



# Menville United Methodist Church

December 2024

Phone: 873-5117

450 S. 1st ~ P.O. Box 801 ~ Menville, IA 51039  
Email: Menvilleunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

www.menvilleumc.org

Facebook: Menville United Methodist Church

Our Mission is to:

**PREACH** the Gospel of Jesus Christ

**TEACH** love and forgiveness

**REACH** out in service

*(Matthew 28:19-20)*

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
YTD Income (incl rent) thru October	\$69,516	\$89,053
YTD Expenses thru October	\$83,439	\$89,650
November Member Giving	\$10,383	\$7,638
Wkly avg. Member Giving (last 4 wks)	\$2595	\$1763

## Advent and Christmas: A Season of Expectation and Anticipation

Dear Church Family,

As December arrives, the world is excited about the upcoming holiday season. Amidst the twinkling lights, music, festive decorations, and gift shopping, it's easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas. That's why the Advent season is so important.

Advent, which means "coming" or "arrival," is a time for Christians to expect the second coming of Jesus Christ while reflecting on His first coming. It's a season of preparation and expectation, a time to slow down and focus on the spiritual significance of Christmas.

As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, my prayer is "Let every heart prepare Him room" as we rejoice in God's gift to us all, our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus Christ.

The scripture says, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins ." (Matthew 1:21)

What signs do you see during the Advent and Christmas seasons that point you to the divine?

God bless you! Have a Christ-filled Advent and Christmas celebrations!

