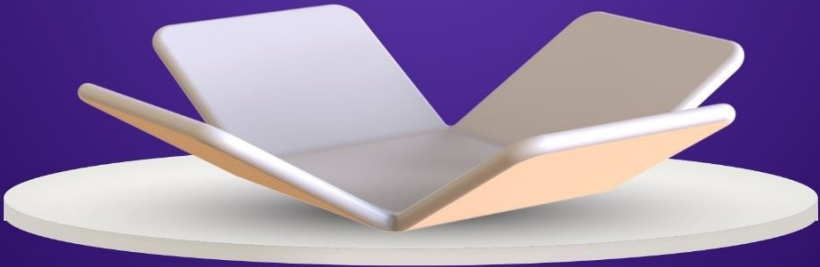




THE *Gift* OF
MANY NAMES



Sunday, December 3, 2023

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Before his birth, an angel told Joseph to name the child Mary was carrying Jesus, for he would save God's people. What does it mean to call Jesus our Savior? Why do we need a Savior? And how does he save us? These are questions we will explore today as we continue our Advent-themed worship series, "The Gift of Many Names." Welcome to worship!

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to scan the QR code to register your attendance so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OUR MISSION

We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION

Our church will be known as a center for feeding people spiritually and physically in our community.

OUR CORE VALUES

We believe the following guiding principles make us a fruitful and spiritually intentional church:

- Fellowship: A sense of family, hospitality, and belonging to an open, accepting, and nurturing community.
- Caring: Loving response to needs of all people through empathy and compassion.
- Mission: giving of ourselves to meet and serve the needs of all others by faithful witness through our actions, servanthood and way of living.
- Spiritual Growth: Studying, understanding and growing in the word of God by Christ-centered prayer, worship and service through discipleship in action.

OUR CONTACT INFO

230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810

office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594 | stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome. Our ushers are happy to assist you in anyway. If you are feeling cold, shawls are available in a basket in front of the media desk in the back of the sanctuary. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

Thank you for being here.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We fully welcome and love engaging children in worship! We include a special Children's Moment each Sunday.

- **The St. John's Prayground** is located in the front of the sanctuary. This is a place for children and their families to worship together, allowing children to more fully participate in the service. More details about the Prayground may be found on our website.
- A staffed **nursery** for infants through preschool is open every Sunday morning and is located next door in our Education/Administration building.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms in the back of the sanctuary and in our nursery.
- Children are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**, which is served weekly at 8:30 a.m. and on the first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. Our communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free elements are also available.
- **Sunday School** is offered for children starting at age 18 months through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

Gabe Guillory
Youth Intern
youth@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

Welcome To The Celebration Of The Gospel

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Advent Proclamation

Rev. Marie Williams

What we do in this Season is blessed in a very special way.
The carols we sing, the prayers we pray,
the words we say are not our songs, or our prayers, or our words.

**They are a gift, inspired by the Giver Of All Words,
even that Word made flesh that dwells among us,
God with us, Emmanuel.**

He was indeed the long-expected one, the Messiah, our Lord -
Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace...

**In this Season we proclaim again, the birth of Christ,
who comes to show us everything we will ever need to know
about God.**

We anticipate the gift of Christmas in this time of worship.
**We come, longing to be as close to the source of hope, love,
joy, and peace as possible, on this day and always. Amen.**

*Songs of Praise

Love Came Down at Christmas
The United Methodist Hymnal 242, vs. 1 - 3

Advent Candle Lighting

Clara Maynard

The journey of Advent is paved with love,
A love made known to us in the gift of Jesus.

(Candles are lit.)

We relight the candle of hope and light this second candle for all the
ways God's love is revealed in our midst.

Let us pray:

Christ be with us in this light of Love.

Love for our neighbors.

Love for our enemies.

Love for ourselves.

Love for all the world.

