



Sharing Christ • Uniting as family • Maturing in faith • Calling others

Sharon

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. Wally Carlson

 December 



Advent

Mame Dennis (“Auntie Mame”) said life is a banquet. Sally Boles (“Cabaret”) said life is a cabaret. I say that life is an adventure.

“Adventure” comes from Latin, Old French, and Middle English (I did not know this off the top of my head. I had to look it up.) It meant, originally, to arrive or about to happen. For me, I like the more contemporary use of the word which means something exciting, unknown, maybe a bit thrilling. And I think that’s a good description of life. I suspect Mame and Sally might agree with me.

Life is an incredible carnival ride - ups and downs, hairpin curves, and dangerous heights. And yet, for all of the hair-raising excitement, we still, at our best, scream and giggle with delight. Life is good, isn’t it? Good friends, good music, good food, good everything. Yes, life is good.

But not necessarily easy. Sometimes life is just plain hard. All of the goodness we so lovingly speak of can turn dark and hurtful. All of the things we enjoy so much can become painful. I don’t need to list those - we all have our own stories of darkneses and pains. We author some of those ourselves, sometimes other people do, sometimes dark stories just happen. Then we need a candle, a light to help us find our way. We are not oppressed today like we were two millennia ago but sometimes we still walk in darkness. Sometimes we still need a great light.

Advent brings us light. The light of the hope to come, the hope that is already here. No matter the darkness, Advent brings us the light of God, calling us forward, encouraging us into strength and confidence. With Advent comes the promise of the arrival of the Light of the World, forever.

Look for the Light this season. It will lead us from the darkness into the banquet, the cabaret, and the Advent(ure).

With prayers for peace,
Rev. Wally



Visit us on the web at sharondeatur.org

December 2023

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 4:00pm Hanging of the Greens	27 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	28 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	29 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	30	1	2	3 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	4	5	6	7	8	9
3 Advent Holy Communion 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	4 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	5 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	6 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	7	8	9	10 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:00pm Troop 91/911 Joint Court of Honor & Committee Meeting	11 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	12 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	13 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	14	15	16	17 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	18	19	20 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	21 First Day of Winter	22	23
17 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	18 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	19 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	20 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	21	22	23	24 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	25 Christmas Day	26	27 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	28	29	30
24 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25	26 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	27 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	28	29	30	31 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	1	2	3 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	4	5	6

11 Mary Ferguson
 16 Sandy Caldwell
 20 Ruth Randol
 22 Jay Albert
 25 Janice Gulick

17 Tom & Martha Leeper
 28 Stan & Jean Lehn



SHARING CHRIST ...



★A friendly reminder:

Please make any donation checks out to **Sharon United Methodist Church** and name the receiving ministry in the memo.

Missions Offerings

Reach out to those in need in our community and world by participating in the following offering opportunities:

December 3

- ♥ T.A.G. Fund offering
- ♥ NE Community Fund: non-perishable food items

December 10

- ♥ NE Community Fund: non-perishable food items

December 17

- ♥ Third Sunday Offering for **Dove Financial Assistance**
- ♥ Children’s Noisy Offering for **Liberia Pastors & D.S. Salary Support**

All Month

- ♥ Monetary donations for **Wells for Liberia** (Drop your donations in the water bottle hanging on Mike Landacre’s classroom door.)

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:40

UNITING AS FAMILY ...



Adult Choir

All practices are at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 5
Tuesday, December 12
Wednesday, December 20



Sunday, December 24
9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service featuring the Adult Choir Cantata (Sunday School classes will **not** meet.)

6:00 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Prayer Chain

If you are not currently a member and would like to join, here’s how:

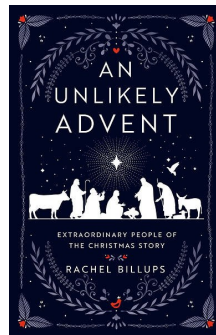
1. To join the **text chain**, text **@sumcprayer** to the number 81010 and follow the prompts.
2. To join the **phone chain**, please talk to Beverly Carmean (422-7115 or 433-1242)

MATURING IN FAITH ...



Sunday School Classes

- Nursery**
Lisa Landacre
- Elementary**
Lori Leeper
- Jr. High-College**
Mike Landacre
- Wesley**
Mandi Podeschi
- Good News**
Martha Leeper



Join us for this study of **An Unlikely Advent** by Rachel Billups

Martha Leeper will lead the class. Refreshments will be served!

Sundays
Dec. 3, 10, 17, 31
10:15-11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

CALLING OTHERS ...



Scouting News

- Troop 91/911 Meetings:
Sundays
(Dec. 3, 17)
3:30-5:00 p.m.
- ★ **Joint Court of Honor & Committee Mtg.**
Dec. 10, 3:00 p.m.
- Cub Scout Meetings:
Mondays
(Dec. 4, 11, 18)
6:00-7:00 p.m.



December

Serve the LORD with gladness!

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Ushers	Tom Leeper	Tom Leeper	Tom Leeper	Tom Leeper	Tom Leeper
	Jarred Leeper	Jarred Leeper	Jarred Leeper	Jarred Leeper	Jarred Leeper
	Ben Holmes	Ben Holmes	Ben Holmes	Ben Holmes	Ben Holmes
Greeters	Mike & Cindy Landacre	Nathan & Jenna Doty	Tom & Martha Leeper	Bev Carmean & Rosemary Jones	Janet Hirst & Joni Simms
Liturgist	Lori Leeper	Debbie Johnson	Joni Simms	Ben Holmes	Martha Leeper
Nursery	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre	Cindy Landacre
Acolyte	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper

Our Tithes and Offerings to God				
	10/29/2023	11/5/23	11/12/23	11/19/23
Tithe	\$315.00	\$4,393.00	\$3,375.00	\$730.00
Loose Plate	\$10.00	\$70.00	\$30.00	\$130.00
S. School	\$13.00	\$21.00	\$13.00	\$6.00
TOTAL	\$338.00	\$4,484.00	\$3,418.00	\$866.00
Weekly Budget Need - \$1,965.00				



**SHARON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

4363 W. Center St.
Decatur, IL 62522

 December 

SHARING CHRIST, UNITING AS FAMILY, MATURING IN FAITH, CALLING OTHERS