Because of Jesus,

Pastor Eric Sayonkon



**Pastor**  
Reverend Eric Sayonkon

**Office Administrator**  
Holly Countryman

**Music Director**  
Elizabeth Ross

**Accompanists**  
Rochelle Wilson

**Lay Leader**

**Treasurers**  
Jeff & Mary Krejci

**Ad Council Chair**  
Susan Hunting

**Finance Chair:**

Gene Groetken  
Vice-Chair:  
Scott Gernhart

**Member Support & Ed Co-Chair:**

Diane Weaver  
Co-Chair:  
Becky Dahna  
Co-Chair:  
Kristy Baier

**SPRC Chair:**

Kirk Scheelhaase  
Vice-Chair:  
Deb Sitzmann

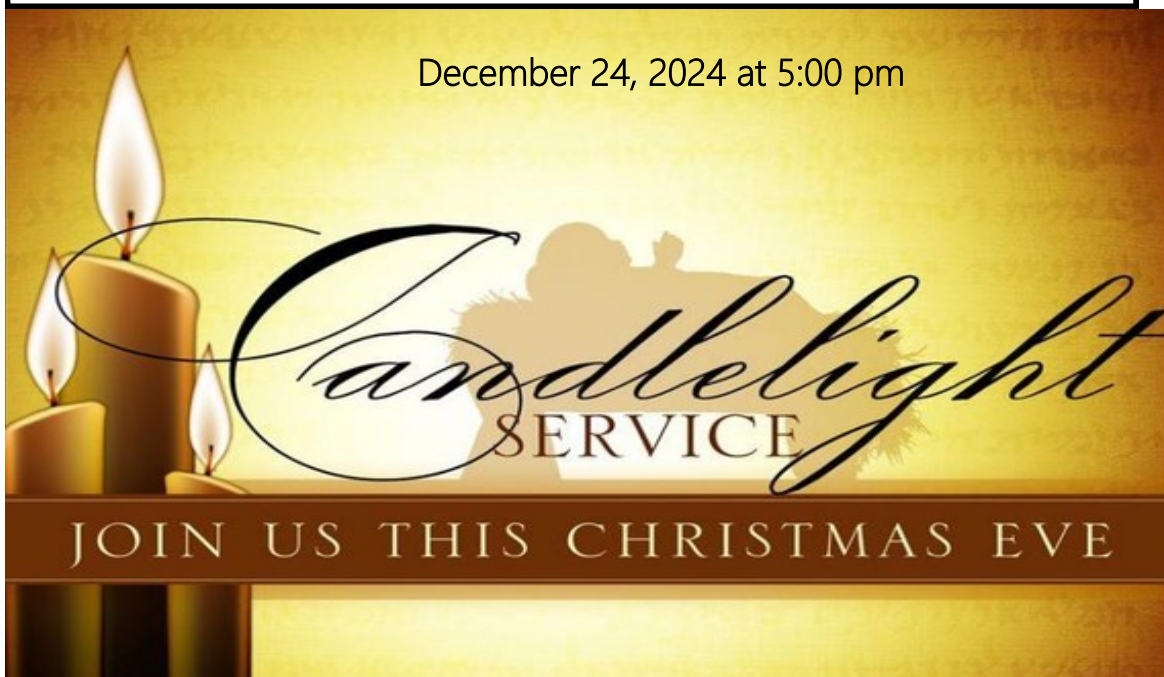
**Trustees Chair:**

Jody Weaver  
Vice-Chair:  
Randy Petersen

**UWIF**

Janice Schlotman

December 24, 2024 at 5:00 pm



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, November 14th, 2024

PRESENT: Pastor Eric Sayonkon, Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Diane and Jody Weaver, Kirk Scheelhaase, Deb Sitzmann

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the October 10th, 2024, meeting were reviewed and no corrections were noted. Motion to approve by Diane, 2nd by Kirk; minutes approved.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

October receipts were close to budget. We had five deposits during the month, which was helpful.

We have received \$50,000 from the Maxwell family to use for a new roof over our sanctuary. Contributions from church members will be used to supply the final \$4000, to reach the expected cost of \$54,000 for the roof. Work has begun on the roof replacement.

The balance in the Guatemalan student account is \$905.75.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor had the opportunity to attend the Chamber meeting this month.

He will be attending the Commission on Religion & Race's Annual Fall Retreat with Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai tomorrow.

For Thanksgiving, Pastor Eric would like us to plan a potluck to say "Thank You" and to prepare ourselves for Christmas.

### OLD BUSINESS

Kirk reported on the recent charge conference that he attended at Grace Church in Sioux City.

We felt the recent Halloween Parade in Merville was a success. It was the first time our church has participated in that. We want to thank Susan for suggesting we be a part of it and for being instrumental in planning all the details.

The roofing project is coming along nicely. They expect to have the project completed in a week's time.

Rent for the parsonage is still behind. Last full rent payment was June, 2024. Since then we have received two partial payments. The group decided we must put the tenant on notice that rent must be paid or the lease will be terminated.

### NEW BUSINESS

Holli Countryman has resigned as church secretary effective the end of November. We are so thankful for everything she has done for our church over the past 15 years. We will have a farewell fellowship for her at a later date.

Motion by Jeff to hire Cassie Colyer to replace Holli, second by Deb; motion passed. Cassie will start her training on November 19th, 2024.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPRC - Kirk and the SPRC committee met and did a review of the first year with Eric as our pastor and laid out a more structured plan for him that will include home visits to members and having office hours on Tuesdays.

TRUSTEES - Jody and Daryl did some cement work on the north side of our building near the handicap entrance. They got the A/C switched out and cleared the gutters of leaves. Thank you!!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – Met yesterday for lunch. Jeff gave an interesting talk on apportionments and answered any other finance-related questions from the group.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, December 12th, 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Krejci

## Email Addresses

The best way for us to stay connected with our members and friends, and for you to receive Sunday worship information/sermons, updates and news, is through our weekly emails. If you are not receiving church emails, please email the church at [movilleunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:movilleunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com) or call the church office at 712/873-5117.

SEND EMAIL



## Offering & Gifts

OFFERING  
WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

If you are unable to worship with us in-person we encourage you to continue to mail in your offering and gifts so that we may continue to pay staff, bills, apportionments and take care of the upkeep of the church building. If you would like to contribute through online giving, please contact Holli in the church office by phone or email. There is a form to be filled out and a voided check will need to be obtained.