**This we ask in the name of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Candle Song

Jesus, Name Above All Names
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2107

Let Us Be Open

Children's Moment

Marilyn Damberg

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

**God who is with us,
Open our hearts to receive your Word
and our minds to understand it.
May your Holy Spirit lead us in wisdom and truth,
as we seek greater understanding about Jesus Christ,
our Savior.
Amen.**

***The Word in Scripture**

Matthew 1:18-21, 24-25

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

"The Gift of a Loving Savior"

***Hymn of Faith**

What Wondrous Love Is This
The United Methodist Hymnal 292, vs. 1 & 3

Let Us Be Honest

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Marie

Because it is so hard to wait, it's not easy to live
through Advent's days.
But watch what God does during this time.
God waits for us to turn from our old ways
to find the right paths;
God waits for us to admit what we have done,
and failed to do, so we might be forgiven
and graced with new life.
Let us approach the One who waits - for us,
as we unite our voices in prayer.

*Prayer of Confession

Blessed Redeemer,

In this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas.

We confess we often prefer being sentimental to being sacrificial.

Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days.

Pour Love into our lives and let us be bearers of Your Love to others.

Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest Gift of all.

In the holy Name of our loving Savior, Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News!

God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment.

You are *that* beloved.

So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love.

**We are loved, we are forgiven, we are saved.
Alleluia! Amen.**

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Ministry Moment

Staff Appreciation Love Offering

Gray Sexton

Let Us Be Generous

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Do You Hear What I Hear?
by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne
Chancel Choir Anthem

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online by scanning the QR Code
or navigate to stjohnsbr.org/give.*



***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Let Us Receive

***Invitation to the Feast**

Rev. Marie

If you are yearning for hope, come to the table.
If you are thirsty for love, life-changing love, come to the table
If you are hungry for joy in your heart, come to the table.
If you are longing for a sense of peace, come to the table.
Come and meet the Messiah, Christ our King
who welcomes you as his guest.
Come to the table of grace.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you O God, who created the heavens and the earth.
You have been faithful to your ancient promises to your
people, whom you guided out of slavery and into freedom
and fullness of life.

When your people turned away from you,
you gave your prophets courage to speak words of your
righteousness and justice.

You comforted your people in their time of suffering and
oppression, promising us that you are Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Therefore we praise you and give you thanks!

As we prepare for your coming again this Christmas,
we join voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the
faithful of every time and place, who forever sing
to the glory of your name:

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The United Methodist Hymnal 211, refrain

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

In time you visited your people with a new Word,
a living Word, a Word made flesh to live among us.
We remember the life of that Christ-child:
born in a stable amidst the poor and the outcast;
driven from his homeland by cruel leaders and frightened
parents; returning to grow into a teacher, a healer, and a friend.
Jesus ate with sinners and brought sight to the blind,
reclaiming lost and scattered people in your name.
Crucified by those he had come to save,
Jesus rose again to prove that no sin, no shame, no fear,
not even death can halt God's plan of love.

*The congregation is seated and the institution
of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

Then the pastor continues:

Remembering how you sent the light of the world into our darkness,
we take from your creation these gifts of bread and cup,
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await with hopeful hearts the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer all that we are to you as a holy sacrifice,
to be your servants, your light to shine for all the world, as we proclaim
the truth of the depths of your love.

SUNG RESPONSE

He Came Down

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2085

**He came down that we may have love
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah, forevermore.**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forevermore.
Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The United Methodist Hymnal 211, refrain

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

The Lord's Prayer

***Sharing in the Gift of Communion**

Everyone is welcome to share in Holy Communion.

*Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction" with only
the pastor and servers touching the elements. The bread will be dipped in the
grape juice and handed to you. Or, if you prefer, you may receive
pre-packaged elements.*

A gluten-free option is also available.

You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.

*If you are a person with limited mobility, please let an usher know and
someone will gladly bring communion to you.*

Our Communion Response

Holy One,

In awe and wonder, we have met you at this table.

**Nourished by your holy food, send us out to prepare the way
for your kingdom.**

Filled with your grace, show us how to live as

disciples of your love, so that all may know

your hope, your love, your joy, and your peace.

This we pray in the sacred name of Jesus.

Amen.

Departing To Serve

Call to Action

*We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John's and
invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.*

***Hymn of Discipleship**

O How I Love Jesus

The United Methodist Hymnal 170, vs. 1 & 3

*During the singing of the hymn, we invite you
to bring forward donations to The Shepherd's Market.*

***Blessing of Gifts and Benediction**

***Postlude**

*The end of worship.
The beginning of service.*

Worship Notes

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Marilyn and Richard Damberg in celebration of the Idikwu's birthdays: Grace, David, Paul, and Abdiel. Oh, and Marilyn has a December birthday. Happy birthday, everybody!

USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Susanna Seals and Harriet Walters..

Stewardship & Giving

We have already seen such a great response to our Stewardship Campaign! Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024. We celebrate the following:

- **99** individuals & families have pledged a total of **\$502,198**, so far.
- **57** households have increased their pledge for next year.
- **15** are first time pledged givers.

Can you help us reach 100 pledges? If you have not yet pledged, please consider joining your fellow St. John's family members who have increased their pledge from this year to next. Our 2024 budget includes a Spirit-led 13-14% increase, and your increased pledge will get us closer to our goal. You can complete a pledge card and turn it in during the offering or to the church office, or you can pledge online at: stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024.

STAFF APPRECIATION LOVE OFFERING

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. You may also make your gift online at www.stjohnsbr.org/give. Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is Tuesday, December 18 for online and Wednesday, December 19 for checks and cash.

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

Members and friends of St. John's have written daily reflections that will guide us throughout the Advent season. The readings began on November 26 and continue through Epiphany, January 6. Copies are available in the Narthex and also in the church office during the week. It is also available online at: stjohnsbr.org/advent-2023. Thank you to all who made contributions to this year's devotional.

JOY FEST - SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

Join us on **Sunday, December 10, at 5 p.m.** for an evening of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire! We'll have a potluck supper (of course!), followed by a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and Christmas carol singing ... karaoke-style! We know you won't want to miss THAT!

And most importantly, this will be a time of JOY with your church family, before the hustle and bustle of the season gets the best of us. Let's celebrate the season together!

Advent Worship & Music

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

We know him by the name of Jesus. But he was also called other names, like Messiah, Lord, Savior, and Emmanuel. He is the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, and the Word made flesh. Each of these names reveals a little bit more of the story around who the person of Jesus was and still is today. Today we mark the Second Sunday of Advent with our worship series, "The Gift of Many Names" in which we will explore some of the many names of Jesus and what they can tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

STAR OF HOPE: AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND RHYME

Our Advent music festival will be held **Sunday, December 17** at both worship services. Always a highlight of the Advent season, this year's musical extravaganza features original poetry written by Guy Johnson and beautiful music from our Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Music Makers. "Star of Hope: An Advent Festival of Music and Rhyme," will bring joy to your spirit as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christmas.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 21

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. If this resonates with you, we invite you to give yourself the gift of attending our Longest Night worship service, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. Join us on Thursday, December 21 at 6 p.m.

UPDATES FOR MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers next performance will be Sunday December 17. For this performance, there will be an additional rehearsal on **Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m.**

Youth interested in joining the Music Makers performance on December 17 should plan to join Music Makers practice today at 4:30 p.m., for about 30 minutes of the practice.

Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, and we will celebrate with one morning service and one evening service. Each worship experience will be uplifting, celebratory, and meaningful in its own unique way. Join us for one or both!

FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE 10 A.M.

Our children and youth will present the "ABCs of Christmas," during our family-friendly morning service. We will also sing carols, celebrate Holy Communion, and experience the Christmas story through the eyes of our young people. Following worship we'll have a Birthday Party for Jesus, with cupcakes, cocoa, and coffee for all.

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION 5 PM.

Our evening service is a traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, Holy Communion, and Silent Night by candlelight. Join us for a time of worship, community, and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

POINSETTIAS DEDICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Beautiful white poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Join in the adornment by dedicating a plant In Honor Of, In Memory Of, or To the Glory of God. Dedications will appear on Christmas Eve. You can order online at stjohnsbr.org/poinsettia-2023, by completing a printed form found in the Narthex, or by contacting the church office. Each donated plant is \$20. Donors are free to take their Poinsettia home following the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Deadline to make dedications is Wednesday, December 20.

Servicehood

FOOD FOR COFFEE TIME

We have to thank the individuals who brought snacks for coffee time during the month of November. We are calling on more individuals (unless a Sunday School class signs up) to help out during December. That's right! The whole month of December is open for you to shine with your extraordinary culinary skills or just go to the store! If you want to sign up as an individual or a group go to <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeeTimeSignup>. The QR code will take you right to the sign up form.



