



# DECEMBER TIDINGS 2023

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 12



Dear Friends,

The Advent season is here; we prepare for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ. An extraordinary thing happened in that ordinary and humble manger so long ago. God came to be with humanity not just in that time but for all times. Extraordinary! That is our theme of Advent this year. An Extraordinary God moves through our ordinary lives.

This edition of Tidings is filled with all the things happening at Troy First during Advent. Look carefully and find what speaks to you, where you can best connect with God and with your church community.

I'll call your attention to a newly added services in the month. I know that in this season as the dark hours grow longer, many people struggle to find joy and peace. On December 21 at 7pm we will gather in the Chapel for a "Longest Night" service. It will be a quiet time of meditation and reflection. Secondly, I'll be back on Facebook live every Wednesday night at 6pm during Advent for "Advent Vespers." Take a moment and join me on Wednesday nights for prayer and Advent reflections.

For now, look at the prayer on page 2, find a quiet space and pray this Advent Prayer with me.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Myra

## AT A GLANCE

1. Pastor Myra
2. Prayer
3. Advent
4. Outreach/UWF
5. Birthdays
6. Decorating Pics



**REV. MYRA MORELAND**  
Senior Pastor



God, with us,  
As we enter this season of longing and waiting,

bear with us a little longer;  
be patient with our impatience.

You have journeyed alongside us from the beginning of time,  
yet still we miss the signs of your presence.

When we are blinded by the brashness of this season:  
Open our eyes to the glimpses of your glory.

When we want simple answers:  
Open our minds to the hints of incarnation.

When we are deafened by our own shouting:  
Open our ears to the whispers of your grace.

May we share with you in longing for restoration and renewal  
and may we be watchful for the light that breaks through  
the darkness of our world.

In Christ's name.  
Amen.

God says 'Be patient, watch and wait,  
for the time is close at hand.'  
Know that you are loved, forgiven and healed.  
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Advent Prayer by the Revd Michaela Youngson, Past President of the Methodist  
Conference UK





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ADVENT...



Join us for our Annual

## Cookie walk & Craft Fair

December 17  
in the CLC following service

## COME HOME

A SERVICE OF MUSIC AND INSPIRATION

**DEC 3 & 17 5PM  
DINNER FOLLOWING**

Come join us for an afternoon of Christmas music

**December 10 - 3PM**  
Christmas Cantata:  
**The Glory of Christmas**  
Troy First Chancel Choir and Orchestra

**Advent Vespers**  
with Pastor Myra

Facebook Live  
Wednesday nights  
at 6pm  
12/6-12/20

## The Longest Night

Service of Reflection and Hope

**Thursday**  
**December 21**  
**7pm**  
**In the Chapel**



# OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Lunches for Lighthouse program from October 29-November 3. Whether you helped make sandwiches and assemble lunches or donated \$\$ toward the purchase of supplies, we are so grateful. We prepared about 380 sandwiches that went into 350 lunches. A special thank you to Steve and Julie Olsavsky for delivering the lunches daily to the Lighthouse Family Shelter in Pontiac. Look for more opportunities to serve in 2024.

# HOSPITALITY

## 2) Back by Popular Demand-----Dinner Groups

What is a dinner group?? It is a group of 6-8 people that meet monthly to have dinner or lunch. You have the option of going out to a restaurant or eating at home.

Sign-ups will begin in January and groups will begin meeting in February. You can choose to meet with people you have known for years or join a group to get to know some folks a little better.

This is open to everyone and it is a great opportunity to invite friends to be involved.

If you have any questions, contact Robin Ostergaard

# UWF NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF  
GINGERBREAD KISSES AND CHRISTMAS WISHES

*UWF ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER*

DECEMBER 14TH  
6:30pm in the CLC

Attendees are invited to contribute to  
our mitten and hat tree to benefit local  
children in need.



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 4** Mike Melcher, Jeff Olesen
- 6** Jane Sonquist
- 7** Miranda Cardiff, Bob Whitford
- 8** Betty Zych
- 9** Julie Olsavsky
- 10** Rachel Cardiff
- 14** Anne Marie Jakobiak, Kaleigh Truelove,  
Krista Williston
- 17** Lisa Head, Pam Olesen
- 18** Gloria Freeland, Jeanette Landry
- 19** Rebecca Hartrick
- 22** John Jasionowicz
- 23** Bill Rampenthal
- 27** Martha & Gale Blair, Bunny Schultz, Sharon Smith
- 28** Jewel Wesp
- 29** John King, Barb Cluff
- 31** Marian Miller



Let there be light!!

