

Church Events

- Dec 6 Youth Group 6:30
- Dec 7 Ruth & Rachel Circle Christmas Party at "On the Move" 1:00
- Dec 14 UWF 1:30
- Dec 19 Blood Mobile 12-6
- Dec 20 Cookie Boxes
- Dec 20 Youth Group 6:30
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 WR & 6:30 Alda
- Dec 25 Christmas Day, office closed

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

As the nights grow longer and the air buzzes with holiday excitement, something magical sweeps across our world – Christmas lights! I bet you already have your streets and homes sparkling with colors, echoing the season's joy. But these lights are not just pretty decorations. They hold a deeper meaning, connecting us to a story of hope, joy, peace, and love.

Have you ever wondered where this all started? People have been putting up lights during winter celebrations for centuries, and while the exact reasons vary, the book of Luke 2:9 holds some clues. There, it says that an angel appeared to shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. So, when we adorn our homes with lights, it reminds us of the light that broke through the darkness over two thousand years ago, that night when Jesus was born.

However, it is easy to get lost in the beauty of these lights and forget the incredible visitation the shepherds experienced that night. The twinkling lights symbolize the hope that came with Christ's birth – a hope that brings people together, no matter who they are or where they are from.

So, how do these lights bring joy to everyone? Well, putting them up takes teamwork. Families have to come together to decorate their homes, neighbors plan displays, and cities organize big lighting events. This teamwork brings unity, bridging gaps between cultures, races, languages, and religions, offering a chance for all of us to enjoy life together amid all the chaos and complexities of life.

As we bask in the glow of these festivities, let us also think about the enduring light of Christ. His birth brought a brightness that still shines, offering hope and salvation to everyone. My prayer for us is that Christmas lights will become more meaningful to us so that they will bring the presence of Christ into our homes where love is getting faint to be stronger again. Where laughter had become a stranger, the joy of Christ to break in, bringing gladness and overflowing joy.

Friends, may Christ's light shine into every street, home, and corner of our lives this Advent and Christmas season. May God's glory touch our lives, families, jobs, and cities, spreading warmth, igniting hope, and showing us a brighter tomorrow.

MERRY CHRIST, EVERYONE!

Pastor Geoffrey



December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Gary & Ida Quisenberry Hunter Davidson	4 Cary & Bev Voss	5 Dave Ogden	6 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30	7 Ruth & Rachel Circle Christmas Party 1:00 at 'On the Move'	8	9 Kaye Doane Galen Wescoatt Robert Williams Emily Ogden
10 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Hezekiah Reyes Anna Miller	11 Marques Valdez	12	13 Bible Study 9:30 Mark Codner Laurretta Rice	14 UWF 1:30	15 Nathan Mayhew Marcia Almquist	16 Rachelle Valdez Stacey Hayes
17 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00	18	19	20 Bible Study 9:30 Cookie Boxes 12:00 Youth Group 6:30	21	22 Aaron Burr Holly Arndt	23 Barb Meguire
24 Christmas Eve WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 WR 5:00 Alda 6:30 Meril & Maxine Rathman	25  Christmas Day Office closed	26 Natalie Shears Phillip Denman	27 Bible Study 9:30	28	29 Cara Odenbach	30
31 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Gunnar Hayes Jamie Riley Kayla Molczyk						

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ Consider signing up to greet and read scripture! There is a list in the fellowship hall for available dates. Or look for an email from Signup Genius.
- ♦ Birthday Sunday is the second Sunday of every month. If you have a birthday or anniversary during that month, come receive a special blessing.
- ♦ Join us for our Christmas Eve service at Wood River, 5:00 or Alda, 6:30
- ♦ If you know someone unable to attend worship and would like a copy of the sermon mailed to them, contact the office.

Giving and Attendance Report

September \$6,647.35

October \$7,100.35

November \$8,955.35

Nov 5: 65

Nov 12: 46

Nov 19: 41

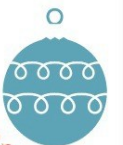
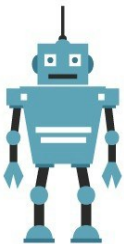
Nov 26: 33

Monthly expenses: \$11,634.00
(based off the 2023 yearly budget)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wordsearch

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.



T	U	K	E	B	S	N	Y	Y	V	G	I	I	O	X
L	D	P	Y	O	O	V	F	Q	S	N	O	G	N	U
U	S	G	N	I	T	E	E	R	G	I	W	Q	Z	B
J	D	X	D	E	J	O	W	E	I	L	L	T	K	R
J	J	O	B	E	K	T	O	D	N	O	W	N	E	Q
Q	U	S	R	R	N	E	B	D	G	R	R	E	C	K
Q	S	A	N	T	A	L	R	M	E	A	E	M	X	V
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	X	R	C	A	A	I	Y
I	Z	M	J	X	F	S	F	U	B	M	T	N	Y	U
J	E	D	Q	T	E	I	Z	B	R	C	H	R	M	L
X	B	D	N	R	L	M	M	C	E	K	V	O	K	E
M	L	M	X	S	T	R	M	F	A	X	N	I	Q	T
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H	I	H	A	N	U	T	C	R	A	C	K	E	R	D
V	R	F	A	B	K	W	T	S	E	V	L	E	N	E

YULETIDE
GREETINGS
CAROLING
PRESENTS

WREATH
NUTCRACKER
TREE
MISTLETOE

SANTA
GINGERBREAD
ORNAMENT
ELVES



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