THE GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY

The 13th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday, December 16** and takes place in the church parking lot. Once the drive-through starts, it goes fast. Not only will it be a fun and uplifting time for you, but you will be helping our pantry shoppers have a wonderful Christmas dinner with their turkey and all the fixings.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - please arrive by 7 a.m.

While much of the food for the giveaway is donated, The Shepherd's Market purchases the turkeys and produce for over 500 meals. A donation of \$25 to the Shepherd's Market will buy a turkey and produce for one family. Monetary gifts can be made to St John's by check with Turkey Giveaway in the memo line, on Sunday in an offering envelope marked with your name and Turkey Giveaway, or online at stjohnsbr.org/give, selecting the Shepherd's Market Fund.

Volunteers needed Friday, December 15

This year we are having everything, including turkeys, delivered on Friday sometime between 1 and 2 p.m. We will be staging the various areas and bagging items that go along with the turkeys so there will be plenty of work.

The frozen bread is due back in the FLC on the 15th. If you are "baby sitting" loaves of bread in your freezer, this is the day they are to be brought back - all whole loaves, please.

FREEZER SPACE NEEDED FOR BREAD

Duane Craig and his elf, Fran, began baking 500+ loaves of homemade bread for the Turkey Giveaway. If you have room in your freezer, please consider taking some home and keep it until Friday, December 15 when they will be brought to the FLC where we will be taking count of loaves out and loaves in. Please don't eat the bread!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS

Thank you to those who purchased gifts for our neighborhood friends from Wildwood Elementary School and Gardere Community Christian School. Wrapped gifts are due today.

UWF CRAFT & BAKE SALE FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

Swing by the Family Life Center throughout the morning on **Sunday, December 17** to purchase delicious holiday baked goods and take home some wonderful handcrafted Christmas gifts. All proceeds will go to local missions supported by the United Women in Faith (UWF).

Calling All Bakers and Crafts People!

If you love to bake or you have a craft you love to do, please consider donating to the upcoming United Women in Faith Winter Craft and Bake Sale. Text Beth Forester at 225-405-9324 or email to bethforester@yahoo.com if you have a donation to make.

Youth & Children's Ministries

JOY FEST - SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

Join us on **Sunday, December 10, at 5 p.m.** for an evening of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire! We'll have a potluck supper (of course!), followed by a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and Christmas carol singing ... karaoke-style! We know you won't want to miss THAT!

And most importantly, this will be a time of JOY with your church family, before the hustle and bustle of the season gets the best of us. Let's celebrate the season together!

"THE ABCS OF CHRISTMAS" CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

We are hosting a family-oriented worship program at **10 a.m. on Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**. We would love for all of our children and youth to be a part of this! There are roles for all ages, some involve speaking but many do not require any public speaking, just a willingness to participate. Our current plan is for everyone participating to show up about an hour before the service (which would be 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 24) to do a brief run-through. Some props/costumes will be provided as well. If a child or youth in your household would like to participate in this program, please let Connor know as soon as possible (if you have not already done so).

SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

UPSTAIRS CAFE

The "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth in Room 202 of the Admin Building will be open during Coffee Time (9:30 - 9:45 a.m.) and will serve primarily as a check-in point for our Sunday School classes, helping our students get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups. If you prefer for your student to spend fellowship time with you in the FLC during Coffee Time, that is totally okay as well. We offer this as another option. It is a space that is intentionally crafted to foster greater community among our children and youth age groups.

YOUTH GROUP

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Broadmoor UMC is hosting a Christmas Party for United Methodist Youth in the Baton Rouge area on **Sunday, December 17 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

Tacky Christmas sweaters are encouraged. We will play some games, then do a white elephant gift exchange. (Each student should bring a gift that costs no more than \$10 to exchange.) Pizza will be served for dinner and we will decorate Christmas cookies for dessert.

NEW YEAR'S EVE LOCK IN

The St. John's youth group is hosting a lock-in for United Methodist Youth in and around Baton Rouge on **Sunday, December 31 beginning at 6 p.m. and ending Monday, January 1 at 8 a.m.** One youth group all the way from Amite will be joining us as well!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, December 3

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, December 4

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, December 5

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. Ruth Circle UWF, Founders' Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support, Founders' Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, December 6

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, December 7

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC

Friday, December 8

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

Saturday, December 9

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center