## Community Basket

For the month of December we are collecting cereal that will be given to the Community Basket. You may bring your donations to church on Sunday's or you may drop them off at the Community Basket. Thank you for helping those in need!



## HEIFER HIGHLIGHTS

The mission of Heifer International is to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers. The work of Heifer has focused on farming for more than 75 years because ending poverty begins with agriculture. Having a secure source of income can be transformational for farmers and their communities. Cows, goats, chickens and seeds provide milk, meat, eggs and food for communities living in hunger and poverty. A gift to Heifer International is meaningful. Animal gifts provide families with food and nutrition, while also giving tangible assets that generate income and with increased incomes, families can access medicine, school, food and ultimately better lives.



United  
Women  
in Faith

December 11  
Luncheon at 12:30 pm  
Lunch: Potluck

All women are invited to our luncheon.

"There are different kind of gifts but the same spirit."  
*1 Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)*

## Mission Moment

### Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

Another school year, February to November, has begun for Leslie Jimenez who lives in Western Guatemala. Menville UMC is providing scholarship funds for a third year as Leslie enters 10th grade. We also fund her participation in "Lifting Up my Student" which provides support with online courses and private tutors to help with subjects at school. Leslie's scholarship is totally funded by your donations (no money comes from the church budget). Leslie's yearly scholarship of \$1,100 has been paid. A container remains on the table at the back of the sanctuary for your donation. Your help is really appreciated for the 2024 school year.



There are plenty of Upper Room Devotionals in the entryway of the church placed in the magazine rack. If you would like a copy but can't make it to church Janice would be happy to deliver one to you. Please contact her or the church office, 873-5117 if you would like one delivered to you.

## Poinsettias

They will be delivered Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
They will be available to take home  
Christmas Eve.



A friendly reminder for those of you that send in an end of the year check for your contributions—please have your checks into the office no later than January 10 or they will be counted on next years contributions.  
Thank you!!!

## Menville UMC Social Media Sites

For news and updates regarding Menville United Methodist Church, please go to:

**You Tube channel:** [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) Menville United Methodist Church

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/movilleumc>

**Website:** <http://movilleumc.org> or

**Instagram:** at [movilleumc](https://www.instagram.com/movilleumc)



# Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

## Birthdays

4	Jason Manker
5	Jeff Crick
6	Nic Scheelhaase
10	Suzy Chapman
11	Harold Werley
12	John Schlotman
15	Jeff Jaacks
16	Pastor Eboni Sayonkon
17	Nancy Ferdig
18	Miah Manker
19	Larry Epling
20	Marcia Neely
26	Scott Gernhart

## INGATHERING REPORT for MOVILLE UMC

Hunger grant	50.00
Kit processing	54.00
Tooth paste for kits	10.00
Heifer Project	430.00
Midwest Mission	25.00
CWS blankets	155.00
5 - Dignity kits	80.00
22 - Student kits	220.00
2024 Total Value	\$1,024.00
2023 Total Value	\$1,289.00
2022 Total Value	\$1,459.00

## December Lectionary

### December 1

Jeremiah 33: 14-16  
Psalm 25: 1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13  
Luke 21: 25-36

### December 8

Malachi 3: 1-4  
Luke 1: 68-79  
Philippians 1: 3-11  
Luke 3: 1-6

### December 15

Zephaniah 3: 14-20  
Isaiah 12: 2-6  
Philippians 4: 4-7  
Luke 3: 7-18

### Christmas Day

Isaiah 52: 7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1: 1-12  
John 1: 1-14

### December 29

1 Samuel 2: 18-20,26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3: 12-17  
Luke 2: 41-52

## Anniversaries

22 Mark & Sherri Harris



The church office is only open -

**Tuesday 9 am-3 pm**

## December 2024

**Worship at 9 am each Sunday/ Sunday School at 10 am**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Communion</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <b>UWiF Luncheon 12:30 pm</b>	12 <b>Ad Council Mtg 6 pm</b>	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24 Candlelight Service 5 pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31				